



18.12.20

Dear Parents/Carers

Just a quick message about a few issues that have come to light since yesterday:

1. PICK UP TIMES FOR TERM 2

As we are planning to increase face to face teaching time for year 3, 4 and 5 in the new year this means there is less wait time between each class being dismissed. We hoped we could redeploy staff in different ways rather than using them to look after children until older siblings are finished. As we are operating bubbles, we need two members of staff per classroom to do this. Even if we only have one or two children this is not a productive use of staff time. However, we realise that this will cause issues for some parents for collections and thank those who brought their concerns to our attention. To support you we will continue to keep children until older siblings are dismissed, but it is only for families who have an older sibling in school. To summarise:

- ONLY use the service if absolutely necessary – it should not be used on a regular basis if you don't need it.
- This is NOT a drop in service – we cannot facilitate “drop ins” unless in an emergency.
- This will operate ONLY for families with older siblings.
- There will be NO charge.
- Initially, you MUST contact the school office to book for the week ahead and let us know why you need to use it. Please do not contact teachers via online platforms to book children in. We will review this once we get an idea of need and numbers.

2. LOCKDOWN SPECULATION

As you know Northern Ireland will all be entering into a 6-week lockdown commencing 26th December. Not the best news for us all, but I am sure we could have predicted some form of lockdown post-Christmas. The NI Executive has not made a decision about schools as yet. Personally, we feel that schools should remain open where possible for face to face teaching. Our school has been very lucky and not had any positive cases since half term, but many other schools have not been so fortunate. Forward planning is so important in schools to enable us to plan ahead and communicate with parents. Unfortunately, we have found that the Department of Education only inform school Principals of changes at the very last minute. If a decision is made regarding school closure/online learning I will let you know – either via the school website and a text or via class online learning platforms.

3. POSITIVE COVID CASE OVER HOLIDAYS

We hope you all have a COVID free Christmas, but in the event that you have a positive case at home, please contact me directly via email hwatson896@c2kni.net

In fact, if you have any concerns or worries over the Christmas period let me know and I can give you a ring to support in any way I can.

Again I wish you a safe and restful break and hope we can look forward to a New Year that will be kinder to us all.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Watson

Principal