



## ***Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School***

**87 Fry's Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN  
1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration**

**028 25647899**



**Principal: J McAuley**

**[www.braidside.co.uk](http://www.braidside.co.uk)**

**17/03/20**

### **Update re: Coronavirus (COVID-19), School Arrangements**

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As the current situation is evolving at fast pace, I wish to update you with further information following the issue of guidance from Minister Weir (DE) and following the Prime Minister's statement last night. Ensuring the health and safety of our staff and pupils is paramount and like all of you I am concerned by the present situation. The changes and updates I am providing information on will come into effect from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

In the light of DE guidance, school will remain open at the present time. How long this is sustainable, I am unsure. I am aware that some parents have already made the decision not to send their children to school and this is understandable; I support and respect your decision. We all have difficult decisions to take for our families at this time. For those who do attend school the following will be in place:

- We would ask that parents avoid coming into all school buildings at this present time in order to maintain social distancing. Should you need to speak to the teacher or office we ask that you call or email via our school email ([info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk))
- All outside trips have been cancelled with immediate effect.
- Weekly swimming will no longer take place
- Outside visitors and after-school activities will cease
- Assemblies and all Shared Education visits have been cancelled

We would emphasise that:

1. Children should be kept at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature. Indeed, following the Prime Minister's statement where there are symptoms, the entire family should self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
2. If staff or children become unwell at school; they will be sent home.
3. Children will continue to be supervised washing their hands regularly throughout the day.
4. Cleaning and disinfecting of objects and surfaces in school will further intensify.

### **School Closure**

In the event of school closure, we will contact you through text message, school website and our Facebook page. In the line with guidance from DE, teachers have begun to put together material for a possible 4-week closure. We will also endeavour to place information on our school website on the class pages. Material will be distributed when the need arises. Pupils should only use this material in the

event of closure. *To further enable the preparation of this material, school will close at 1pm (for P1-4O) and 1.15pm (for P4/5M- 7) on both Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.* Again please do not come into classroom blocks at collection times. We apologise for the short notice in this matter and will endeavour to confirm transport arrangements on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> following the St. Patrick's Day closure. You will understand that our staff must have time to prepare materials required.

Our Board of Governors continue to monitor the situation closely and I am in daily contact with the Chairperson. This is a challenging and completely unprecedented time and we want to reassure you we are doing as much as possible to implement precautions for everyone's safety. We greatly appreciate your support at this very difficult time and hope that you, your children and your families stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

\_\_\_\_\_*J. McAuley*\_\_\_\_\_

Principal.