



11.12.20

Dear Parent,

As you will be aware, following the Education Minister's letter to schools this week, there has been a lot of discussion regarding early school closures.

In his letter Minister Weir states;

"The PHA has advised five days beyond school closure, the vast majority of cases will not have been in school during the infectious period and therefore, schools will have no positive cases in the school environment to contact trace. The PHA's dedicated Education Tracing Team will, therefore remain operational until 4.00pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2020."

The Minister has assumed that schools finish on 18th December as the EA Tracing Support System will close five days later on 23rd December.

Rathmore's Board of Governors have met today to discuss the implications of the Minister's letter for our whole school community. After careful consideration, they have decided to align children's attendance at Rathmore PS with Minister Weir's statement. This means that school will close to pupils on Friday 18th December (normal finishing times). We acknowledge this change will impact parents' existing arrangements but in taking this action, we will be able to complete necessary Track & Trace procedures, if required, for the following 5 days before the EA Tracing Support Systems close on 23rd December.

Children will be provided with Home Learning activities for completion on 21st and 22nd December and teachers will be available via Seesaw until 12:15 on Tuesday 22nd December.

Following our Christmas holiday, school will reopen on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

This term has been exceptionally challenging for staff, children, families and our whole school community. Please accept my sincerest thanks on behalf of staff & governors for your support throughout. Our strong partnership has helped safeguard both health and education since 24th August 2020.

Our hope and prayer is that we can all join family and friends safely over the holiday to share the fun and joy of Christmas together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J M Hardy
Principal