 St Patrick’s P.S.

and Nursery

Castlederg



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5th January 2022

Dear Parent/s,

We look forward to the pupils return to school tomorrow for the Spring term. With the high levels of Covid within the area we still need to be careful to try and minimise any loss of schooling for the children.

It is important that we return to the basics of ensuring that pupils with any symptoms do not attend school.

New advice from the Department places a greater emphasis on the use of Lateral Flow Tests and that this test should be carried out if any pupil is presenting with cold like symptoms, a high temperature, sore throats, a loss of taste or smell.

Because of the high rate of transmissibility of the new virus – pupils who are close contacts or who have Covid within a household should only attend school, if they have a negative flow test and the person with Covid can successfully isolate within the home.

Up to this point our families have been very supportive and many of the classrooms have remained opened for the whole duration of the Autumn term, because of this careful approach.

I would advise parent/s to also make alternative arrangements in the event we are forced to close classes due to a shortage of teaching staff. It is important that the pupils have up to date passwords for My School to allow all classes from P1 – P7 to access to Google Classroom for remote learning if necessary. They will receive these tomorrow.

It is likely that some of the staff will be affected due to the high transmissibility of the virus. However, I will only close classes as a last resort if there was not adequate teaching cover to ensure the safety of the children.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Mc Gurk Principal