

Our Lady's Girls' Primary School

Deanby Gardens, Belfast, BT14 6NN

Tel: 028 9074 6325

Principal: Mrs E Hughes

www.ourladsdeanby.co.uk

info@ourladsdeanby.belfast.ni.sch.uk



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

By now you have most likely heard the news that school will not reopen for face to face teaching on Tuesday 5 January as we had planned. With cases of the virus soaring, Education Minister, Peter Weir has stated that primary schools should fully restart on Monday 11 January.

Tuesday 5 January will now be a preparation day for school staff and from Wednesday 6 January to Friday 8 January children should engage in online learning through Seesaw. It is therefore very important that your child can access Seesaw. Those families who are not active on Seesaw will be contacted on Tuesday by the class teacher, to help you engage.

School will be open from Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 January for essential key workers' children only. (Please see the definition of Key Worker below). This will not be for face-to-face teaching, but will be for supervised learning. An application form will be available on the school website – *Parents Area*, from Monday 4 January until 12 noon on Tuesday 5 January. On Tuesday afternoon we will confirm if we can facilitate your child for supervision. A child of a key worker is a child for whom both parents (or a parent in a single parent family) is a key worker, with no other safe alternative.

Thank you for your continued support over these difficult times. We wish all of our families a very Happy New Year and please God 2021 will be a much better year for all of us.

Yours sincerely,

Emer Hughes

DEFINITION OF KEY WORKER

Definition of Key Workers:

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
- Education and childcare. This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
- Utilities, and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
- Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
- Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.