

Sion Mills Primary School
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Strabane, Co Tyrone
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<http://sionmillsps.com/>



11th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the concerning news about our hospitals over the weekend I hope everyone is keeping safe and well. These are the most important factors over the next few weeks as the current surge of the pandemic continues.

Staff have been quickly reorganising their January plans to move to online learning, work packs and support for key workers' / vulnerable children.

Key workers' / vulnerable children supervision

The school will be open for children who fit into these categories for the duration of this school closure. I would emphasise that the purpose of this lockdown is to minimise contact outside your own home as much as possible therefore this support is meant to be understood as a last resort.

Each Thursday a link will be sent to you via text message. The link in the message will take you directly to the booking form, which should be submitted by 2.00pm on the Friday.

Supervision will be in the Assembly/Dining Hall. See separate note for more detailed information if you need to use this facility.

Remote Learning

Each teacher will communicate with their class through the Seesaw app that they have been familiarising their children with since schools re-opened in August.

From tomorrow, Tuesday 12th January, the teachers will be working online daily from 9.am – 3.pm, with normal breaks included. Outside of these times we will try our best to respond as soon as possible. Staff will set tasks for pupils through Seesaw. We expect these to be uploaded according to your child/ren's teacher. As staff are continuing other school duties as well managing child/other care themselves they will provide feedback within at least 48 hours.

Work pack Collection

- **Respect Social Distancing**
- **Wear a mask**
- **One adult to collect**

P1 – P7 Please enter the school grounds through Gate 1, proceed to the outside door of your child's classroom, collect their pack and continue round the upper playground, to exit through Gate 3

P5/6 Campbell Please enter the school grounds through Gate 2, proceed to the first Youth Wing door, collect your child's pack, exit through the other door and leave the school through Gate 3

Nursery Please enter through Gate 2, proceed to the Nursery front door to collect your pack and exit the grounds through Gate 3.

Staff will be outside to provide directions.

Finally, we recognise that every household has different circumstances in trying to manage home learning and we fully respect that. We will do what we can to keep in contact with our families.

There is an expectation, in this lockdown that all children will engage with remote learning, so we will monitor participation in the online activities set and may contact you to offer **support/advice** if we note a lack of engagement.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school on 028 8165 8249 or by email.

Yours faithfully,



Oonagh McNelis