



29th September 2020

Dear Parents

School was closed today as we have had three confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst our staff. That's one more than we had confirmed first thing this morning. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope that their loved ones stay safe and well too. They have been notified of the correct procedures and advice from PHA. A Risk Assessment provided by PHA has been completed and we have identified all close contacts. Thankfully our bubble system has been effective as only a small number of pupils have been identified as close contacts and they will be informed with specific PHA letters via our school e-mail service. You will all receive a letter from PHA with advice specific to each class.

As a school we have now decided to remain closed for the rest of the week. This allows us an opportunity to complete a deep clean of the whole school building, starting on Thursday. School was already due to be closed on Friday and Monday, meaning the earliest we may return is Tuesday 6th October.

While we want to remain open for as many pupils as possible, for as long as possible, we must consider the implications for everyone in the school community. It has been a very confusing and trying time for everyone and we want to make sure that every child and staff member in St Patrick's is safe and feels safe. While we hope to reopen on Tuesday, that may change over the next few days, so please accept this may be the case. We will be doing our utmost to keep you informed quickly. We appreciate your patience with us at this time and know the difficulties this will create for you and your families. Please reassure your children that they are safe and have done so wonderfully well since returning to school. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

We will be in touch about school work, but in the meantime, children can log into Mathletics and Accelerated Reader for P4+. You can also access some wonderful learning activities on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics> .It is essential to keep reading and enjoying stories together for the younger children.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be contacted at [mmcgrath414@c2kni.net](mailto:mmcgrath414@c2kni.net) . In the meantime, please take care and if you or any of your family have any symptoms of Co-vid 19, contact: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/> or phone 111. We have been very grateful for their advice today in what is an extremely busy time for them.

Take care and stay safe

M McGrath