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Description automatically generated**St Peter’s Primary School**

**415 Lisnaragh Road, Plumbridge, Omagh, BT79 8AF**

**Tel: 028 816 48412 [info@stpeters.plumbridge.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpeters.plumbridge.ni.sch.uk)**

**Principal: Miss S Falls**

6/1/22

We trust you all had a lovely peaceful Christmas and wish you all health and happiness in the new school year 2022. We pray for better times ahead.

**Covid -19 Guidance**

This current phase of the pandemic is highly transmissible in the community and we wish to keep existing Health and Safety measures in place. We would like to remind all parents when collecting children at school to abide with social distancing and wear masks unless exempt.

Guidance on isolation and close contacts can be found on [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Do note that the Department of Health has revised its guidance on self - isolation for close contacts.

Fully vaccinated close contacts of a positive case will no longer have to take a PCR test. Instead they take a lateral flow test and continue to take daily until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case. **Of course if pupils are symptomatic they need to stay at home.**

If a child tests positive on a lateral flow test, the latest guidance is that they do not need a PCR Test as they are positive and need to isolate.

However, if a **child tests negative on a lateral flow test and has symptoms it is important to keep the child off school and book a PCR test and remain at home when awaiting the result.**

Also the NI Executive has also announced a change to the rules on **self - isolation for positive cases from 10 days to 7 days,** providing the individual has negative lateral flow test results on both days 6 and 7 with tests taken 24 hours apart and no symptoms.

Remote Learning

Currently there are no plans by the Executive to return to remote learning. However, it is extremely difficult to source staff and if a staff member tests positive, children may have to stay at home at very short notice. Please do have alternative arrangements in place. Obviously this is as a last resort.

**Attendance**

Please contact the school office before 12 noon or seesaw your child’s class teacher each morning to inform the school of your child’s absence or if you have any further queries regarding guidance. It is important that the school knows that your child has tested positive in order to strive to keep members of the school community safe.

**Adverse Weather**

It is the time of year again when there can be severe weather warnings. Therefore, we are asking you on those mornings when there has been weather warnings to ensure that there is a member of staff present in the building before dropping off your child as staff can be delayed travelling to school. (Also be aware that if the electricity is off, parents cannot be contacted.)

On snowy/frosty mornings please check the school website as the school may be closed. **If you do not have internet access, please ensure to link up with other parents who will call you on these mornings.**

**New P.1 applications**.

The Admission Portal for P.1 children starting school in Sept 2022 will open on Monday 10th January on the Education Authority Website www.eani.org.uk/admissions and will close at noon on the 28th January. If anyone has any queries or would like to find out more about the school, please ring the school office before noon any day.

**Flu Vaccine**

Some children missed the flu vaccine due to absences and the school nurse will return on January 31st to administer the vaccine.

**Confirmation**

Confirmation is on the 10th March in the Sacred Heart Church at 5pm.

The children will participate in Confirmation preparation sessions next week organised remotely by the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre – ‘Disciples of Jesus Filled with Joy’.

**Catholic Schools Week - 23rd - 30th January 2022.**

The theme this year is ‘Catholic Schools - Living life to the full’. As in other years, there is a programme of in-class activity which takes place with a different lesson each day.

**Healthy eating – New Year Resolution**

The school encourages healthy eating at break-time and lunchtime. Chocolate and fizzy drinks are not encouraged as they provide little food value to children. Children may bring a water bottle to school daily.

**Monies School Holidays**

Milk Money to Easter - £13.00 14th – 18th Feb. – Mid term

Music Money to Easter - £8.00 17th- 18th March – St. Patrick’s Day

Please pay on Monday 10th January.

**Well - Being**

Due to the success of the Neuronimio Programme in P.6 and 7, this has been purchased for P. 3, 4 and 5 pupils and will begin this term. This is a 12 week programme and increases children awareness about their feelings and includes breathing techniques and increases bounceability.

We have also purchased a music programme for all children in the school, again this will be delivered remotely and will begin this term.

**Thank you**

Thank you to all the parents for purchasing tickets for our school Fund.

Thank you to Mrs Conway who provided us with draw tickets for PlayStations, Strabane.

Thank you to Friends of St Peter’s who worked tirelessly throughout the year and provided fun activities for the children. A lot of work went into the elf trail and is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

On behalf of everyone at St Peter’s, I wish you and your families God’s blessing for a healthy, happy and safe 2022.

 S. Falls