



St MacNissi's Primary School
Christine Road
Newtownabbey
BT36 6UE
Tel: 028 90342166

Dear Parents/Guardians

5th January 2022

As we prepare to return to school on Thursday 6th January I would, on behalf of the school community, like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Re-opening January 2022

We are very much aware of the high community transmission of coronavirus over the Christmas period and the impact it is having on organisations, experiencing staffing difficulties. It is our intention to keep your children in school where they can receive high quality face to face learning.

School will work with all parents to maintain all Health and Safety measures already in place and ensure our pupils are safe by: -

- Use of existing entrances and exits
- Use of class bubbles
- Indoor one-way system
- Use of hand sanitisers
- Cleaning of desks at break and lunch times
- Maximum ventilation through open doors and windows

I would ask for your support by: -

- Being prompt to leave school after drop off and pick up and to avoid unnecessary crowding.
- If school makes contact with you during the school day, with regard to your child's Well-Being and the need for him/her to go home, please be prompt in coming to collect your child.
- Keep your child at home if they have any symptoms and follow PHA guidance.
- Informing school either by phone call or email if your child needs to self-isolate.

The updated guidance from the Department of Health on self-isolation for close contacts can be accessed via:- www.nidirect.gov.uk

We want to ensure the Health and Well-Being of all in as safe an environment as possible and we appreciate your support in helping us to ensure this happens.

Staffing Levels

The high level of community transition could impact on the school community and this may lead to staff having to self-isolate. We will endeavour to maintain staffing levels, by sourcing a substitute teacher, however in some circumstances if a substitute teacher is not available we will temporarily close a class for a period of time.

For example, if School Management has learned that a teacher(s) will be absent for more than two days (e.g., with covid), we will: -

- Maintaining Health and Safety levels, endeavour to deploy existing members of staff to cover the class until the end of the **first day**.
- On the first day, try to acquire a substitute teacher to cover the class.
- If no substitute teacher is available, we will inform you by 12 noon on the first day that the class will be temporarily closed, at the end of that day.
- School will continue to try and access a substitute teacher and keep you informed with regards to 'Remote Learning'.

Whilst we hope this is not the case the Minister has acknowledged, however, that if a school is unable to maintain a safe level of staffing because of the impossibility of acquiring substitute teaching staff, the above arrangements are legitimate.

I would ask for your support., in the current circumstance we all find ourselves in and if you have any questions, worries or concerns, then please do contact me via: -

info@stmacnissisps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

If Covid -19 has impacted upon you or your family in any way and you wish to talk directly with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school 028 90342166

Thanking you for your continued support

J. McAuley (Principal)

