



1/1/21

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Let me start by wishing you a very Happy New Year!

Having received notification yesterday from the Education Minister about revised plans for reopening schools after the Christmas holidays, I am now in a position to advise you of our plans in West Winds for next week.

Nursery

As instructed by the Department of Education, our Nursery Unit will be open with Nursery children able to attend as previously agreed from Wednesday 6th January. Please continue to communicate with Mrs Andrews through SeeSaw should you have any queries/ information to share.

Primary School

The Education Minister has stated that primary school pupils will be **taught remotely until the 8th January**, after which they will return to school for face-to-face teaching. School will therefore be closed to most children next week - with some exceptions detailed below.

Primary School - Remote Learning

Remote learning will commence for children on Wednesday 6th January. Staff will be in school to plan, prepare and manage remote learning for children not attending school. As before, this will be delivered primarily through SeeSaw. Please contact your child's teacher directly should you require any assistance with login details etc. If you cannot do this, please make contact through the school office (028 9181 5212). Teachers, using SeeSaw, will guide the children through their work remotely for the week, setting tasks and responding to children's work each day. Teachers will be available between 9.00am and 2.00pm each day – they are your first point of contact in school.

Paper packs will be available for those families unable to access work through SeeSaw. If you require a paper pack, please order one using the following online form. Once ordered, school will communicate with you about how to get your pack.

[Order your home learning paper pack](#)

Orders should be made before 9.00am on Tuesday 5th January.

Primary Schools – Key Worker Children

The Education Minister has stated that primary school pupils will be taught remotely until the 8th January, after which they will return to school for face-to-face teaching. School will remain open however to provide childcare for children of key workers or children who are classed as vulnerable. A child of a key worker is a child for whom both parents (or a parent in a single parent family) are key workers, with no other safe alternatives for childcare. Definitions of key workers as set by the Department of Education are at the end of this letter.

The Department has instructed that children who qualify as children of key workers will not receive face-to-face teaching in school; they will simply be supervised in the school building, doing the same activities as the children who are at home. Teachers will be managing the remote learning so will not be engaged in face-to-face teaching with children who are in school.

I would encourage parents to explore all alternatives fully before sending their child to school for supervision and only send them if they meet the criteria and have no other safe alternative.

If you would like to request childcare provision for your child, please complete the online Key Worker Childcare application form. *Applications should be made before 9.00am on Monday 4th January.*

You can access this form here: [Key Worker Childcare Application](#)

Confirmation of the supervised childcare places will be given out on Tuesday 5th January. **Please do not send your child to school on Wednesday 6th January unless you have received this confirmation.**

Primary Schools – Vulnerable Children

As above, schools are to provide childcare supervision for children who are classed as vulnerable. The definition of this, as stated by the Department of Education is included at the end of this letter.

If your child meets one of the criteria below and you have no other safe alternative, please complete the Vulnerable Childcare Application Form. *Applications should be made before 9.00am on Monday 4th January.*

You can access this form here: [Vulnerable Childcare Application](#)

Confirmation of the supervised childcare places will be given out on Tuesday 5th January. **Please do not send your child to school on Wednesday 6th January unless you have received this confirmation.**

School Transport

School transport services will be operating as normal from 4th January so is available for those who are eligible if they are coming to school from the 6th January.

Free School Meals

For those children in receipt of Free School Meals, we have been informed that there will be 1 direct payment for all FSM pupils for the week beginning 4th Jan. This will be paid retrospectively on the week beginning 11th January.

AQE

At the time of writing this we await information concerning the sitting of the AQE exams; Mrs Seeds/ Mrs Beattie will communicate directly with those children affected early next week.

Clearly, this is not how any of us wished to start the new school year. However, it is my hope that as we move further into 2021 we will start to see a greater sense of normality return. Please feel free to contact me if you any questions.

Many thanks

Niall Manogue
Principal

office@westwindsprimary.co.uk

Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)

- 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 Vulnerable Child (as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020.)

- 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.