



St. Brigid's Primary School
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Cloughmills
Ballymena
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Principal: Mr. Lawrence O'Kane
www.stbrigidscloughmills.com

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I trust this letter finds you, your children, friends and family all well at this unusual time. Since we last saw our boys and girls on Friday 13th March, each week has brought with it different challenges and obstacles. Thankfully however the weather over the last two months has been generally good and children have been able to spend quality time outside.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some information relating to the next few weeks in the lead up to the summer break.

Teacher Courtesy Calls.

From tomorrow (Thursday 20th May-Friday 29th May), teachers will be making courtesy calls to parents. The purpose of this is just to gauge how pupils have been managing with the work sent out to date. If you have found that your child(ren) has perhaps struggled with a particular topic/curricular area, some additional help will be provided in June's work. This may take the form of an additional worksheet(s), online activities or useful support material through YouTube for example.

School Reports.

Guidance is to be issued by DE this week in relation to reporting, and whilst this year's school reports will not follow our usual format they will at least provide you with some feedback in relation to the progress your child(ren) had been making up until the point of closure.

Furthermore, you are welcome to return any work completed by our pupils to date, teachers would be happy to look at it; however it will not be returned. Alternatively, you may like to email a picture of a particular piece of work which your child is proud of to Mrs Henry (ahenry301@c2kni.net). She in turn will post the picture on our school Facebook page. You could also forward a picture of your child completing an activity or practising for the Virtual Sports Day.

Work can be dropped off (if you so wish), when the final pack of activities is available for collection on Monday 1st June, this is **not** compulsory.

Virtual Sports Day.

We have encouraged all families to engage in the Virtual Sports Day activities in the run up to Saturday 13th June. As customary each Sports Day our PTA hold a family BBQ, however this year we intend to send home a small BBQ Pack for each family. More details in relation to the collection of this to follow, however we would anticipate that it would be available on Friday 12th June.

June Pack Collection.

As a school we took the decision to provide purely paper based activities with timetables which run alongside providing a suggested format for the day. I must highlight that this is only what we are suggesting pupils cover. By providing paper based activities we can be 100% sure that each child in St Brigid's is receiving the work and that access to relevant and appropriate ICT equipment does not become a factor- there has been much coverage in the news relating to this over the last few weeks. Additional material has been made available through the school website, providing supplementary activities in both Literacy and Numeracy. As a school we have utilised our Text Messaging Service, Twitter Account, School Website and set up a new Facebook page. We would encourage you to engage with us through our Social Media platforms over the last few weeks of term.

Our final June Pack will be available for collection on Monday 1st June, work included will run up to and including Friday 19th June. The last week of activities (Monday 22nd-26th June) will mostly be fun and practical based.

TEAMs in KS2.

We have set up Microsoft TEAMs pages for our KS2 children (P5-P7). This is found within the C2K System and is an online platform for sharing work and activities. Whilst staffs have received no official training in using the App, we have experimented with some online fun activities. If possible we would encourage pupils to log on and perhaps post a comment. A help sheet is available on the school website.

Summary Timetable of Important Dates.

| Date | Action |
|--|--|
| 20 th -29 th May | Teacher Courtesy Calls |
| Monday 1 st June (Evening) | 3 Week pack to be collected (Time TBC) |
| Friday 12 th June (Evening) | Virtual Sports Day BBQ Pack to be collected (Time TBC) |
| Friday 19 th June (Evening) | Final Activity Pack to be collected (Time TBC) |
| Monday 29 th June (10am-3pm) | Collection of all remaining books/display work/art work etc. |
| Tuesday 30 th June (10am-3pm) | Collection of all remaining books/display work/ art work etc. |

Conclusion

Let me take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support during these unprecedented times and this prolonged period of disruption. It is important that you as parents and your children do not become anxious, stressed or worried about this time away from school.

Children are extremely resilient characters and I for one believe that when they return to the classroom environment they will be quick to make up on lost time.

Teachers are currently in the process of preparing for when we do return to school -in whatever shape or form that may take.

The staff of St Brigid's are endeavouring to do the best they can for all our pupils in what are very challenging times for us all both personally and professionally.

I look forward to the day when we can welcome the pupils of St. Brigid's back through our doors again.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence O'Kane.

