

St. Catherine's Primary School

Principal: Mrs Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

Junior School

Newtownkennedy St. Site

Strabane

Co.Tyrone

BT82 8HT

Phone:02871382272

Fax:02871 382139



Senior School

Barrack St. Site

Strabane

Co. Tyrone

BT82 8HE

Phone: 02871 382614

Fax: 02871 382482

Email: bwilders592@c2kni.net

www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

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February 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you are aware, the levels of Covid infection in our community have been very high since we started the new term in January. Sadly they remain alarmingly so. In fact they seem to be on the rise affecting significant numbers of pupils, families and staff in our school family and indeed in the wider Strabane Community Area.

So far, despite challenges, we have remained open and to date there have been no class bubble shutdowns. However, we feel that at this point, we need to make you aware and alert you to the serious challenges that we are facing at present.

If we do not have sufficient staff in school (due to Covid illness) then sadly, it is not safe to continue some class bubbles and we may have to close down class bubbles for a minimum of one day and even perhaps longer until we can get enough staff to safely reopen. Whilst we prefer, at all costs, to open our school and every class bubble within it, we must prioritise our little pupils' safety.

To this end, if we cannot get enough staff to open a class bubble we will let you know by TEXT MESSAGE at the very earliest opportunity. We will keep you updated and advise you when the class will reopen, also by TEXT MESSAGE. Please ensure that we have the correct mobile number for you so that you receive these vitally important text messages going forward. If you have changed your mobile, please ring the school to let clerical staff know or alternatively email Mrs Bridget Wilders (Principal) bwilders592@c2kni.net or Miss J Doherty (Vice Principal) jdoherty742@c2kni.net



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Home learning will be made available for our little pupils (Years 1-7) via Microsoft Teams. If you have any difficulty accessing this please email Miss J Doherty jdoherty742@c2kni.net . Home Learning Paper Packs will be made available for Nursery Pupils.

Please note that all pupils (Nursery – Year 7) have access to Mathletics App for use at home.

Pupils Years 3 -7 also have access to MyOn (Digital Reading Book App) and Accelerated Reader (Reading Quizzes) App.

Username and passwords for these apps have been given out to pupils already.

We hope that we will not have to implement class bubble shutdowns, but we feel that you should be alerted as to the possibility.

We take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your patience, support and understanding as we journey through these difficult times together.

We also add, that all our little pupils, families and staff members who are ill are continuously in our thoughts and prayers and we wish you all a speedy recovery,

God bless

Mrs Bridget Wilders
Principal



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