**

***St Joseph’s Primary School***

58-62 Main Street

Killough

Co. Down

BT30 7QD

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Principal: Mrs F Macfarlane

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Dear Parents

I hope you are all well?

Further to information shared on 31st December I would like to clarify the situation re: the return to school for our children.

Unfortunately, thanks to Minister Weir’s announcement we will have the following arrangement in place for next week.

**Monday 4th January -** School will be closed for all pupils as staff will be in school preparing work for those children who must remain at home.

Packs of work for the week can be collected from the school from 10am on Tuesday 5th January.

We would ask that all respect recommended social distancing guidelines and wear face masks when coming to the school.

We would also ask that there is no congregating in the school car park.

**Tuesday 5th-Friday 9th January -** School will open for the supervision of children who have statements of special educational needs and children of key workers. If you are a key worker and wish for your child/ren to attend school next week, a form will be available via the school website.

Please ensure that this form is returned by 1pm on Monday 4th January so that we can ensure that all health and safety requirements are adhered to.

Children in school will be supervised doing the same work packs that children will be doing at home.

School meals will not be available and packed lunches will be required. Anyone in receipt of Free School Meals should have received a payment in lieu.

**Please note: The key worker definitions are included in the form that you will be able to access from the school website on Monday.**

**Children Must Not attend school if they have COVID-19 symptoms:**

* A new and continuous cough
* A high temperature/fever
* Loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Should any of you or your family have any symptoms of COVID-19, please be assured that you can contact <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net> or call 11 and follow their advice.

We continue to reinforce the importance of good hygiene, hand washing and social distancing at home.

Obviously, this is not the start to the new school year we were anticipating, and as school principals are the last to be informed of updates from the Minister and DE, I would urge you to keep up to date via school website and Facebook.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs F Macfarlane