

**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](mailto:info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk)**  
**Web site: [www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk)**

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and I would like to wish you and your families a healthy, safe and blessed New Year.

You will be aware via the media of the most recent communication from Mr Weir, the Education Minister, in relation to changes to the new school term as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

As you know, our pupils were due to return on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. However, in line with the Minister's updated advice the first day of the school term will now be used to prepare for remote learning and therefore the school will be closed for all pupils on this date to facilitate planning.

Pupils will be taught online through Google Classroom on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Supervised learning, as advised by DE, will be available in school on this date for the children of key workers and those children classed as vulnerable. The criteria set by the Department of Education for key workers can be found here: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/weir-announces-changes-schools-reopening-arrangements>

Those families where both parents are key workers or those who have children who fall into the 'vulnerable' category should complete the registration information required by **12 noon on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** at the following link: <https://forms.gle/erozQsaob6KYdTaX8>  
We will contact those who have applied on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January to confirm places.

In order to minimise the risk to our whole school community I would ask that you only make use of this facility if entirely necessary. We also advise that you do not send your child to school if anyone in your household is showing symptoms or is in the process of being tested for Covid-19.

We fully appreciate the difficulties and challenges that continue to face everyone, particularly those working in the NHS and hope and pray that by adhering to the guidance the situation will improve soon.

Face to face learning in school is due to resume on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Should any further changes arise in relation to this return we will update you accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

C. McCooe