**Drumnamoe Nursery School**

# Levin Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh, BT67 9EU Tel: 028 38329384

# Principal: Mrs F. McDonald B.Ed., D.A.S.E., M.Ed., PQH (NI)

10th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

 In light of the most recent guidance from the Education Authority and the Public Health Agency, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the key points. They are as follows;

 • As of today, schools are no longer to undertake contact tracing activities. Parents should however still inform the school of a confirmed positive PCR test.

 • In the event of a child testing positive for Covid-19, the PHA Contact Tracing Service will have responsibility for close contact tracing.

• Those identified as a close contact will be notified by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

 • In certain circumstances the PHA Contact Tracing Service may contact schools in order to aid close contact tracing or to access contact information

 • In the event of a confirmed case, an alert letter will be issued to parents, informing them that a person with links to their child’s class has tested positive. This will not mean that whole class bubbles will be sent home or all children should get a test. Only those parents of children identified as a close contact will be notified by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

Identifying a close contact of a Nursery child of course is going to be almost impossible. I recognise that the ***testing*** of a young child is extremely difficult , and stressful for both yourselves and your child. I am asking parents therefore to please keep your child off if they are ill with any of the covid symptoms – cough / temperature or if you feel that they are generally unwell .

A child who is ill , just wants to receive some *tender loving care* anyway , and that is best done at home .

Needless to say this an ever -evolving situation[ our guidance has already changed twice so far ] and I will endeavour to keep parents informed of any further updates. I am aware that this is a very challenging time for us all, and I very much appreciate your support as we do our best to navigate through these very difficult times.

Myself and the staff want to get through the year with as much normality as possible, for the sake of the children . However we can only do this if everyone is vigilant about keeping the entire school community [and our family and friends ]as safe as we possibly can .

Take care and have a lovely weekend .

 Mrs Mc Donald