



EDUCATION AUTHORITY – NORTH EASTERN REGION

Ballymoney Model Integrated Primary School

North Road, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, BT53 6BW

Tel: 028 276 62340 School Website: www.ballymoneymodelcips.co.uk

Email: jjamison554@c2kni.net

Principal: Mrs J Jamison B Ed(Hons) PQH(NI)

6th January 2020

Dear Parent

The Department of Education along with the Executive have, as I am sure you have heard, announced a move to an extended period of remote learning. This is not the start to the new school year that any of us had hoped for, as we all know that school is the best place for our pupils to be. However, we also understand that in light of the current circumstances in the community, home is the best and safest place at the moment.

Remote Learning

The Department of Education granted schools a preparation day to prepare for remote learning, this we took on Monday 4th January. On this day, all school staff returned to school and worked hard throughout the day to create and photocopy over four hundred pupil learning packs. Mrs Arlow assisted by the classroom assistants worked together to get these distributed to parents on the morning of Tuesday 5th January. Thank you parents for working with us to enable a smooth and safe collection of pupil learning packs. Remote learning for our pupils started on Tuesday 5th January, and as previously the main form of communication from teachers to pupils/parents will be through Seesaw. Teachers will be doing all they can to support your child/ren with their learning so it very important that parents log on daily (Monday – Friday) to their child/ren's Seesaw page.

Pupil Learning Packs

- Two week packs (Tuesday 5th January – Friday 15th January) have been prepared and collected or posted to parents.
- A second pupil learning pack is currently being prepared (Monday 18th January – Wednesday 17th February), collection arrangements to follow.

Supervised Learning for Key Worker and Vulnerable children

At present we are providing supervised learning for vulnerable and key worker children. We have received a large number of requests and are currently providing supervised learning for over forty children. To cover this provision I am having to ask the majority of teaching staff and all non teaching staff to be in school each day. The current lockdown has been introduced to reduce the spread of infection and we would appreciate if this provision was only used when parents have no alternatives. As well as the duty of care I have to the pupils within the school, I also have a duty of care to all the staff within school, and I am endeavouring to reduce the number of staff having to come to school and be within the school building each day. It is important that we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all during this difficult time.





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Below is information regarding this provision

- A weekly booking form will be released on the school app. Bookings should be made by 9pm on Thursday evening prior to the week being booked. This is to allow planning for staff ratios and rotas.
- Supervised Learning will be for the following times, pupils do not need to be in school for the full session time.
Year 1 – 3 pupils 9-2pm
Year 4 – 7 pupils 9-3pm
- At present we are supervising the children in year groups bubbles, this may remain the same or change due to different factors.
- School uniform should be worn.
- Pupils should bring a break and water bottle with their school bag each day.
- Pupils need to bring a warm coat for break and lunchtime.
- School dinners – more information to follow.
- Pupils will enter school via their normal entrance door.

All of the above is based on the information I have at present. It is an ever changing situation, and I will send out updates as I receive new guidance.

We particularly think about our Year 7 pupils who were to sit their first transfer test this weekend. They have worked so hard in their preparation for this assessment and it was disappointing to hear that the assessment date has had to be changed to the end of February.

None of us 'want' home learning and we know how difficult this situation is for parents. Please be assured as always we will do our best for your child/ren. If you have any queries, please contact me and I will do my best to assist.

All pupils were due to return on Monday 11th January but in line with government guidance, all pupils will now not return to school until Monday 22nd February.

Thank you for your continued patience and co-operation as we navigate this difficult situation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jamison





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Appendix One

Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
- A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
- A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
- A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
- A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
- A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
- A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
- A child who has been placed for adoption.
- Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

Appendix Two

Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)

(Please note that if one parent meets this definition then the child can attend school)

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
- Education and childcare. This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
- Utilities, and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
- Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
- Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

