



*'Forward Together in Friendship and Faith'*

## JONESBORO'PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday, 06 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It is my hope that this letter will give you all the information and reassurance you need as we continue in the new school year. As we begin our new term, we reflect on what a challenging and bizarre school year last year was for us all. The resilience and flexibility our pupils, parents and staff demonstrated has truly been commendable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and understanding many of you have shown towards the staff and school community in the past week.

I appreciate the beginning of the new school year brought unexpected changes with staff, and some classes had a change of teacher at the eleventh hour. I am sure you understand this was unavoidable, and not the ideal way we planned to reopen our school.

I would like to reassure you, that staff have been redeployed and working tirelessly to ensure the school runs smoothly for our pupils. In the absence of Mr Keenan, I will be taking on the leadership/management of the school, I will be assisted by Mrs Majella Rigney. Ms Lisa Leddy will be the primary seven teacher, until Mr Keenan returns.

As we remain challenged by the effects of the Covid Pandemic it is **vital** that we work together to keep our children, school staff and each other safe.

In the first week of term many schools, including our own, had to deal with confirmed community cases. This results in teaching staff having to isolate and/or wait for negative test result, before returning to their posts. The additional challenge faced by schools, is the reduced number of substitute teacher available to cover for these teachers. The high level of community spread is already causing upset for schools as they try to deliver much needed education to our children. To support schools in providing stable school learning experience, please continue to show understanding and flexibility as we endeavour to maintain continuous classroom based teaching.

If your child displays any slight symptoms of Covid-19, then please keep them off school and access testing. Do not use Lateral Flow tests (LFTs) with primary aged pupils, especially with symptoms; LFTs are for asymptomatic family members (above primary age). If you have symptoms, then a PCR test must be booked through the NHS Test & Trace website, and you can access information regarding isolation from the Government website. Please also check the school Facebook page for updated guidance from the Department of Education, as this guidance is updated regularly in line with any new government guidance.

Kind regards

Marian Litter  
Senior Manager