

MAGHERA PRIMARY SCHOOL

**15 Station Road, Maghera, Co Londonderry, BT46 5BS**

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Start of Term Update January 2021

**Dear Parent/ Guardian**

**I trust you all had a peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

**Following guidance from the Education Minister, Mr Weir on Thursday 31 December, all primary schools in Northern Ireland will remain closed from Monday 4 January. As you know school was due to start back on this date. This announcement now means that school will not reopen as planned until Monday 11 January, unless the Education Minister instructs otherwise.**

**Mr Weir has given all schools one day at the start of term for the planning and preparation of online learning and planning for the supervision of key worker children and vulnerable children from Tuesday 5 January.**

**Only those children qualifying under these criteria should come to school on 5,6,7,8 January 2021. If you feel you meet this definite set of standards, please contact the school via email before 3pm on Monday 4 January to ensure your child has a place.**

**Please see definitions of each below as defined by the Department of Education.**

**Remote learning will commence for all classes on Tuesday 5 January. Staff will upload guidance for the day each morning through the home learning portal of the school website. Completed work should be uploaded through the Seesaw app for marking and comment.**

**If you have any problems logging onto these remote learning platforms, please contact the school office on Monday 4 January between 10am and 3pm to speak to a member of the teaching staff. Staff can also be contacted during the week via the school telephone or the school info account.**

**We do not expect EA school dinners will be available, so children should bring their own break and packed lunch.**

**Once again, thank you for all your support and I hope that you and yours continue to stay safe.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mrs L Mawhinney**

**Principal**

**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**](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.**

**Key workers are defined as:**

* **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, youth 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**.