



ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

15, Benburb Road, Moy, Dungannon, Co.Tyrone. N. Ireland BT71 7SQ
☎ 028 87 784489 Email: lmcknight694@c2kni.net

6/1/21

Dear parent/s,

Following the decision taken by the NI Executive this week, St. John's will be moving to remote learning until the February midterm break. This is a very disheartening situation for the entire school community but due to the increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases it appears to be a necessary decision to reduce transmission and keep everyone safe.

The information below outlines specific details for remote learning in each class. In addition, please refer to the school's 'Remote Learning Policy' at the end of this letter.

Home Learning for P1, P2 & P3

For the younger classes in the school, learning packs will be distributed on a weekly basis and how the work within the packs is to be used at home will be communicated by the teachers through Seesaw. Additional activities will be added to Seesaw on a daily basis.

Parents can collect the packs every Monday (**commencing Monday 11th Jan**) at the front door of the school between 9am and 10am and we kindly ask that they are returned to school every Friday before 10am. Please ensure that all reading books and completed work is returned in the original folder each week.

Home Learning for P4, P5, P6 & P7

The children from P4 -P7 will be provided with a resource pack to assist home learning.

For P5-P7 this pack can be collected at the front of the school between **10am-12noon on Monday 11th January.**

Unfortunately, Mrs Hughes our P4 teacher is positive with COVID-19 and is in recovery after being quite unwell. As she is currently self-isolating, on Friday 8th January I will link in with the P4 children on Seesaw. Mrs Hughes hopes to be in school on Monday to finalise her pack which will be ready for collection on **Tuesday 12th January between 10am-12noon at the front of the school.**

P4- P7 Pupils will be assigned three tasks daily through Seesaw and can communicate with their teacher between 9am and 3pm each day. Each task can be uploaded on Seesaw when completed.

Weekly Whole School Assemblies

I plan to link in with the whole school for assembly every Friday. Hopefully it will work for the whole school! I'll send the details nearer the time. The first assembly will take place on **Friday 15th January @10a.m.**

Thank-you for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards,
Louise McKnight



St. John's Primary School

Remote Learning Policy

2020-21

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| <p>Remote Learning Introduction</p> | <p>In the event of long-term closure, staff at St. John's Primary School will continue to provide education and support to our pupils using remote learning.</p> <p>In this case, learning will be conducted using Seesaw. This will allow staff to keep in daily contact, in a professional and confidential manner with parents/pupils in their class.</p> <p>Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm or concern our pupils. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability.</p> <p>In all communications we will adhere to our commitment to maintaining pupil well-being.</p> |
| <p>Flexibility</p> | <p>We realise that the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents may be trying to work from home and so access to technology as a family may be limited • Teachers may be trying to manage their own home situation and the learning of their own children • Systems may not always function as they should <p>An understanding of, and willingness to adapt to, these difficulties on all sides is essential for success.</p> |
| <p>Expectations</p> | <p>Article 28 of the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child states that 'Every child has the right to an education'. In the case of long term closure, we believe that it is in the best interests of our pupils that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability.</p> <p>Bearing in mind the need for flexibility, we understand that work may be completed out of sync with when it is shared and as such, no deadlines will be set.</p> <p>That said, the work that pupils engage in during a period of closure cannot be considered as optional. Pupils and parents should consider the arrangements as set out in this document as highly recommended.</p> |
| <p>Remote Learning Start Date</p> | <p>The first day of any extended closure will be used by teachers to prepare for the coming period and there will be no remote learning scheduled. The programme of remote learning will start from the second day of the period of extended closure.</p> |

Teaching Staff will:

- Share teaching and activities with their class on a weekly basis through Seesaw.
- All activities/teaching will be uploaded by 9.15am on a Monday morning.
- Continue teaching in line with the current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school.
- Give credence to the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult and therefore adjust tasks and provide additional instructions/support as necessary.
- Keep in contact with pupils using Seesaw only.
- Reply to messages, set work and give feedback on activities during normal teaching hours only: 9am to 3pm.
- Will not set deadlines for the completion of activities as all teachers have an understanding that closure will affect families in a number of ways.
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow.
- If unwell themselves, will be covered by another member of staff for sharing of activities. Responding to and following up messages via Seesaw will not be undertaken at this time; will recommence once the teacher has returned to school.
- In the event of individual class members being absent from school for a prolonged period, will provide paper packs for collection and will communicate via Seesaw only.

Pupils will:

- Be assured that their well-being is at the forefront of our thoughts and that they should take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities.
- Only access the material shared by their teacher and will ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
- Read on a daily basis, either independently or with an adult.
- Follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or be creative.

Parents will:

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability.
- Encourage their child to access and engage in learning set by the class teacher.
- Not screenshot or copy information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform outside of Seesaw.
- Know that they can contact the teacher as normal, in a respectful manner, through Seesaw if they require support.
- Teachers will reply and give relevant feedback in due course; within the hours of 9am to 3pm.
- Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made.
- Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.
- If their child is off individually, be responsible for informing the school and collecting the paper pack. In this case parents will be mindful that interaction with their child on Seesaw will be limited as the teachers are continuing with teaching and learning for the rest of the class in school.