



St. Teresa's Primary School
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15th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are all continuing to keep safe and well, it has been a very difficult time for everyone and I am sure you are looking forward to a return to some level of normality in the next few months. The longer we continue to deal with COVID-19 the harder it can be to maintain a routine and structure for our children. I'm sure like us all, they are looking forward to returning to school and seeing their friends and classmates again. However, it is looking like school could be a very different place at the beginning of next year. The Department of Education has not published guidance to schools yet, however if we look at what is happening in other European countries it is possible that there could be a mixture of school and home learning in the future. I hope to give you more information about next year at the end of June if additional guidance has been published by the Department of Education. I can assure you that we will do all that we can to open our school to as many pupils as possible and provide a positive educational experience for all of the children once they return next year.

I hope the children are all progressing well through their final work pack which was due to be completed on Friday 12th June. During the remainder of June pupils can complete any outstanding work from their work packs, complete some on line activities and enjoy outdoor fun activities. I would like to remind you that you can contact your child's teacher via email if you have any queries or concerns. I feel it would be beneficial for all pupils to complete some additional work over the summer period such as: reading and completing quizzes on the Accelerated Reading Programme, revising times-tables and number facts, finishing odds and ends from their work packs and also completing live Athletics activities.

I would like to give a very special mention to our Primary 7 children who have missed out in so many special celebrations in their final year. Unfortunately, as school has not returned as we had hoped, our Primary 7 pupils haven't been able to enjoy the Primary 7 events this term: End of Year Trip, Balmoral Show, Loughgilly Tournament and Leaving ceremony. Traditionally these occasions have been special events and although this year's Primary 7 children have been unable to participate in them, we are going to try to ensure that they have their own positive experiences and memories to take away with them as they transition into post primary education. We are going to organise two events for the children:

Firstly, we are going to host a 'Virtual Leaving Assembly' via Zoom on Tuesday 23rd June from 11.00am to 12.00noon. This will be an opportunity for the children and the staff to all come together virtually, to see and chat to each other and share happy memories and hopes for the future. In order to facilitate this I would appreciate if each Primary 7 Parent could E-Mail me their E-Mail Address by Thursday 18th June. I hope to send each child a format of the Assembly and a prayer to read as part of our virtual celebration. My E-Mail address: smccourt547@c2kni.net.

We will then host a Primary 7 Leaving Party in August, the children will be invited into school for a variety of fun activities, sign t-shirts, with food and refreshments provided. I will be in contact with parents regarding this celebration at a later date.

All of the children will also be presented with the Primary 7 Leavers Book, this will be a very valuable and precious keep-sake for our pupils, particularly this year, of their many happy and special times in St. Teresa's. I would like to thank Jacqueline and Nicola who have worked extremely hard to compose and create this fabulous Book.

I realise that these arrangements will not replace the activities that the children would have enjoyed in normal times but hopefully they will provide them with some positive experiences of their final days in St. Teresa's Primary School.

Thank you for your continued support during the past few months, please contact me if you have any queries, suggestions or concerns.

Yours Faithfully,

Sinead Mc Court