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14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent,

Today, the Northern Ireland Executive has announced that schools and other education settings will have the half-term holiday break extended from 19 to 30 October in a bid to reduce the transmission of Covid 19.

As a result, Windmill Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit will be closed for all pupils for the following dates:

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.**

As this is an extension of the half-term break it is not intended to be used for remote learning.

It is important to note that Windmill will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks including for vulnerable children and children of key workers. The Department of Education is making an additional payment to parents of children entitled to Free School Meals from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

The Primary 7 AQE and GL transfer Group will be provided with some Transfer Practice papers, which should be completed during the break.

We intend to **reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, however, we have been informed that this date will be reviewed closer to the time. We will keep you updated with any changes.

**Should there be an extended period of closure after the half term holiday break, all staff will commence remote learning** and will put up activities on to a variety of online learning platforms for the children. Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2 children will use Seesaw while Primary 3 to Primary 7 children will use Google classroom.

Thank you to all the parents who have signed their child in to Seesaw and/or Google classroom. **If you have not joined your child's online learning platform, please do so before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.** If any parents from Nursery to Primary 2 need

assistance with Seesaw, please make contact with your child's teacher. This can be done by completing the Communication Slip on our school app. **Log in to the app- Menu- Parents Area-Communication Slip.**

If any parents from Primary 3 to Primary 7 need any help with Google classroom, please contact Mrs Donnelly, our ICT technician as a matter of urgency on 028 87727277, choosing option 6. You can also contact Mrs Donnelly and/or your child's teacher by completing the Communication Slip on the school app. **Log in to the app- Menu- Parents Area-Communication Slip.**

In the event of a whole class having to self-isolate and/or a prolonged school closure, children will be expected to undertake remote learning. If any child doesn't engage with the online learning activities, this will become an unauthorised absence. (Department of Education: 18/9/20).

Parent/Teacher meetings are scheduled to take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Thanks to all those who completed the Parent-Teacher telephone call form on the App. Mrs Corr is holding face to face meetings. Primary 1 to Primary 7 staff will be contacting parents via telephone during the requested time slots.

### **The Engage Programme**

Windmill has received funding from the Department of Education through the Engage Programme to fund additional teaching resources.

The aim of the programme is "to limit any long-term adverse impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on educational standards by supporting pupils' learning and engagement on their return to school through provision of high quality one to one, small group or team teaching support in every school in Northern Ireland".

To be able to fulfil the aims of the programme, Mrs Joanne Mitchell, current Primary 4 teacher will be released from her current classroom teaching role to implement this programme throughout Windmill. Mrs Mitchell will commence her new role on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to the end of June 2021.

Miss Louise Jenkinson will take over the role of Primary 4 teacher from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Miss Jenkinson has been working closely with Mrs Mitchell for the past few days in order to make the transition for the children as smooth as possible.

Please continue to do whatever possible to limit the spread of the virus to enable our children to attend school and to protect the health and well-being of all in our school community.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Ferguson  
Principal

