



STRAID PRIMARY SCHOOL



Principal: D Boyd

Telephone No: (028) 93352686

Fax No: (028) 93324876

3 Irish Hill Road
Straid

Ballyclare

BT39 9NQ

21st April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and you were able to have some rest over Easter. As we begin the journey on our online learning this term, I would like to highlight some information around safe use of the internet sent from the Department of Education in relation to the free App 'Safer Schools' as well as some NSPCC advice on supporting your child(ren) emotionally during the coronavirus outbreak.

The Safer Schools App is designed to help parents/guardians and young people to stay safe online. The attachments included in the sent email outline what the App does and how to download it to your device. You can also access this information at the following link:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/home-learning-hub/>

As well as supporting your child(ren) with their online learning, we recognise that you as parents are also supporting your child(ren) emotionally. **The NSPCC** have updated their website and have provided advice for parents and carers as well as advice for children and young people. You can access this advice on the following 2 links-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

In addition to the links for Safer Schools and the NSPCC, the **Department for Communities** have also asked that the information below is shared with parents/guardians and may be of some use to you.

The Covid-19 Community Helpline went live on Friday 27 March and operates 9am to 5pm, 7 days per week initially, although this will be kept under review and the service can be increased if necessary. The Helpline has been taking calls from members of the public who need advice and support relating to the COVID 19 emergency, initially linking people into local services.

Some of the services which can be accessed via the helpline include: delivery of food parcels to vulnerable people including those in the shielded group who have no other way to access food deliveries; information about retailers offering delivery in a local area; help from the voluntary and community sector to deliver prescription medication and advice on claiming benefits. Advice NI have put in place a detailed directory of community and voluntary organisations at both a local and regional

level covering everything from domestic abuse, to mental health to local sports groups willing to walk dogs for vulnerable people. Helpline staff will provide a warm handoff to the relevant service if they are unable to deal with a query themselves, and are aware of the need for a warm handoff to the Nexus service if a caller reports domestic abuse during the course of the conversation.

The helpline is for vulnerable people who have no other method of accessing support. If a vulnerable person already has sufficient support in place, either from family and friends or from a voluntary organisation then they should continue to rely on that in the first instance.

On the question of whether representatives could call the helpline on someone's behalf the answer is yes, as long as the person has given permission to the representative to share their details and act on their behalf.

The Helpline service also offers e-mail and text message response facility.

Telephone: **0808 802 0020** Email: covid19@adviceni.net Text: **ACTION** to 81025

Finally, a quick reminder of the contact details for school if you need any support or help.

School mobile number: [07907017393](tel:07907017393)

Please note the following guidelines for use:

- 1) **This is an emergency number-** you may still contact Miss Barr, Miss Christie and Mrs. Boyd through email in the event of a non-emergency,
- 2) You may contact this number from **9.00am-5.00pm**,
- 3) If you have been unable to speak to a member of staff, **please leave a message**, someone will return your call as soon as possible,
- 4) **Key workers/carers of vulnerable children may use this number if they need to organise supported learning for their child(ren). Mrs. Boyd is happy to facilitate this.**

Please note- Teacher supported learning will be organised as placement in a neighbouring school due to the closure of Straid PS since Monday 23rd March and should only be used if there is no other child-minding option.

Email contacts: dboyd220@c2kni.net
hbarr197@c2kni.net
cchristie829@c2kni.net

Pastoral Care/Safeguarding contact: dboyd220@c2kni.net

(Any safeguarding issue will be dealt with the utmost importance and urgency)

Website: www.straidprimary.com

Kind Regards,
Mrs. Boyd