**St Peter’s Primary School**

**Plumbridge**

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**Principal: Miss S Falls**

06/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed Day 1 of remote learning! Things have been in a constant state of change and it is clear now that school will be closed to mid - term.

We aim to accommodate ‘Vulnerable Children and the Children of Key Workers’ if they have no other safe option.

Children who qualify as vulnerable or key workers' children will be in school only for 'supervised learning'. This is not face-to-face teaching; supervision only.

The Department of Education has provided a definition for key worker and vulnerable children (see lists below this letter).

If you feel that you or your child falls into either of these categories and you would like to avail of support please send a Seesaw message to your child’s class teacher before **2.00 pm on Thursday 7th Jan** and an application form will be forwarded to you requesting the following:

* Parent's name/s,
* Child/children's names and classes
* Contact number
* Reason for applying for key worker/vulnerable children support.
* Job Title/ Employer
* Which days you are likely to need this service.

Only when places have been confirmed should you send your child to school.

We wish to support you as much as we can so communication with teachers, will be available through seesaw. It is our understanding now that all children have access to devices and internet connection. If anyone still has problems please contact your class teacher via Seesaw. From our previous questionnaires we had demand for paper copies so all classes will provide mixed learning. However if you wish to receive paper copies from Mr Rouse beginning next week, please request through Seesaw.

We understand times are most definitely not normal, that is the same for all our teachers, who continue to try their very best for your child(ren) as well as try to adhere to these strict lockdown measures and manage their own family from home. We hope you can appreciate that this is a challenging time for everyone and everyone is experiencing unique circumstances. We appreciate all of your efforts to date and everyone should be very proud of everything that we have achieved during the last lock down. The children have dealt well with so many changes. Remember you are not expected to replace the teacher. It is enough to show love, patience and guide your child (ren) through this strange time. Above all stay safe and hopefully we are on the home run!

Best wishes

 Sheila Falls

**Principal**

* **Definition of key workers:**
	+ ***Health and Social Care****.  This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;*
	+ ***Education and childcare****.  This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;*
	+ ***Public safety and national security****.  This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;*
	+ ***Transport****.  This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;*
	+ ***Utilities, and Communication.****This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;*
	+ ***Financial Services*** *- This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);*
	+ ***Food and other necessary goods.****This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);*
	+ ***Retail****. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive  from June 2020;*
	+ ***Other workers essential to delivering key public services*** *such as the National Crime Agency; and*
	+ *Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.*

**Vulnerable Children:** **What is the definition of “vulnerable”?**

*The term “vulnerable” encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995. Children in need may include those:*

* + *A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.*
	+ *A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.*
	+ *A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).*
	+ *A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.*
	+ *A child who is ‘on-the-edge’ of receiving support from children’s social services.*
	+ *A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.*
	+ *A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.*
	+ *A child who has been placed for adoption.*