

Coagh Primary School

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Principal: **Mr I Bayne B.Ed.(Hons), PQH (NI)**

Covid Arrangements

Letter Dated- 30th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school we would like to thank you as parents/carers for supporting ourselves as we have worked our way through the Covid pandemic to this point. It had been hoped that the situation regarding Covid was 'easing' but unfortunately this does not appear to be the case either internationally or locally with new variants being detected and case numbers very high within Northern Ireland. With this in mind we would like to clarify some frequently asked questions which have increased in frequency within the last week or so.

Q- A member of a household tests positive for Covid after taking a PCR test or Lateral Flow Test.

In this instance the children within the household who attend Coagh Primary School should remain 'off school' until they take a PCR test and receive a 'negative' result. Once a 'negative' result is received the pupil can return to school (Current EA Covid Guidance). They should be monitored closely for symptoms and if they display any symptoms in school they will need to be collected immediately. A day 8 PCR test should also be booked for the child as many pupils have tested 'positive' on day 8 even after a 'negative' PCR test initially.

Q- A member of a household tests positive for Covid and the child(ren) who attend Coagh Primary School are unable to take a PCR test.

In this instance the children within the household who attend Coagh Primary School should 'isolate' for 10 days and should only return to school on day 11.

Q- A pupil at Coagh Primary School is required to 'isolate' at home after testing 'positive' for Covid or they are unable to take a PCR test after a 'positive' case in their household.

In this situation the parents should contact the class teacher via Seesaw as well as contacting the school office. The class teacher will endeavour to post a weekly overview for Literacy and Numeracy for that pupil. This may not be straight away as the priority of the teacher will always be the pupils in their classroom on a daily basis. A 'pack' of work may be created and either collected or delivered to the family. This pack may contain reading books/textbooks/worksheets etc. The work provided by the teacher may not always be the same as is being taught that week in school because it will not be possible to upload teaching videos for new concepts. Pupils should complete the work either in books provided within the 'pack' or on sheets they have at home and then upload as a message to your child's teacher.

During their time of 'isolation', pupils should continue to read from a variety of books i.e. Accelerated Reading for P4-P7. Mathletics is available for pupils to 'log in' from home and undertake various maths

activities. Pupils with 'Maths Boxes' can continue to go over some of the activities provided with these on a weekly basis. Pupils in Foundation should revise over their sounds and tricky words to consolidate this knowledge.

If you or your child have been displaying any Covid symptoms please do not send your child into school

With Covid cases rising rapidly in many local schools (Both Primary and Post Primary) it is really important to reinforce good hand hygiene with your child and ensure they have tissues with them in school.

When we receive confirmation that a pupil has tested 'positive' for Covid we will continue (as we have done over the last few months) to inform the parents of the pupils within that class that an unnamed pupil has tested 'positive' and that they should be particularly vigilant with symptoms displayed by their own child.

Please contact the school office or email me at ibayne452@c2kni.net if you have any questions and always contact us as soon if you have a positive case within your household or a pupil at Coagh Primary School has tested 'positive' for Covid.

It has been reported in the Northern Ireland news within the last few days that many schools are experiencing a shortage of staff (teaching and non-teaching) at present due to illnesses and this is likely to get 'worse' over the winter months. Should a teacher be 'absent' then as a school we employ a qualified teacher through NISTR (Northern Ireland Supply Teachers Register). At present due to illnesses across teaching staff within Northern Ireland and Government Department Initiatives it is almost impossible to 'book' a teacher through NISTR at the last minute (which is nearly always the case when dealing with illnesses).

As a school we do have contingency plans in place and will always endeavour to keep classes 'open'. There have been many schools across Northern Ireland who have had to 'close' classes for a short time recently due to staff illness and the subsequent inability to 'book' a replacement teacher at short notice. We hope that we can avoid this scenario during this academic year.

We will continue to keep you up to date with any revised arrangements as/when we receive additional guidance from the Department of Health/Education or the Education Authority.

Yours sincerely,



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