

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & EDERNEY COMMUNITY NURSERY





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3rd Jan. 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Let me begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year from the staff of St. Joseph's. No doubt Christmas brought mixed feelings for some of our families, but hopefully we can move into 2021 with some hope that COVID-19 will soon be behind us. This term will bring challenges but with your continued support, I am confident we will get through the difficulties together, as we did in Term 1.

As I mentioned in my message on our school app on Thursday, Minister Weir has issued changes as to how school will operate next week. We were due to re-open to all pupils on Wednesday 6th but this has now changed. We will now open for <u>supervision</u> of key worker and vulnerable children on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th, from 8.50am to 3pm. Parents who wish to avail of this, should email Karen (at the address above) as soon as possible please.

<u>Children will complete the same work as those remaining at home. This supervision is</u> <u>not face-to-face teaching.</u>

It is important to note, that we will be opening with a reduced staff, due to remote learning, isolation & illness and safety of staff. Therefore, I need to advise you that the usual 'class bubbles' will not be possible. School dinner will not be available, so children need to bring their own snack and lunch. They should also wear their school uniform. EA buses will run as normal next week.

Ederney Community Nursery will open, as scheduled, to all pupils on Wednesday 6th.

For those children who are remaining at home, teachers will work on Wednesday 6th to prepare for home-learning, as directed by Minister Weir. Your child's teacher will be in touch by either Teams or the school messaging app on Wednesday, regarding activities to be completed on Thursday 7th & Friday 8th. Some teachers have already supplied home-learning packs, while others will post tasks online.

I will be in school from Wednesday 6th, should you have any queries or concerns.

I'd like to thank you for your patience, as I awaited clarification on the guidelines for next week. I hope you and your families are all safe and well at home. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back safely on Monday 11th January 2021.

Best Wishes, Anne Hagan (Acting Principal)