



January Covid-19 Closure Update 05/01/21

Dear Parent Carer,

Extended Closure

Like you we are watching the situation change almost by the hour and adjusting what we do to fit.

It has been announced that schools are likely to remain closed to most pupils for an extended period of time and that will bring challenge to us all. However, our home learning plans are in place and we will continue to develop them as time goes on.

There will inevitably be a few teething problems getting back in to the swing of things online but with a little patience and perseverance we will overcome them.

Our Plan

Our plan for this week (remember when we thought it was only this week) will roll forward into the weeks to come and we will continue to communicate with you and your child online.

If you are experiencing problems due to lack of equipment, connectivity or simply struggling to get things to work, let us know and we will do our level best to help you.

We will not always be able to respond to everyone on the same day but if you email or call we will get back to you as soon as we can. Many teachers are also parents and as we all juggle our various roles we will all need each other's support – we will be relying on your kindness as much as you will be ours!

We continue to operate an essential keyworker service for some children and we anticipate that those parents who have registered their children for keyworker cover this week will continue to require it for the duration of the closure. Changes to parent's circumstances in that respect should be notified to the school by email or by telephone. While we are happy to provide this service we also want to limit it to a necessary minimum so as not to undermine the very aim of closing schools in the first place. The fewer children and adults we have out of their homes and in close proximity to each other, the better for getting back to normal sooner.

Post primary Transfer

The Admissions process for P1 and Pre School is underway now – in the strangest circumstances any of us have ever experienced – and we are conscious that the post primary transfer process is just around the corner. The announcement today that AQE and PPTC have cancelled selection tests adds another dimension to that process for some parents and pupils. We will stay in touch with P7 parents about transfer in the coming weeks. Transfer applications are online this year and while we are not directly involved in that process, we will be happy to assist where we can. We will keep you up to date with any information that comes our way as that process gets underway. As to what happens regarding schools that have traditionally used transfer tests – we will all have to see what individual schools put in place as an alternative to that process. Post primary school's own websites are probably the best source of first-hand information in that respect and I expect there will be updates posted over the course of the next few days.



January Covid-19 Closure Update 05/01/21

We will be starting to roll out 'keeping in touch' phone calls next week and throughout January to touch base with parents and catch up on your lockdown life! If you need to discuss something ahead of that you can do so by email or via SeeSaw etc. The office phones will be attended to most, but not all of the time.

We will stay in touch, keep you informed of any updates and together we will see you at the school gates again in the better days to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Neville Watson

Principal