



EDUCATION AUTHORITY SOUTHERN REGION

MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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March 16th 2020

Dear Parents,

In light of the on-going concerns around the Coronavirus pandemic, I am writing to inform you of our contingency plans in the event of the anticipated school closure.

I will make every effort to ensure Mullavilly Primary remains open, until instructed otherwise by the Department of Education. I am aware that recent statements in the Press make it clear that school closures are inevitable at some stage but not immediate. Of course, if there are concerns regarding the health and safety of children, staff or the wider community, and following consultation with the Public Health Agency (PHA), I may need to make the decision to close the school in advance of this announcement. I have found the lack of clarity and guidance on school closures both frustrating and unhelpful. However, at this stage we will adhere to the guidance given by the Department of Education and the Public Health Agency.

Staff were asked last week to begin preparing resources and assignments/homework which could be completed at home, if the school was instructed to close for two weeks, which then was the anticipated time frame for closure. It came as a huge surprise to hear on Saturday, that schools may be instructed to close for up to 16 weeks. This will require time being given to staff to prepare more adequately for that period of time, including the setting up of online learning for some year groups. With this in mind, a Staff Development Day planned for a date in May is being brought forward to **Monday, 23rd March, therefore children will not attend.** I hope by informing you of this today, whilst not ideal, gives you adequate notice to plan for child care. I am hoping there may more clarity today, Monday 16th March, following separate meetings of the Executive at Stormont and Teachers' Union regarding the time frame for school closures. Time will tell.

Staff in each year group will send home details of work to be completed during the closure, including hard copies of work, online resources, recommended websites. Our school website will also be a useful resource for communicating with parents and pupils. Further details will follow.

Excellent hygiene routines are paramount to keeping the school community safe. Pupils will continue to be asked to wash their hands on a regular basis. Cleaning staff will continue to thoroughly clean surfaces in particular tables, chairs, door handles and handrails on the stairs. Door handles on all entrances will be cleaned before and after every drop off and pick up times to help eliminate the spread of germs.

If a case of Covid-19 is suspected or confirmed in the school, I will follow the PHA advice and act accordingly. If you have any concerns regarding your child's welfare, please do not hesitate to contact the school or if a member of your family tests positive for Covid-19 or you take the decision to self-isolate your child/ren, please contact the school to keep me informed.

We are certainly in uncertain and unsettling times but the staff of Mullavilly will do all we can to help manage the situation, keeping the children's best interests at heart.

Take care, regards

Lynne McClimonds