



# Ebrington Primary & Nursery School

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Principal: Mr B F Guthrie, BA Hons ED PQH

6 January 2021

Dear Parent

Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers/SEN/ Vulnerable in Ebrington Nursery Unit

Education Minister Peter Weir MLA has announced that in light of the current crisis in public health, the Northern Ireland Executive has agreed that the following necessary actions are proposed. These replace the actions set out in the letter to schools of 31 December 2020.

## **Effective from: Thursday 7th January**

- All mainstream education providers, including pre-school education settings, primary and post primary schools are required to provide remote learning at home to their pupils rather than face to face teaching in school, until the half term break in the middle of February.
- Remote learning and the removal of face to face teaching should be temporary and last no longer than necessary, and therefore will remain under review by the Executive.
- Vulnerable children and children of key workers (one parent) to have access to schools for supervised learning. Vulnerable children include amongst others all statemented children

**We have been open since Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to support identified Key Workers/ SEN/ Vulnerable pupils who have previously made contact with/ been contacted by school to request/ provide a place for their child/ ren. This guidance now states that our pre-school Nursery is closed also, so we need to consider provision for these families.**

Before clicking on the link and completing the form, I would ask you to look at the key worker situation as 'Need versus Entitlement'. Hopefully you all know well that Ebrington PS & NU will always do their best to support the needs of its school community.

**This form must be completed by Wednesday 6 January, 7:00pm**

**[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqG3m2cr1u\\_JHsops3lHZUzIUNTITRFpBRkMzTIE2T0NDNFA0NzdHQIUxRS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqG3m2cr1u_JHsops3lHZUzIUNTITRFpBRkMzTIE2T0NDNFA0NzdHQIUxRS4u)**

What I mean by this above statement is please only request this provision for your child/ family when there is no other alternative. We are in a much worse position with regards positive cases of Covid than we were with our last school closure in March 2020 and also have a new variant within Northern Ireland. As principal, I want to ensure that we are doing everything to support our school community- pupils, parents, staff and all families, in not just their learning, but also in their health and well-being.

**The lockdown and school closures coming in to force on Thursday are there for a reason. It is about limiting travel, limiting interaction and reducing contact. The best way this can be done is reducing footfall within the school building, leading to less mixing, less close contact and ultimately less positive cases and illness. If a child can remain at home, for their and the family's safety, they should remain at home.**

Please be advised that schools will be performing 'supervised learning' for those children coming in, rather than direct teaching. Teachers are managing remote learning with all the pupils not in school and pupils will be supervised in the classroom/ hall by at least two of our school classroom assistants.

**Any pupil who presents a risk of flight from the building or who may require safe handling cannot be considered for school placement.**

**The operating hours are 8:45am-3:00pm from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 through to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, although please note, we will still operate the standard 2:00pm finish for all pupils on a Friday.**

We plan to keep the Nursery day as 'normal' as possible for our children attending.

We will continue to provide snack for the children in Nursery and we would therefore ask that you send your child's Nursery fund in with them tomorrow in a named envelope and post it into the letterbox. The cost for this half term will be £12.

Our daily procedures will be as follows:

- Please bring your child into the Nursery via the front door each morning. Only one adult to bring in their child and please ensure a face covering is worn.
- Your child will need to bring a packed lunch (we will provide snack as normal)
- At home time, we will meet parents collecting their child at the front door of the Nursery and handover your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Guthrie

Miss S Caithness