**Return to school – January 2021**

This morning, 31st December, the Minister for Education released a statement regarding the re-opening of schools in January. There was no prior notification to schools before this so today has been spent sifting through the statement, which is sadly lacking in any detail or practicalities, and listening to the Assembly recall debate, to establish the way forward in the coming days and weeks, which was even less enlightening!

However, in that respect, the Primary school will re-open as follows;

* As expected, the **re-start date has been pushed back to 11th January for face-to-face teaching**.
* Remote learning will be in place for the days during this week when the school *would have been* in operation – except for the first day children were due back (6th January), in order to allow teachers time to prepare this. **This means that for Orritor Primary School, we will provide remote learning for Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January.**
* This will take the form of **lessons through either SeeSaw, via the Home Learning page of the website or C2k email (which all children have access to) or through hard copy booklets.** Your child’s class teacher will be in touch via email or SeeSaw to let you know how they intend delivering the lessons. Any queries should be addressed in the first instance to these teachers.
* **Work will be uploaded on the Wednesday 6th before 6pm**
* On the 7th and 8th January, schools have been encouraged to facilitate key workers and/or vulnerable children.
* **Please note; BOTH parents must be key workers.** This is, as in the first lockdown, a last resort when all other options have been exhausted and there is no-one available to supervise the children (spouse / partner/ relation/ friend/ childcare facility).
* This will be available from 9am until 1pm.
* During this time children will be supervised by staff in school to complete the work set for them by their teacher for that day. If you need to avail of this facility please email [kwright590@c2kni.net](mailto:kwright590@c2kni.net) before **Wednesday 6th January,** so that we can organise sufficient staff to cover.
* **The Nursery will re-open on Wednesday 6th January, but will only operate until 12.30 as there will be no school meals available.**

We look forward to welcoming your children back into school on Monday 11th January. We believe children should be back in school for face-to-face teaching, where it is both safe and possible to do so for both pupils and staff.

We also apologise for the very late notice, but it was outside our control.