



St. Teresa's Primary School  
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11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are all continuing to keep safe and well during this time.

I write to you in regard to our arrangements for Home Schooling after the Mid-Term Break from the 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This is in response to the Department of Education's Guidance that schools will not reopen until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

First of all, I would like to commend our whole school community for the excellent work that has taken place over the course of January and February.

The children have responded brilliantly to the challenge of remote learning, I would like to congratulate them on their amazing work on Seesaw. Teachers have been delighted with the quality of the children's work and they are very pleased that nearly all of our children are responding to their set tasks.

This is a result of the excellent support they are receiving from you at home, I am sure that you will agree that Seesaw is an excellent platform to support children with their online learning, thank you for all your support with remote and home learning.

I must also take this opportunity to praise the superb work of our dedicated Teachers and Classroom Assistants in all they have done and continue to do in providing the children with remote and supervised learning. We as teachers are continually reviewing and developing our methods of Curriculum delivery ensuring that we are using a balanced approach between the Learning Packs and this new online medium, Seesaw.

### **Home-Schooling Arrangements**

We will continue to provide remote and supervised learning after the mid-term break. Home-Schooling will be facilitated through Learning Packs from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Teachers are currently preparing these Learning Packs for pupils. The children should continue to complete their tasks from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, as outlined in our weekly overviews and post their work on Seesaw for our teachers to mark and respond to. It is very important that the children's work is regularly posted on Seesaw. Teachers will send messages on Seesaw to remind parents to post their children's work if this has not been done for a few days or they may phone home if they are concerned about a child's engagement with remote learning.

### **Reading**

As part of the Learning Packs we are including additional Reading Books to ensure pupils read every day. Foundation pupils will continue to focus on High Frequency Words and letter sounds/names.

**Please remember to return all reading books which were sent home in our first Learning Packs when collecting the new packs on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

We request that Reading Books are returned in a poly-pocket or plastic bag, labelled with your child/ren's name. Each teacher has a record of the books which were sent home and

will contact parents if books are not returned. Over the last few years we have invested a large amount of money in children's reading books and it is vitally important that they are returned to assist with supporting children's learning now and in the future. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with the return of reading books.

### **The Accelerated Reading Programme**

We request that Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils complete quizzes on the books they have read on the Accelerated Reading Programme. This is a very important element of the children's reading activity, as completing the quizzes assists in developing pupils' comprehension skills. I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the children who have been actively participating in this activity and who have been awarded Certificates. Well Done to those Girls and Boys!

Unfortunately, only a small number of children are completing the quizzes, we would very much appreciate your encouragement and support with this activity. Generally, completing a quiz should take no longer than 10 minutes.

In order to encourage all pupils to engage with the Accelerated Reading Quizzes we are organising a large Easter Egg Draw in each class for all the children who complete an Accelerated Reading Quiz from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Accelerated Reading Quizzes can be accessed on the following website:

<https://ukhosted81.renlearn.co.uk/2234951>

Pupils have their login details but parents can contact the class teacher via seesaw to receive these login details again.

### **The Mathletics Programme**

Teachers are also assigning **one** Mathletics Activity which is part of the children's numeracy work for that week. Generally, completing an activity should take no longer than 10 minutes. Children can participate in Live Maths activities after completing these tasks set by their teacher. We would like to congratulate all the children who have been actively participating in the Mathletics Programme and who have been awarded Certificates, these include Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates.

Unfortunately, only a small number of our children are completing the assigned Mathletics Activities.

We do appreciate that remote learning/home schooling is very challenging for everyone. Therefore, in order to encourage all pupils to complete the **one** assigned Mathletics Activity each week, we are also organising an Easter Prize Draw in each class for all the children who complete the assigned activity each week from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Seesaw**

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. I would encourage all parents to ensure that their child(ren) complete most set activities to ensure their child/ren maintain their levels during this Home-Schooling period. We do appreciate that remote learning/home schooling is very challenging for everyone and we will not over burden children with school work. All planned learning activities are specific to the children's learning needs and should not take a great amount of time to complete; some days it will take longer than others. Do your best to support your child(ren) with their learning but don't put yourself under pressure. Teachers will be available to support children with their learning via Seesaw, please contact your child's teacher via the Seesaw App if you have any queries or concerns.

**Teachers will contact parents on Thursday or Friday if their child(ren) do not upload at least 1 completed task each week.**

### **Learning Packs**

The Learning Packs will be available for collection on Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> February**, 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 11.00am to 11.30am**
- **Family Surnames beginning with M-W please collect Learning Packs from 11.30am to 12.00noon**

When collecting Learning Packs on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 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, this will continue from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please email [smccourt547@c2kni.net](mailto:smccourt547@c2kni.net) by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, no later than 12.00noon if you need to avail of Supervised Learning in school.

I would like to thank you for your hard work, support and commitment during January and February. I wish you, all the children and the staff a very well deserved mid-term break. I very much look forward to a safe return to school for all our children and strive to ensure that they will continue a safe, happy and enjoyable school year.

Take Care and Keep Safe,  
*Sinead Mc Court*