

St. John the Baptist P.S.
250 Garvaghy Road
Portadown
BT62 1EB
Tel. (028) 3833 6211
Fax. (028) 3836 2051



Principal:
Miss C McCooe

e-mail: info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk
Web site: www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In light of the latest guidance received from the Education Authority and the Public Health Agency, we would like to draw your attention to the change in protocol in relation to dealing with positive Covid-19 cases. A summary of the key points is listed below for your information:

- Schools are no longer responsible for undertaking contact tracing activities. Parents, however, still need to inform the school of a confirmed positive PCR test.
- In the event of a child testing positive for Covid-19, the PHA Contact Tracing Service will have responsibility for identifying close contacts.
- Those identified as a close contact will be notified by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.
- In certain circumstances the PHA Contact Tracing Service may contact schools to aid close contact tracing or to access contact information.
- In the event of a confirmed case, an alert letter will be issued to parents informing them that a person with close links to their child's class has tested positive. This will not mean that whole class bubbles will be sent home or that all children should get a test. Parents of children identified as close contacts will be notified by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

This situation, as you will appreciate, remains very fluid and may be subject to further change.

We are very aware that the past week has been particularly difficult for everyone in our school community in view of the number of positive Covid cases identified and we are most grateful for your continued support and co-operation.

In order to mitigate the risks to everyone in our school environment we would ask that you do not send children to school if they are feeling unwell. We would also remind you of the importance of keeping us informed of all positive cases. Your co-operation in adhering to social distancing guidelines in bringing children to and from school and the wearing of face masks if approaching the school office would be greatly appreciated.

We send our best wishes to all those in our school community who are unwell or recovering at present and again, reiterate our gratitude for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

C. McCooe