TOREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Child Protection/Safeguarding Team**

Designated Teacher: Miss Morrow (lmorrow225@c2ni.net)

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Wells (ywells497@c2kni.net)

School Governor: Mrs H Apsley (brian\_apsley@fastmail.co.uk)



Welcome back! I do hope you were able to have some family time over the break and that Santa was good to everyone. I am sure the children cannot wait to tell us!

May I first thank you for your generous donations throughout last term. The amounts raised have been amazing. We are in the position to purchase numeracy equipment and a top-quality defibrillator.

**Moving Forward**

As we look forward to a new year and new term, we must remember that the safety of our school community continues to be our priority. I am sure you are aware that the Omicron variant is highly transmissible and is responsible for more than 90% of positive cases in NI.

Some of the symptoms of Omicron are like those of a cold or flu. Therefore, it is difficult to distinguish between the cold or Covid without a test.

The executive has said its "absolute priority" is ensuring schools remain open. To help us achieve this a detailed risk assessment continues to be in place. This includes:

* keeping class bubbles
* providing as much ventilation as possible (please ensure you put extra clothing on your child each morning)
* handwashing and sanitising continue to be integral parts of our timetable (sensitive soap is now being used in all classrooms and toilets)
* classes returning to sitting in rows, when possible
* limiting the movement of items from school-home and vice versa
* limiting access to the school building to essential workers only
* placing co2 monitors in rooms when available from EANI
* extra cleaning will take place, including fogging, should there be a case of covid within a class
* liaising with EANI and PHA

**We also need your help.**

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. The PHA has stressed that those displaying symptoms should book a PCR test as soon as possible. Should your child become unwell whilst in school, they will be sent home immediately. Please ensure you have arrangements in place to have your child picked up asap.

A reminder that should your child be sick or have diarrhoea, they MUST NOT attend school until 48 hours after the last bout.

It is vital that you let me know asap if your child tests positive for Covid -19

(lmorrow225@c2kni.net). I will continue to let you know of any positive cases within school.

If a member of your household tests positive, I would ask that you keep your child off school. We know how quickly covid, especially Omicron, can spread.

Work will be placed on the Home Learning Section of the website. We are again working on your goodwill to help keep us as safe as possible.

**Staffing**

The surge in positive cases now, may lead to disruption regarding staffing. We continue to have staff off and it is nearly impossible to get substitute staff. I am just making you aware that it may be necessary to return to home learning, should this situation arise. Consequently, you may have to plan for childcare at the last moment.

**Lateness**

Most families are in on time in the morning and at pick up time. Thank you. A few however are regularly late at both drop off and pick up times. Please make a big effort to be on time this term.

**Dropping off and picking up**

In the morning, I would ask that your child remains in the car until the staff are in the playground. Please do not congregate at the gate and remember to wear a mask.

Remember to wear your mask at pick up time and use the one-way system if you are entering and leaving the playground.

**Parking**

Please do not park across from or across the school gate at any time.

**Contacts**

Should you have changed any of your contact details, you should let Mrs Wilson know asap (swilson869@c2kni.net).

C L Morrow 3rd January2022

Principal