



St. Mary's Primary School

20 Cloughcor Road, Ballymagorry, Strabane, Co. Tyrone. BT82 0BE.

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

31st July 2020

Dear Parent/Person with Parental Responsibility,

I hope to find you well.

It seems strange writing to you at the end of July but as explained in my letter dated 2nd July which you can view on our School Website, I would like to inform you of some arrangements before we start back to school.

As explained in my previous correspondence, I had hoped (and I continue to live in hope) that our pupils will be able to return to school as before. However, the current restrictions as outlined by the Government for Schools restricts us from being able to function at full capacity due to the one metre social distancing restriction along with the size of our actual classrooms. Unfortunately, therefore, unless guidance changes St Mary's PS Cloughcor will be using the Model outlined below on return to school.

A text message will follow later today providing you with the information you require regarding which "Bubble" your child/children will be in on return to school.

MODEL OF PROVISION

- Our school will be operating under a "Bubble System." Classes have been divided into **Bubble A** and **Bubble B**.
- **Bubble A** pupils will attend school on a *Monday & Tuesday* starting Monday 24th August /Tuesday 25th August.
- **Bubble B** pupils will attend school on a *Thursday & Friday* starting Thursday 27th /Friday 28th August.
- Wednesday will be used for cleaning premises and teachers will be using every Wednesday to facilitate and to plan for on-line learning.

For example, if your child is in school on Monday & Tuesday, teachers will set work for our pupils and pupils will be expected to complete the activities on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday whilst at home using Google Classroom. Likewise, if your child is in school on a Thursday and Friday, pupils will be expected to complete the activities on Google Classroom remotely on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when pupils are at home.

- During "Lockdown" I had provided parents with information as to how to access Google Classroom, using C2K Username and passwords. As you will remember our P1-P7 Teachers set tasks on the Google Classrooms I had set up for each class and pupils completed the tasks and teachers provided feedback.
- We will be using Google Classroom once again on return to school as under

DE (Department of Education) guidance schools have been asked to discourage or prohibit children from bringing anything from home back into school again. Therefore, it is imperative that pupils engage and complete the activities set when at home otherwise your child will fall behind as work will not be repeated on return the following week.

- I have organised training for our teachers and for our classroom assistants looking specifically at how we can best support our pupils emotionally on their return to school.
- Hand sanitiser/ hand wash will be supplied in all classrooms and at school entrance and exits.
- If a child feels unwell, school will make contact with parent e.g. high temperature, persistent coughing and you will be asked to collect your child.
- In order to protect and adhere to Government guidelines parents are asked **NOT** to gather at the school gates. Social distancing must be respected to at all times.
- Please try to ensure any medical appointments are made on days when you know your child is not at school.
- Parents are advised to telephone the school in advance and remain at the school gate if you are going to be collecting your child earlier than usual from school so that we can have your child ready. Your child will be escorted to the school gate for collection to reduce contact.

SCHOOL DINNERS

- Helen will provide school meals as usual in the interim for pupils in receipt of free school meals and for those pupils looking to purchase a school meal as before.

TRANSLINK

- Translink bus service will run as usual, same times and same stops.

Any further correspondence will be given via School Website and through our School Text Message System. I will be issuing another letter week beginning Monday 17th August with further details for return.

I appreciate that this is not the usual environment for our return to school but by working together we will try to make the transition as smooth as possible for your child/children. I welcome your support and I am looking forward to welcoming your child/children back to school

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Andrea Devine
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

