



Principal: Mr Keith Black

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Wednesday 14th October 2020

Parent Update

Dear Parent(s),

You will have heard via the media this morning that the NI Executive have instructed schools to extend their mid-term break for a period of 2 weeks beginning on **Monday 19th October 2020**. These measures have been put in place in order to stem the number of cases of COVID-19. School closures will be reviewed by the NI Executive towards the end of this two-week period, however it has been announced by our First Minister that she anticipates schools will reopen on Monday 2nd November 2020.

The guidance presented to schools by our Education Minister states that remote learning is not intended to be provided. However, after discussion with our school staff today, we are in agreement that our children need and will benefit from a level of home learning next week. Mid-term break will begin as planned on Monday 24th October with no home learning expected to be completed that week. (Please only do what you can and which works with your situation at home).

In order to facilitate this home learning, your child will be sent home from school on Friday with the relevant resources and materials to complete any learning tasks set by their class teacher. Teachers will remain in contact with your child (via Microsoft Teams) during the week beginning 19th October, however parents are reminded that any queries they wish to raise with the school or their child's teacher must be made via email, and not via the Microsoft Teams platform. It is solely for teacher/pupil interaction. Any work completed during this week should be returned to school on Monday 2nd November 2020.

As was the case during our last period of school closure, the learning your child will complete at home will not replace face to face teaching in school, however it will provide a level of routine for the children during another difficult period for them. The staff of Ballytrea Primary School much prefer face to face teaching, therefore I must encourage us all to work together to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our community.

As our First Minister stated this morning, 'Small acts can have a large impact.' I ask you to continue to follow the guidance set out by our government, such as practising social distancing and good hygiene practices.

It is important to note that school will not be open for any child during this period, including the children of key-workers. For those children who receive Free-School Meals, direct payments will be made as was the case during the summer months.

Finally, could I once again thank all our pupils, parents and staff for their support and understanding during this period. Since I joined Ballytrea PS I have been heartened by the spirit and togetherness shown by all members of our school community and it is needed now once again, more than ever.

Can I also remind you that if you have any further queries to please get in touch with myself or your child's teacher. We are here to help.

Kind regards

Keith Black
(Principal)

**** INFORMATION ON FLU VACCINE – SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2020 ****

We are yet to receive any further information on how or when this will now take place. Any information we do receive will be shared with parents asap.

Miss Bleakley (P1-P2) – rbleakley479@c2kni.net
Mrs Colvin (P3-P5) – gcolvin496@c2kni.net
Miss Dallas (P3-P5) – edallas294@c2kni.net
Mrs Craig (P6-P7) – mcraig422@c2kni.net
Mr Black (P6-P7) – kblack585@c2kni.net