## ST. JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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| **Principal: Mrs I Porter BEd MEd CCET****E mail:** **iporter336@c2kni.net****Telephone: 02844 841546** |  | **45 BALLYCRUTTLE RD DOWNPATRICK****CO. DOWN****BT30 7EL** |

18th March 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Dear Parents

We have just received an e-mail update from the Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir informing us that schools are to remain open. However, I have taken the decision to cancel swimming until after Easter.

As a result of this school will be open on Wednesday as previously planned. Breakfast Club is open from 8:15am.

Children and staff will be washing hands more often during the school day and we would ask any parents/carers to stop at the school office and we can deal with any requests there Eg: collecting a child early.

Please remember at all times to follow Public Health Agency Advice.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

We would ask that you notify the school if you or your child show any symptoms or are diagnosed with Covid-19. This will enable us to inform PHA confidentially and they can advise us of any further precautions we may be required to take.

We respect any decisions by parents who wish to withdraw their children for the foreseeable future due to health concerns.

We appreciate that this is a very worrying time for everyone in our community as well as our parents, pupils and staff.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. This is an unprecedented situation and we need to work together for everyone’s health and wellbeing.

We will be sending home some work that you can keep to one side for use if we have to close. A list of educational websites will be added to our school site as well. These can be used to maintain your children’s progress and ensure that they are ready for returning to school. As always we encourage you to read daily with your children and this will now be more important than ever. Please ensure you are signed up to Seesaw as we may use that too. Any work sent home should be kept at home and not returned to school, to restrict the chances of any infections being spread.

**Key points:**

• Children should be kept at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend as normal.

• If staff, young people or children become unwell on a school or educational site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home.

• Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your regular cleaning products.

• Supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands more often than usual for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or hand sanitiser and that they catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and then bin these tissues (this is our **catch it, bin it, kill it** approach).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Porter

Principal