

St Eugene’s Primary School

58 Fyfin Rd

Victoria Bridge

Strabane

BT81 9JH

09/12/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have been approached by a high number of parents expressing their wish to ‘shield’ their child from school next week (the week commencing 14th December) in order to protect their family Christmas. There has been much speculation about whether or not Minister Weir would either move to remote learning or close schools early for Christmas, but to date this simply remains speculation.

I completely understand the very real fear that parents have, that if a member of their child’s bubble tests positive for Covid-19 next week, then their own child would have to isolate for 14 days as a result of being identified as a close contact. 14 days would mean having to spend Christmas Day alone in isolation.

I am very relieved that to date we haven’t had any incidents of Covid-19 within our school and that our protective measures appear to be working. That being said, and given the year we have had, I believe it would be wrong of me as a school leader to step in the way of any parent wishing to protect the Christmas celebration that they have been waiting for. I know that many of our children are looking forward to spending time in particular, with Grandparents that they have not been able to see in person since March.

In order to support those parents wishing to shield their child from Monday 14th, we are prepared to enable children to complete activities on Studyladder and Seesaw from home without their attendance being negatively impacted upon.

Please do not feel that this is in anyway a request to keep children at home, it is simply our way of trying to support our parents do what they feel is right for their family. Unless otherwise directed by DE, our school will remain open next week and pupils can attend as normal until 12pm on Friday 18th of December.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Gormley

**Principal**