

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy, Peaceful and Safe New Year from the staff at Rosemount Primary And Nursery School.

As you will be aware, the Department of Education issued new guidance about the reopening of schools which has now been postponed until Monday 11th January 2021 for pupils from P1 – P7

**Our Nursery Unit will be open as normal to all Nursery children on Thursday 7th January 2021. It has not been confirmed if school dinners will be available as yet.**

Our school term was due to start on Wednesday 6th January, however the Department of Education have advised that the first day back should be used by schools to plan for remote/blended learning and to revisit risk assessments and plans that schools have in place for a safe return to school.

Our **Primary School** will be open on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January- Friday 8th January, providing 'supervised learning to vulnerable and key worker children'. (Please see definitions of Vulnerable and Key worker children as published by the Dept of Education, below)

Those children who attend **Primary School** on Thursday and Friday will participate in 'supervised learning', completing the same work that pupils working from home will be doing. This option should only be considered if no other alternative is available and will operate during normal school hours.

**Your child's teacher will be in touch with you shortly to ascertain whether or not you wish to avail of the 'supervised learning' option to ensure we have adequate supervision in place.**

**Definition of key workers:** (both Parents/Guardians or a Parent/Guardian in a single parent family)

- 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.

#### **Definition of a vulnerable child:**

- 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.

Full guidance from the Department of Education can also be found on our website

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times. As always, any decisions made have been taken following advice and guidance from the Dept of Education and the Public Health Authority. Our staff will be available as always during this short period of remote learning to reassure, support and guide you as best they can. If you wish to contact the school directly please do so by email (leaving contact details) or by telephone and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Bradley