



St. Mary's Primary School

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

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Parent / Person with Responsibility,

I hope to find you all safe and well.

Our teachers have completed a pack for your child/children. This will be your second pack and it will run alongside your child's Google Classroom. It is essential that all parents log on daily as requested to see the tasks set, follow the instructions provided by the class teacher and provide evidence when asked.

This pack will last two weeks and will take you up to and will include Friday 12th February. School is closed for **ALL** pupils **Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February for half term break.** As of yet, we have not been informed as to a starting back date for all pupils but once this information is provided by the Department of Education (DE) I will be in touch as to future arrangements.

General Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as always. Teachers are very grateful to you for your engagement and for logging on daily to view the tasks set. We know that some families are juggling working from home whilst trying to home school their children and we thank you for your immense efforts at this very challenging time.

Teachers have been keeping me up to date regarding pupil engagement. I would advise that if you are not yet logged on that you please do so. Teachers may provide useful PowerPoint presentations, instructions or teacher led videos to support your child with the task he/she is asked to complete. Therefore, it is vital that your child is well informed and doesn't miss out on the instructions given.



Pupil Engagement

All schools have been asked by DE to record the attendance of children registered in schools. I feel I must inform you that if your child is at home and if we do not receive evidence of **some areas** of learning via the uploading of photographs / google documents or email, that I have been advised to mark this as an unauthorised absence. I fully understand and respect that all homes are facing challenges at present and I can assure you I do not want to add to these pressures.

Unfortunately, we don't know what life is going to throw at us and recently I have been aware after speaking with some parents of the challenges they are experiencing at present. For example, some parents have lost loved ones, parents are ill and children are sick with tummy bugs, chest infections. This is only natural and is indeed part of everyday life. However, I would ask that if your child hasn't engaged due to a specific situation at home that you give the school a wee buzz on **71841237** or email myself on adevine835@c2ken.net. I will inform staff and it can be recorded using the appropriate code.

Reading

Some parents have asked me about reading books. I would like to assure you that I am looking into this and I aim to have a plan in place at some point next week. We have been advised not to give out reading books as this may escalate the risk of transmission and in turn we may not get the books back. In the current climate with School Budgets I cannot risk giving books out as we simply cannot afford to replenish stock. In the interim you can avail of books from Strabane library. You can book and collect at our local library. You can access the times via the post I put up on our School Facebook Page. E books and audiobooks are also available and children can access FREE books ALL the time on <https://bit.ly/librariesnidigitalbooks>

Members of Strabane Library can signpost you to possible accelerated reading books for our P4-P7 pupils so that your child/children can complete quizzes. I would recommend that you avail of this provision.

Remote Learning Policy

I have been working on a Remote Learning Policy for parents. It will provide you with the definition of Remote Learning and it will also provide you with expectations. Expectations we have from our pupils, parents and teacher expectations. This will follow via a link to read through Teachers2Parents and the policy will also be put on our school website page for you to read shortly.



Remote Learning

I intend to send out a questionnaire next week to see how you are coping with remote learning.

I am sure you will understand that this is such a strange situation to be in at present and unfortunately schools have not been given, nor have they been provided with a COVID Handbook to help them navigate their way through this bizarre time. Ultimately, we are doing our best to help support pupils, parents and staff.

Please take care, look after yourselves and cherish the time you have with your loved ones. Follow the guidance given and god willing, we will be welcoming all our pupils back to Cloughcor soon!

If I can help or support you in any way, please do not hesitate to phone or email me.

Kind Regards,



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

