15th March 2020

Dear Parents,

The announcements from the Government over the last few days has instructed all schools in Northern Ireland to remain open. We have no choice other than to follow this advice but as a parent myself I completely understand your worries and fears for your children and families. Some parents have already made the decision to keep their children at home and this is your right to do so should you believe it is the correct decision for your family.

With Confirmation already postponed, it is most likely this will extend to First Confession and possibly First Holy Communion.

During this period we wish to limit visitors to school.

* Parents/visitors are not permitted beyond the secretarys office and should not enter classrooms.
* All trips and outside visits will be cancelled.

However, it is widely believed that the Government will close schools soon so we have put a plan into place for your children if you choose to keep them at home or should the Government decide to close schools.

Class teachers have prepared a work pack for each child. We suggest the following work should be done with your child at home if they are off school:

**Primary 1 and 2**

* All children have been sent home a literacy and Numeracy booklet, we recommend completing at least 2-3 pages of each booklet per day.
* Work on their Phonics and encourage them to write simple sentences.
* Jigsaws, board games and painting/arts and craft will be a great way to pass time and will keep minds active.
* Work on number stories. There are lots of games and ideas online to help your child learn these important number facts.
* In a bid to avoid any possible contamination, reading books will not be sent home. Your child is set up with a username and password for studyladder.co.uk This is in your homework pack. There are some word and reading activities assigned and you can work through them with your child.

**Primary 3, 4 and 5:**

* As above plus more independent writing and sentences/stories.
* In a bid to avoid any possible contamination, reading books will not be sent home.
* Your child is set up with a username and password for studyladder.co.uk This is in your homework pack. This will replace guided reading for the duration of this time, please read the comprehensions with your child and let them answer the questions. We recommend completing at least 4 of the comprehension activities each week. There will also be daily numeracy lessons and activities assigned for these classes.
* Revise spellings covered to date and the first 100 key words which you will also find online.

**Primary 6 – 7:**

* All cildren have been sent homeLiteracy, Numeracy and spelling activities, we are recommending that each child complete at least one page of each activity per day.
* In a bid to avoid any possible contamination, new reading books will not be sent home at this point.
* Your child is set up with a username and password for studyladder.co.uk.We will endeavour to keep 2-3 activities set daily for the children during this period of absence. All pupils have their own unique username and password which is located inside the cover of their Homework Diaries.
* Writing more detailed stories and recounts.
* **Reinforcement of Times Tables/ Number Facts will be invaluable.**
* Revise spellings covered this year.

I have added a new ‘Home Link’ to our school Website, this is available under the Parent tab. Follow the appropiate links for some fun and interactive games that are all age appropiate. I will continue to update this page as this situation progresses.

**Other Online Activities to be completed at home by children during leave**

**Accelerated Reader (website)**

<https://ukhosted60.renlearn.co.uk/6728859/>

Pupils should continue to read books within their ZPD range for 25-30 minutes daily and complete AR quizzes online in order to achieve their target. All children have their own AR usernames and passwords which they know or have written inside their Homework Diaries.

Books can be borrowed from Omagh library, mobile library van or use existing borrowed books from the school. Books should be checked on <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk> so ensure they are on AR and what book level they are, how many points are available etc.

**Study Ladder (website)**

[www.studyladder.co.uk](http://www.studyladder.co.uk)

This website helps reinforce numeracy and literacy activities which have been taught in the classroom. This will be a new initiative for P1-5 in light of the current situation and may require some practice. If you have any queries or are having any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**C2k Newsdesk (Search online for My School)**

A wonderful resource with news and information articles updated daily, along with activities and competitions for children to complete. Pupils can select articles and complete the activities that interest them. There is also a School Reporter section (which ties in well with the report writing completed in February), which enables children to write a topical report, upload it, and if it is approved, published on the Newsdesk website.

This resource is accessed through My School – pupils log in using their username and password that they would log on when in school – again recorded inside their Homework Diaries.

**OverDrive (app)**

When used with the child’s LibrariesNI number, each child can borrow a number of ebooks at no cost. Pupils can in turn check if they are on AR.

**Epic! (app)**

Children can read and wide variety of books (at various difficulty levels) online at no cost. Pupils can in turn check if they are on AR.

**Educational Websites**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **URL** |
| Numeracy & Literacy | https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn |
| Numeracy | https://www.coolmathgames.com/ |
| Numeracy & Literacy | https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ |
| Numeracy | https://mathszone.co.uk/ |

**Other Educational Apps (iPad/Android)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Numeracy** | **Literacy** |
| Operation Math | Word Search |
| King of Maths | Word Cross |
| Coop Fractions | Pop Words |
| Fractions |  |
| Jungle Time |  |
| Geometry |  |
| 24 Game |  |

To support you during this period, Twinkl is offering every school in Northern Ireland access to all Twinkl resources with a One Month Ultimate Membership, totally free of charge. They are also extending this to every parent and carer in our school so your children can still have access to high-quality learning during any periods of disruption.

[www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://links.support.twinkl.co.uk/mps2/c/CAE/8PUmAA/t.301/r1PfCQECSke0QsLi_3QzFw/h5/EbC1nPf9k9D5DT3zk18lxBwa1fOubB7v8tpG7jFvX-2BAUbtuFWZqRQucggCq4xkD-2BcXZRVhMv6jRDtAXDkJfo-2BPY39Pl6rzJj5RA8l-2F0Qx-2FCqS3HJhiFaC4xCm1FkxAzu6MRbIinVMnqEhDLM8ubunNfIHyMSA-2Frznwla3sYwS0B35CWpCYJ1LLj8ENCvYh4mP1rkngTDNJH-2BoBS-2BMmwXTA-3D-3D/Yl7u)

Please remember that in a bid to avoid the spread of Covid 19, all homework packs are **not** to be returned to school.

In the event of our school closing we will keep you informed through our website,social media pages and School App service. I appreciate that this is not a perfect solution to the current situation but I am hoping that with your support, we can all continue to seek ways to help our children. We hope to add to our resources and home-school packs in the future, should that be necessary.

With prayer and time, please God, this will pass and we will be back to our full school life with our amazing children. We would also keep in our prayers frontline medical staff and others tasked with keeping our communities safe at this time.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and I will do my best to help.

I will be in school on Wednesday morning regardless of any announcements that are made in the interim. Homework packs can be lifted between 10.00am and midday. If you have any queries at any time, please feel free to contact me on [pmartin505@c2kni.net](mailto:pmartin505@c2kni.net).

Best wishes

Páraic Martin

Principal