

St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

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2nd January 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Following what was an unexpected end to our Term 1, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes. I very much hope you and your family were able to enjoy Christmas and remain healthy and well as we see in the New Year.

You will undoubtedly through the media be aware of the proposed changes to our return to school arrangements as per Minister Weir's most recent announcement. It is only now that school management have received official confirmation and clarification in regard to the specifics of this guidance.

As a result of the increased number of positive covid cases and rates of infection, DE guidance now stipulates that primary school children **WILL NOT** return to school this week as planned and that **remote learning provision** should instead be put in place:

Taking into account most recent DE guidance please find below a list of arrangements for the provision of teaching and learning for our pupils.

- As directed staff will use the first day of the new term Wednesday 6th January to prepare for online learning;
- **Pupils in all year bands will be taught remotely through the relevant online forums: Seesaw/Google Classroom on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January** after which it is planned they will attend school for face to face teaching.
- As before Christmas, P4-7 will receive links on GC to access online zoom lessons live. Recorded videos will be posted on Seesaw for Years 1-3.
- On Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January the school will offer a 'supervised learning' provision to the children of key workers as defined and categorised by DE. To minimise the number of children mixing in school this facility should be considered only when there is NO other safe, viable alternative childcare provision available – Parents/carers will need to register their child/children for this supervision through the relevant survey link included in the recent text to all parents.
- NB: **Only** key workers are asked to return the survey which will close on Tuesday 5th January at 2pm, This 'supervised learning' is not face to face teaching. Children will be supervised by school staff and will complete the same activities as those at home.
- **Supervised learning will commence at 9am and finish at 2:30pm. A packed lunch will be required. There will be no staggered starting or finishing times next week.**
- A member of the school safeguarding team will make contact on Monday with parents/carers of children identified as vulnerable as per definition set out in the DE Cross Departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan.

I will endeavour to keep you updated as any further relevant guidance is received.

Kind Regards

F Hughes

Mrs Feena Hughes
Principal