

ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
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3rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to express our gratitude to you on the efforts you have made with remote learning. As a staff, we understand the extremely difficult balancing act this has been. Pupil engagement with allocated work has been very good across the school and a huge effort has been invested, by pupils, parents/carers and staff, in trying to ensure the continuity of quality education for our children.

Primary 1-3

As has been extensively discussed in the media over the past couple of weeks, Primary 1 to Primary 3 children will return to school as normal from **Monday 8th March**. The original plan was for these children to return to face to face teaching for 2 weeks and then revert to remote learning from 22nd March, though this may be extended through to the Easter holidays. Teaching for the Primary 1 - 3 children will be done in school and not through Seesaw, children should bring in their current workbooks and reading books. We will keep you updated when further developments are announced.

Primary 4-7

It is our understanding that P4 – P7 children will return after the Easter holidays, they will continue with remote learning through the Seesaw app and their work packs. Supervised learning for key worker or vulnerable Primary 4-7 children will continue in school. Parents are reminded to email or phone the school to book children in to the Supervised Learning. Additional home learning packs for Primary 5 – 7 children (and return of reading books) will be available for collection on Friday 5th March as follows:

1.15pm	Primary 5 children and older siblings
1:30pm	Primary 6 children and older siblings
1:45pm	Primary 7 children

Uniform: Primary 1 – 3 children and children attending Supervised Learning should come to school in their uniform as per Term 1.

Snacks: Snacks and dinners will be available for Primary 1-3 children and children attending Supervised Learning; snacks should be paid to Pauline each day.

Dinners: Dinners should be paid for at the beginning of each week; you are asked to indicate the days your child will be taking dinners. The DE has informed schools that P1-P3 children entitled to free school meals will receive free dinners **but P4-P7 children attending Supervised Learning will not be entitled to free dinners**; they can pay for their dinner or take a packed lunch.

Transport: If your child is entitled to home-school transport, you are asked to indicate by tomorrow, 4th March, whether your child will be availing of transport and the days and times (am or pm) transport is required. The afternoon service will leave school at 2:00pm rather than 3:00pm until all classes resume.

Supervised Learning: With the phased return to school commencing next week, Supervised Learning for Primary 4 – 7 Keyworker and Vulnerable children will operate **until 2:00pm** each day. Parents wishing to send their children to school for Supervised Learning should email dmcnally516@c2kni.net by 2:00pm each Friday; children cannot be brought to school without prior agreement.

The school will be closed on St Patrick's Day, Wednesday 17th March.

I thank you again for your continued co-operation and support during these unprecedented times in education.

Yours sincerely
Donal McNally
Principal