



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **School Closure Information**

Please find outlined below, in great detail, the information that you need to know in relation to the closure of schools announced by Minister Weir earlier today. **Please be advised that this information may change if guidance is updated over the coming days. Should this be the case, an updated copy of this letter will be sent out to parents and carers.**

As always, from the outset, can I continue to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support at this time. Although this school year has been a challenging one it has been made much easier by the incredible support you have all shown me and my staff as well as the high level of cooperation with our previous restart plans. I can't put into words how beneficial this has been. As with our previous restart plans I want to assure you that any decision being taken by us at school today has a reason behind it.

I would ask all parents and carers to read this entire document carefully.

### **1. Remote Learning Start Date**

All children will begin their remote learning on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**. School was due to start back on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, however, the Department of Education has allowed schools to take their first day of term as a preparation day for the planning for key worker provision and remote learning. In this case, the school Christmas holidays for pupils will now continue until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January inclusive.

### **2. Remote Learning Activities**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, all children returned home with a pack of work with at-home learning activities to cover a two-week closure from school. For children that had been self-isolating on this date, as a result of being identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case, packs of work have been sent home in the post and should have been received by now. All children should now start their packs of work on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January** and work on these for 2 days. The rest of the pack should be kept for the remainder of the Spring Term and **only** used should a class bubble need to close as a result of a positive case being identified in school.

If any pupil was absent from school from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December for any other reason than isolating as a direct result of being a close contact, packs of work will be available for parents to collect from the school office on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 9am – 3pm. **Please ensure that you wear a face covering when entering the school grounds.**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, class teachers will also upload some additional home learning activities onto the class pages of the school website.



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Tel: 028 9335 1781  
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**Principal** : Mr C. Fulton BA Hons (QTS)

### 3. Provision for Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Children

Our provision for Key Worker children will begin on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please be advised of the following information before applying for Key Worker provision:

- Key Worker provision will be **supervised learning only**. Key Worker Children will complete the same activities as children learning remotely from home. No additional face-to-face teaching will take place.
- School start and finish times will remain unchanged for the Thursday and Friday.
- **BOTH PARENTS** must be key workers in order to apply for key worker provision (or 1 parent in a single parent household).
- As per Department of Education guidance, Key Worker provision should only be applied for if **all other childcare options have been exhausted**.
- Children attending school must wear school uniform.
- No school meals will be provided and children must bring their break and lunch with them, each day, in a disposable container / bag.
- Breakfast club, 8am – 9am, will be available to key worker / vulnerable children as normal. If you require breakfast club on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> or Fri 8<sup>th</sup> January please book via the normal booking procedures by 12pm tomorrow. Kids Cave will not be available.

As you will be aware, the community transmission of Covid 19 is currently extremely high. The Minister has closed primary schools next week in order to try to reduce transmission. Although a little disruptive to school and family routines, I welcome this intervention in order to try to allow us to get all children back to school as soon as possible. **With this in mind, please only apply for key worker provision as a last resort.** This will allow us as a school to keep as many children and staff apart for a little while longer and, hopefully, ensure that transmission of the virus is kept low and that all staff would be available for a full restart on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

In order to apply for Key Worker provision please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the Key Worker form. Please complete this from by 12noon on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**.

Parents / Carers of vulnerable children, only Looked After Children and children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs may also complete the form by clicking the link above. Please complete this from by 12noon on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**. **Again, please only apply if all other childcare options have been exhausted.**

### 4. Nursery

Victoria Nursery Unit will be open as normal from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### 5. Primary 7 AQE Children

Early communication from the Department of Education stated that schools could decide to bring back examination years for face to face teaching. It now seems that this is aimed at statutory examinations in post primary schools and that primary schools should not bring back P7 pupils. With this in mind, P7 pupils will also be accessing remote learning from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January.



## Victoria Primary School & Nursery Unit

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I have also had some parents of Primary 7 pupils contact school as they are worried about the risk of their child having to isolate, and missing AQE tests, if a child in their class bubble tests positive for Covid during the AQE period. I know that some parents are considering taking the decision to not send their child into school over the AQE period and that parents have asked school for advice on this.

This is a really difficult area for me to comment on. The 'party line' is that children are expected to be in school when school reopens at it is deemed that schools are a Covid secure environment. Unfortunately, from a school attendance point of view, I cannot do anything other than mark children absent for any days that they would miss as a result of parents taking the decision to keep them off school. However, from a pastoral and a supportive point of view I would understand if you decide to take this position. If you did decide to take this step, I'm afraid that school staff would have limited time to provide any home learning support as school would be open to the remaining pupils. In this case, I do believe that parents are best placed to make the right decision for their child.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope the information provided above has been informative and I am delighted that we have been able to get it out to you in a timely fashion.

May I also remind you that SLIDO is still up and running should you require any further clarification and I will do my best to respond to any questions as quickly as possible over the coming days.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to welcoming all our children back to school in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Fulton  
Principal