



St. Mary's Primary School

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

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

14th April 2021

Dear Parent/Person with Parental Responsibility,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Easter break! It is just lovely having ALL pupils on site and hopefully this will continue!

I would like to thank you all for your continued support. I can see that parents are adhering to social distancing within the school grounds and at the school gates when leaving or when collecting your child/children. It is also evident that parents are following the government requirements by wearing a face covering at all times on school premises. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation in this matter.

SCHOOL VISITS/HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS/ GETTING OUT EARLY

If your child needs to get out early or if they have an appointment to attend, please phone the school in advance on 02871 841 237 and we will have your child ready for collection. Likewise, if your child has forgotten his/her homework, lunchbox etc. please phone the school and Miriam will collect it from you at the top gate. Thankyou!

ATTENDANCE

As you can well imagine, all schools are being challenged at present and as Principal I need your honesty and support so that we can navigate our way through these testing times. As you are aware we have vulnerable pupils in our school setting, vulnerable family members at home, alongside vulnerable staff members and we have put rigorous measures in place to ensure the safety of our Cloughcor family.

We want to mitigate risks as soon as possible so that we can act swiftly. If your child shows any **COVID-19 symptoms they must not come to school** as we all have a responsibility in keeping each other safe.

In light of restrictions easing, I feel it is important to mention, now more so than ever, that if your child has to isolate as a result of being deemed a close contact they are NOT allowed to leave their house for the designated period and as parents, you have a duty of care to protect your child and to follow the guidelines given.

I would ask that you keep the lines of communication open at all times. If your child receives a **POSITIVE COVID-19** test result after school hours I would ask that you e mail me on adevine835@c2ken.net and I will do my very best to support you and provide you with the necessary guidance as to what the next steps will be.

If you discover that your child has been identified as a close contact, you **MUST** isolate your child until further notice. If you have siblings at our school, depending on the class in question he/she may attend school unless they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms but if a child or family member tests **POSITIVE**, the **ENTIRE** household **MUST ISOALTE**. Thank you!

DINNER MONEY

If your child is taking dinners all week we would ask that payment for the week is sent in to school in a sealed envelope every Monday with the name of your child and with the amount written on the envelope. Thank you!

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your address, mobile or land line number I would ask that you let Miriam know so that we can amend the details on our system.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Wednesday will continue to be a non-uniform day. Pupils may wear **PE Gear/Sportswear** every Wednesday to school so that you can get uniforms washed and dried for a Thursday morning.

ACCELERATED READING / MyON

I know that Class Teachers in P4-P7 have been working so very hard with their pupils in the promotion of Accelerated Reading in their classrooms. Pupils had been given targets during the period of remote learning and I know that they have worked very hard to achieve the targets they had been set. I would like to thank the class teachers for embracing this worthwhile programme in their classrooms and I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the pupils for their perseverance and for the interest they have shown.

We would encourage you to foster reading at home with your child/children. We would advise you to check and see if the books you have at home are recorded on the Accelerated Reading system as this will allow your child to complete a quiz based on the book he/she has read. As explained previously via a video message on P4-P7 Google Classrooms during the period of remote learning, we have invested in a very worthwhile resource for our pupils and for our teachers. Pupils can access E-books using MyON whilst completing quizzes so that they can reach their target. I would encourage you to use this resource as we have invested a considerable amount of money purchasing this resource. Pupils have already been provided with their username and password for access.

HOMEWORK

Written homework has resumed for ALL pupils so please ensure you check over and sign the work completed by your child on a daily basis. It is so important that your child brings his/her homework to school daily in the plastic bag provided at the start of the year along with reading books, reading record and spelling books. Thank you!

CANTEEN MENU

Please find attached the Canteen Menu for this term. If you would like your child to take dinner this term, please have a look at what is on offer from our School Canteen.

FIRST CONFESSION

Fr Sweeney has set **Tuesday 27th April** as the date for First Confession for our P4 pupils. This will happen during the school day, here, at the school. I would ask that you please complete any activities Mrs Hegarty may set so that your child is familiar with the process involved.

ALLERGIES

We have pupils in school with nut allergies so we would ask that you **DO NOT SEND** nuts or any food items containing traces of nuts, to school. This will include **peanut butter, coconut, Nutella/ Chocolate spread, snicker bars or tracker bars**. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

SICKNESS

If your child is sick he/she might have to stay at home. Pupils should not be at school if they have a tummy bug or diarrhoea. If your child has diarrhoea or vomiting the recommended period to be kept at home is 48 hours from their **last episode** of diarrhoea or vomiting.

TRANSLINK

I have noticed that some pupils haven't topped up their bus passes on return to school. If you are using Translink you should ensure that your child has a topped up Translink pass or that he/she brings money to cover the cost of his/her journey. Failure to have one will result in your child not being able to avail of the service provided. Thank you!

HOLIDAY DATES FOR TERM 3

TERM 3 begins for ALL pupils – 12th April

School is CLOSED for ALL STAFF and PUPILS.- MONDAY 3rd MAY- FRIDAY 7th MAY (INCLUSIVE)

SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR ALL PUPILS - 31st MAY (School Development Day for School Staff)

SCHOOL WILL FINISH- Friday 2nd July at NOON for **ALL** pupils and Staff.

Please note Translink will **NOT** be running Thursday 1st July and Friday 2nd July.

R.S.E- Relationships and Sexuality Education

The N.I. Education Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed responsible decisions throughout their lives. Relationships and Sexuality guidance is firmly grounded in Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, where the central focus is on the emotional development of children, health and safety, relationships with others, and the development of moral thinking, values and actions. DE Circular 2013/16 requires every school to have an up to date written policy on how it will address the delivery of Relationships and Sexuality Education. This programme looks at teaching our pupils about positive, healthy relationships- relationships with friends, with family, with God and with themselves. Pupils in P2-P7 will be starting their RSE booklets next week. They will do it twice weekly for 6 weeks. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please don't send your child to school if they have COVID-19 Symptoms. You should book a test if your child has:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back.

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OF THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR/AND TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Yours Sincerely,



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL