



Principal: Mr Keith Black

52 Gortnaskea Road
Stewartstown
Dungannon
BT71 5NY

Tel: 02887 738619
Mob: 07902 984046

Email: info@ballytrea.stewartstown.ni.sch.uk



Friday 5th February 2021

Parent Update

Dear Parent(s),

I am writing to you today in the hope that you and your family are continuing to keep well. The last number of weeks and months have been very challenging for many families in our community, and our thoughts are very much with those members of our school who have been acutely affected during this time.

I also want to begin by thanking the parents and guardians of all the children at Ballytrea PS, for the love, support and assistance that you have given to our pupils over the last number of weeks. We fully appreciate that remote learning is not ideal and that it is having a big impact on young people, and on home life in general. However, it is also clear to see the positive impact that your encouragement and support is making to your children and their learning as we navigate this period together.

Please don't lose faith in the efforts you are making to support your children and please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if there is anything, we can do to help you further.

Below, you will find updated information regarding the weeks ahead and our continued period of remote learning.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Black
(Principal)



School Closure / Remote Learning

You will have heard via the media in recent weeks that schools will remain closed to pupils until at least Friday 5th March 2021, with reopening possible on the Monday 8th March 2021 (Depending on the Covid-19 situation at that time). I will continue to keep you up to date with the latest information as soon as possible.

Supervised learning continues at school during this period to vulnerable children and those of key workers.

Remote Learning Packs

The next remote learning pack for your child will be ready to be lifted from school on **Monday 8th February 2021**. These packs can be **lifted between 10.00am and 12.00pm**.

This pack will cover:

Week Beginning - Monday 8th February 2021

Week Beginning - Monday 22nd February 2021

**** PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO REMOTE LEARNING PROVIDED, WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2021, AS THIS WILL BE OUR PLANNED HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS.***

**** SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS (INCLUDING VULNERABLE AND KEY WORKER CHILDREN) DURING THIS WEEK ALSO.***

Microsoft Teams Assignments

From Monday 8th February 2021, all year groups in school will be asked to complete one of their remote learning activities as an assignment each day, something which primary six and seven have been doing for a number of weeks now. This does not change any of the work set for your child, or how it is to be completed. Rather, it requests that a photograph of your child's work is uploaded onto Microsoft Teams in order for your child's teacher to be able to provide more timely and relevant feedback.

***** A video will be shared to your child's Teams pages on Sunday 7th February to explain this further. *****

Primary Seven / Post Primary Applications

If your child is in primary seven, they will be due to start post-primary school in September 2021.

The online application portal will be open at 12 noon on Monday 1st March 2021 and remain open until 4pm on Tuesday 16th March 2021. Please note that this is not a first come first served basis and post-primary schools will only begin to make decisions on applications after the closing date for applications has passed.

We will share with you an electronic copy of the key information leaflet 'Applying for a post-primary school place' in the coming weeks. This leaflet and further guidance will be accessible on the Education Authority's website to assist you in making an online application.

Pupil / Parent Questionnaire

A short online questionnaire, for both pupils and parents, will be released on Wednesday 10th February 2021. Could I request that all pupils and parents (if possible) complete this short survey, in order for a greater number of thoughts and opinions to be collated. The aim of the questionnaire is to gather information on pupil and parent experiences during school closure, to evaluate the level of school support and to help the school plan for any additional or different support and approaches which may be needed in the coming weeks.

The closing date for completion of the questionnaire is **Friday 19th February 2021.**

***Thank you once again for you all your support and encouragement.
It is really appreciated by all the staff at school.***