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23rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the First Minister's announcement at the weekend I wanted to take the time to clarify a few points before we finish for the Christmas break:

- The school holidays have been extended until the 11<sup>th</sup> of January for all pupils.
- From the 11<sup>th</sup> until at least the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, pupils will move to online learning.
- It is expected that all pupils will return to school on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. This may change based on further information from the Scottish Government.
- There will be an in-school provision made for key worker children from the 6<sup>th</sup> January. This provision is somewhat different to that provided during the previous lockdown and is only for those who have no other childcare options. **Children can only access this if both parents/carers are key workers and are unable to organise other childcare out with school.** The survey for Key Worker children is now closed. Should your circumstances change, please contact the school.

The vast majority of our children and young people will participate in online learning activities between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January using a variety of platforms including: Satchel:One (Show my Homework), Google Classroom and Glow. In some cases, there will also be opportunities for our pupils to access lessons broadcast facilitated by our Campus staff. We understand that learning at home is not the same as what it would be at school but we would ask that you encourage your child to participate in their assigned learning activities each day. To support a structure to their day, and offer some normality and a sense of routine, it might be an idea for your child to follow their timetable each day; completing the work that is set by each subject teacher at the time of day they would have the subject if in school.

For our pupils in the Senior Phase (S4-S6) it is vital that they are working every day on online activities, again following their existing timetables at home. As it stands, our mock assessments are scheduled to begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January and it is our hope that these will still go ahead. In addition, S4-S6 will also receive another tracking report the week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> of January to allow parents/carers to see the progress that is being made.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to urge you to sign up to the Satchel:One app so that you can keep abreast of the work being issued to your child. Please contact the school for further information, or visit our website, should you require this.

Teachers return on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January and we will be in touch during that week to provide further details around learning activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your continued support during such testing times.

I hope that you have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to 2021 -when I hope normal schooling can resume in the near future.

Your sincerely,

Alan Dick