



St. Teresa's Primary School
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8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a peaceful Christmas and on behalf of all staff and governors I would like to wish all our families a safe and healthy New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to very much thank all our parents, families and members of our school community who supported our Christmas Raffle, we raised an outstanding amount of **£1350.00**. I would also like to pay tribute to our pupils who worked extremely hard to sell tickets and to members of the "Friends of St. Teresa's" who helped prepare the fabulous Hampers. The amount raised is a testament of our school family's commitment, dedication and generosity to St. Teresa's Primary School, Tullyherron. We plan to purchase ICT resources such as Ipads and Bee-Bots from the money raised, these resources will be used by all our pupils in the Foundation Class, KS1 and KS2 classes.

Term 2 Home-Schooling Arrangements

I write to you in regard to our arrangements for Home Schooling in response to the Department of Education's Guidance "Education Restart Programme for Schools in Northern Ireland" which was issued to schools on Wednesday 6th January 2021. We had hoped that all children would return to school as normal on 4th January but the Department of Education has instructed that Home Schooling would commence on Monday 4th January and continue until the half term break in the middle of February 2021. The Department of Education also instructed schools to take the first day of this term to prepare for the revised arrangements so Home-Schooling commenced on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Home Schooling

We are using two methods to facilitate Home-Schooling in Term 2, the See-Saw App and a Learning Pack. This will ensure we are providing a balanced approach for pupils, parents and teachers.

We are providing Home Schooling learning activities via our Seesaw App for all classes from Tuesday 5th January to Tuesday 12th January 2021 and for the final week of Home-Schooling, from Monday 8th February to Friday 12th February.

The Seesaw App has been very effective in facilitating Home-Schooling, Teachers can see from the work submitted by parents that pupils are all working very hard on their Home-Learning activities and are receiving excellent support from their parents. We thank you for your co-operation with this new method of communication.

Home-Schooling will be facilitated through Learning Packs from Wednesday 13th January to Friday 5th February 2021. Teachers are currently preparing these Learning Packs for pupils. As part of the Learning Packs we are including Reading Books to ensure pupils read every day. Foundation pupils are also focusing on High Frequency Words and letter sounds/names.

Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils can complete quizzes on the Books they read on the Accelerated Reading Programme. Teachers are assigning two Mathletics Activities each week, children will be able to complete Live Maths activities after completing these tasks set by their teacher.

As pupils complete the Home-Learning Packs Teachers request that parents continue to regularly upload their child's work via the Seesaw App so that the class teacher will be able to mark or respond to their work. We are mindful that Home Schooling is difficult for parents and we will not over burden children with school work. Teachers will be available to support children with their learning via Seesaw and will strive to set work that is appropriate to each child's ability. I would encourage all parents to ensure that their child(ren) complete most set activities to ensure their child/ren maintain their levels. Teachers will contact parents on Thursday or Friday if their child(ren) do not respond or complete the tasks each week. Please contact your child's teacher via the Seesaw App if you have any queries or concerns.

The Learning Packs will be available for collection on **Wednesday 13th January**, they will be organised in family groupings and will be available for collection at the following times:

- **Family Surnames beginning with A-L please collect Learning Packs from 12.00noon to 12.30pm**
- **Family Surnames beginning with M-W please collect Learning Packs from 12.30pm to 1.00pm**

When collecting Learning Packs on Wednesday 13th January we request that 1 adult per family collect the packs from the main school entrance. Please follow the instructions and guidance of staff and ensure you follow Government Social Distancing Guidelines when entering and leaving the school premises.

In regard to Supervised Learning for Vulnerable Children and children of Key workers, please email smccourt547@c2kni.net if you need to avail of Supervised Learning in school.

The new procedures have been formulated from Department of Education guidance issued on the 6th January, we will continue to review the situation and we will endeavour to keep you updated. Hopefully school will return to face to face teaching for all children after the Mid-Term Break in February 2021.

I would like to thank you for your support and commitment during this very difficult and challenging time. I appreciate it will take us all, especially our children, time to adapt to these new procedures, however, with everyone's hard work and co-operation we will get through these weeks. I very much look forward to a safe return to school for all our children in February and strive to ensure that they will continue a safe, happy and enjoyable school year.

Yours Faithfully,
Sinead Mc Court