



St. Mary's Primary School

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

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

Monday 18th October 2021

Dear Parent / Person with Responsibility,

It has been great meeting all the children and getting back into school life at Cloughcor. School life has been interrupted due to the COVID19 Pandemic. I do not believe that any of us would have anticipated the longevity of this situation. It is with thanks to you, our parents and as a community that we have protected our school. You are very vigilant when your child is sick, ensuring that he/she gets tested to check for COVID-19 and you are reporting back to us. Unfortunately, the numbers with the virus have significantly increased in our town areas. It is vital that we protect our vulnerable, our elderly and everyone in general. I ask you to please continue to be vigilant and patient. It will pass in time; **Please familiarise yourself with the procedures below:**

- If your child is feeling in any way unwell please do not send them into school. If your child is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 such as a temperature above 37.8, a cough or loss of taste and/or smell please book a PCR test and isolate until you receive a negative result. Children should wait for 48 hours from the temperature subsides before returning to school. Children who are positive must isolate for 10 days and follow the advice given from track and trace.
- If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has COVID-19 you will be contacted by PHA who will inform you that you must book a PCR test even if your child has no symptoms. Children can return to school on receipt of a negative test result. Children who do not have a PCR test will have to isolate at home for 10 days.
- Under Government guidance if your child's household is positive, he/she may return to school providing they have a negative PCR test at Day 2 and Day 8, Some parents, are deciding to keep their child/children at home as they are keen to protect class bubbles and staff in school. If you are deciding to do this, please be assured that your child will be marked present and the class teacher will provide a pack of work for your child to complete.

I would be most grateful if you would please inform the school if your child has been identified as a close contact. You can email me on adevine835@c2ken.net to report a positive case.

PRIMARY TWO

I would like to welcome Mr McCrystall to our school. Mr McCrystall will teach P2 until June 2022.

FLU VACCINE

Please ensure that you have returned your Flu Vaccine form even if you are not taking up the offer of the nasal spray. The School Nurse will be collecting all the forms on Wednesday 19th October so it is important that all forms are returned. Thank you!

MILK MONEY

Milk will resume for Term 1 from **Monday 1st November until Friday 17th December**. If you would like your child to avail of school milk please send **£7.00** to school will your child, with their name clearly mark on the envelope on or before this **Thursday 21st October**.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Mr McCullagh issued letters a few weeks ago to our P4-P7 pupils. We have used our budget this year to help support our pupils with Athletics, Accelerated Reading, Sports, New Horizon Partnership and MyOn.

P6 started their afterschool sports with Marty last Friday. Iris Black from New Horizon Partnership has been utilising our recently purchased poly tunnel with all year groups. Iris will be back in March to work with all classes. I am hoping this experience will foster an interest and love of planting seeds and watching them grow and develop.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs Devine met with class representatives to discuss ways in making our school a happy, safe, inviting learning environment. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to our P4-P7 representatives and am looking forward to our next meeting.

ENGAGE PROGRAMME

Miss Mayse will be withdrawing pupils using the Engage Funding we received from DE. I welcome Miss Mayse to our school and I hope that you will work alongside her in supporting your child. Support will be provided until the end of December and progress will be reviewed with a view to maintaining support into the Spring term.

MATHS WEEK

This week is Maths week and all classes will be doing lots of maths related fun activities in class. Teachers will be setting a homework via Athletics (P3-P7) and Mathseeds (P1-P2). Pupils will be issued with their username and password by the Class Teacher with directions as to how they can access the homework set. In order to utilise this resource

teachers will be setting a Maths homework once a week to their class until mid-June 2022. It is important that pupils complete the tasks set so that they can gain their bronze, silver and gold certificates.

HALLOWEEN HOLIDAYS

School will close on Friday 22nd October at:

2.00pm - P1/P2 pupils

2.45pm – P3/P4 pupils

2.50pm – P5 pupils

2.55pm – P6 pupils

3.00pm – P7 pupils

Pupils may wear their Halloween costume if they so wish to school on Friday 22nd October. I would ask that pupils DO NOT bring in broomsticks, shields, weapons to school.

School will re-open on Monday 1st November for all pupils. I wish you all a happy and safe Halloween Holiday.

INTERNET SAFETY AND AWARENESS

It has been brought to my attention by staff that some pupils are talking about and accessing programmes which are not age appropriate. The current craze appears to be the Squid Game. This is a certified 15. I would ask that you monitor the programmes that your child/children may be watching whilst at home.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to our very own ‘Charity Angels’ for the numerous fundraising activities carried out by them over the past year. Patricia Gallagher is a long serving Classroom Assistant here at our school and together with her sister, Noeleen and sister-in-law Shauna they selected charities close to their hearts. The ladies scheduled a series of activities and events in order to raise funds for their designated charities.

Patricia selected our school as her chosen charity as she recognises how financially challenged schools are at present and as we don’t have a Parent Teacher Association (despite my hinting and requests!!) we have had to raise funds ourselves which hasn’t really been practical. You can see that other schools have PTAs and as a result any funding raised via fund raising events goes towards the children. Moving forward if you would like to be involved in establishing a Parent Teacher Association here at Cloughcor I would invite you to leave your name with Miriam at the School Office. We all want what is best for the children here at our school. So please let us work together to support our school.

The Charity Angels embarked on an exciting year of fundraising. They raised a target of £5000 to be divided between their three charities – St Mary’s PS Cloughcor, Aurora Counselling and ShelterNI and took part in numerous climbing events including Mount

Errigal, a collection box was positioned at the Farmers Home and a Quiz night was scheduled at Burdenett Cricket Club. To date the ladies have collected £6000 approximately and £2000 approximately will be given to their chosen charities. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all three ladies for their drive, passion and for the determination they showed whilst living through a Pandemic.

On behalf of our pupils, staff and parents I would like to thank Patricia for selecting our wee school and I can assure you that the money raised will go towards the needs of the children. Thank you 'Charity Angels' and heartfelt congratulations to you for your successful year of fundraising.

SAM MAGUIRE CUP

Some Tyrone players will visit our school on *Thursday 21st October*. Children may wear their club colours to school on that day.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Andrea Devine
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

