

KNOCKMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL



15th December 2020

Due to the recent guidance received from the Department of Education, please find below our new arrangements for Christmas closure. We would also draw your attention to some previous information.

After careful consideration, and in discussion with the Chairperson of the Governors, school will now finish on Friday 18th December at the normal times.

School meals will be available.

This is a non-uniform day – no donations requested.

School will be closed from Monday 21st December until Monday 4th January inclusive for Christmas holidays and will **reopen on Tuesday 5th January.**

Friday 18 th December 2020	- School finishes at 2 pm for all pupils
Monday 21 st Dec 2020 – Monday 4 th Jan 2021	- School closed Mon 21 st Dec and Mon 4 th Jan – School Development Days
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	- School reopens
25 th and 26 th January 2021	- Normal school days

Our current finishing times will remain unchanged in Term 2, subject to confirmation from the Education Authority.

The website will be updated shortly with these new details.

As you will be aware, there has been much speculation in the media throughout this week regarding potential early closures of schools. The Education Authority has notified us that their 'Track and Trace' support service will be unavailable from 23rd December. If we therefore had a positive test case next week, we would potentially be contacting families on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day. This is obviously not something we would wish to do. We fully appreciate that these adjustments to pre-existing arrangements can cause additional childcare pressures, but we can only apologise for any inconvenience and assure you that we are taking these measures in the best interests of our whole school community.

Changes to School Development Days - School will now be open as normal on Monday 25th January and Tuesday 26th January to accommodate the extra days at Christmas.

Santa Visit

Santa will visit school (socially distanced of course) on Friday 15th December with a small gift for each pupil. If your child is not in school, this will be kept for them until January. We will shortly also upload some information on how to view our Christmas performance!



Payment for School Meals and Free School Meals

Bookings and payment for school meals for 5th – 8th January should be made on Tuesday 5th January. Thereafter, meals should be booked and paid for on a MONDAY with the correct amount of money sent in – change is not being sent home. Any surplus will be carried forward. Money should be in a clearly marked envelope.

All meals are ordered with the kitchen before 10 am. **If your child will be late to school and you require a dinner, whether you pay or receive free school meals, please inform the teacher by 9.45 am. We CANNOT**

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add children to dinner numbers after this time. Nor can we book a dinner for a pupil on the assumption that they are running late, either because they paid for that meal earlier in the week or receive free school meals. Meal numbers/payments are monitored by the Education Authority. We sincerely appreciate parental support in this.

Christmas Gifts and Cards

We remind you not to send presents into school for teachers and classroom assistants. The staff would be delighted to receive a Christmas message or child's drawing on Dojo or Seesaw. Can we also ask that Christmas cards are not sent to staff or other children through school this year. We sincerely apologise for any disappointment this may bring, but we are very keen to reduce the spread of Covid across the school.

Primary Year 1 Admissions September 2021

The Education Authority (EA) operates an online system for applications to pre-school and primary school places. The Portal can be found at www.eani.org.uk. The Portal will go-live at 12 noon on Thursday 7th January 2021 and remain open until 12 noon on Friday 29th January 2021. Further information is available on our website.



Keeping up-to-date

We have always encouraged parents to keep up-to-date with what is happening in school through our website and Dojo. This has been especially important during the last number of months as we receive updated information from the Department of Education regarding Covid-19. If we receive any new information during the Christmas holidays, it will be posted on our website, sent on Dojo and a brief note posted on our Facebook group. Please keep an eye on the website, www.knockmoreps.co.uk – you may wish to take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with the various pages (especially 'parent hub'). Please do not Dojo teachers over the Christmas break.

