

# St. Catherine's Primary School

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas Break and that Santa was good to all our little boys and girls! I also take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, healthy, joyous and blessed new year for 2021 and sincerely hope that as we progress into the year that things can get back to normal again!

In the meantime, however, you will be aware of the media speculation around another second FULL lockdown to take place now. I am writing to you to let you know that I received a letter from DE (Department of Education) this morning to state (effective from 7<sup>th</sup> January .....

**“All mainstream education providers, including pre-school education settings, primary and post primary schools are required to provide remote learning at home to pupils rather than face to face teaching in school, until the half term break in the middle of February.....**

**Remote Learning and the removal of face to face teaching should be temporary and last no longer than necessary, and therefore will remain under review by the executive.”**

As you are aware, we are all still on our planned holidays until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Weir has allocated the first day back after the holidays for a preparation day to prepare for Remote Learning.



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All children will now learn REMOTELY from 11<sup>th</sup> January onwards until February Mid Term. This will be kept under review by the NI Executive.

What is Remote Learning?

**Nursery Pupils** will access their work via the school website

[www.stcatherinesps.co.uk](http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk)

Parents will receive more information about this via email.

**Years 1-7 Pupils** will access their work via Microsoft Teams.

Parents will receive more guidance on how to access work on teams via email.

Remote Learning will be carefully planned for pupils and a timetable of activities will be made available to you all as soon as possible to help give direction for the learning at home.

Pupils may also use online digital reading books on MyOn and use Accelerated Reader quizzes. Coupled with this we are making Mathletics available to all pupils in the school and their parents so this is new and exciting for us and something a little different for our children to try!

The links to learning websites and learning videos are also still available on the Home Learning Area of our website.

As we are just returning to school after the holidays on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, Staff will be meeting then to prepare for this Remote Learning and plan a rota if there is a need for Supervised Childcare for children of keyworkers or vulnerable children.

**Supervised Childcare therefore will not be available for children until Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. If you need to apply for a supervised childcare place for your child please complete the application form which will be text linked to you after this letter. This form should be submitted no later than 12 noon on FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 to allow for planning arrangements. Once we receive and process your application we will be in touch with you to make further arrangements.**

What is Supervised Childcare?

Supervised Childcare is NOT face to face teaching. Children will come into school to an allocated classroom and will complete the work that the children at home will be doing remotely. They will be SUPERVISED by two members of staff on a rota basis (not necessarily their own teacher or usual classroom assistant.) Depending on numbers, children may be mixed with children from other class bubble groups in order to facilitate this service. All children will be required to bring a packed lunch with them. Any child entitled to Free School Meals will have payments made directly to parents by EA during this Remote Learning period.

We realise that supervising your child's learning at home is not always easy as children are not as motivated at home as they are in school when they are being taught face to face, however you should remember that this is a global pandemic and you can



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only do your best. This is a directive from the Department of Education based on Public Health Agency advice and we are asked to cooperate fully with this. We are hoping that this will only be for a short time and that schools will reopen again soon for normal face to face teaching.

Teachers will monitor and track pupils accessing Microsoft teams for Remote Learning and track the completion of their allocated pieces of work online. Teachers will be available to make contact with you if you are having any difficulties accessing Microsoft Teams or completing the work.

We understand and appreciate that parents have their own work commitments and may supervise learning at various different times of day at home. That said, teachers will understand this and if work is submitted after 3pm on a day, feedback will be given at the earliest possible opportunity over the next 48 hours as per our Remote/ Blended Learning Policy.

If you are having any difficulty with internet access or devices, please email

Miss Doherty (Vice Principal/ Head of Home Learning) [jdoherty742@c2kni.net](mailto:jdoherty742@c2kni.net)  
Or Mrs Deery (ICT Leader) [cdeery318@c2kni.net](mailto:cdeery318@c2kni.net)  
Or Mrs Wilders (Principal) [bwilders592@c2kni.net](mailto:bwilders592@c2kni.net)

..... and we will do our very best to support you!

We realise that this situation is far from what we all would like at present, however if we work together, hopefully we will get through this and there will be better days ahead!

In the meantime stay safe and God bless

Mrs Bridget Wilders  
Principal



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