



Coagh Primary School

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Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parent,

As you have no doubt have heard from all news outlets over the last few hours all schools in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales are to close this Friday 20th March. This has been a decision that everyone in Northern Ireland has been waiting on since last Thursday when all schools were closed in the Republic of Ireland. This week has been incredibly difficult for everyone but now with the announced closure date there is at least something definite which everyone can work around.

As the First Minister and Deputy First Minister said in their statements this evening, this planned closure of schools is envisaged to last until July when our 'normal' summer holidays would commence. Staff in school have been working exceptionally hard over the last week to prepare as best we can for our school closure. We have worked together to come up with a strategy that we hope will work best for our pupils and you our families. Staff have and continue to prepare a mixture of photocopied booklets/textbooks and digital content which we hope will continue to provide your child with continued learning opportunities and give you the tools needed to facilitate this.

Our primary way of communicating will be via our school website which has a new tab under the parent's section entitled 'Home Learning'. This section will go 'live' after what would have been our Easter Holidays. From Monday 23rd March please follow the guidance that was placed inside your child's 'Home Learning Pack' last Friday. There should be enough work in these packs to last approximately two school weeks. Staff will begin to upload information on a weekly/daily basis from approximately Monday 20th April which would have been towards the end of our planned Easter Holidays. The purpose of these uploads is to give you as parents some guidance and provide work for your child's learning moving through April, May and June. This is not an ideal solution to a hugely complex problem that no one could comprehend until a few short days ago but it is something that we feel as a staff we are able to do to help with your child's learning.

On Friday 20th March, school will operate as 'normal' with school closing for pupils at 1.45pm and 3pm as usual. 'Fun Club' and 'Homework Club' will be still operate for their normal times as we know many parents will have issues with childcare over the coming weeks.

On Friday, pupils will take home all their classwork books that they have been using this year in school (Please send a plastic shopping bag with each child). These books can continue to be used by each child to complete their work in over the coming weeks/months at home. If your child is not in school on Friday to take these books etc. home, then they will be placed on your child's desk and school will be open until

6pm on Friday for you to come and collect on behalf of your child. If you are unable to come, please if possible arrange for another child/parent to collect it on your behalf.

The 'Parents Association' have kindly purchase an Easter Egg for each child and these will be given out on Friday along with all the books. A little snippet of normality in otherwise turbulent times! The Credit Union have also enclosed colouring competitions which before the last few weeks' events were to be submitted and prizes given. These will still be included in your pack and please allow your child the chance to colour these if you can.

These are unprecedented times and the measures put in place by our Government in Northern Ireland and all those around the world are difficult to 'get your head around' but I know as a community we will come through this and your children will continue to learn.

We as a school have always seen ourselves as the 'heart of the community' so If there is anything that we as a school can do to support you or your wider family in anyway during the next few months then please do not hesitate to contact me at ibayne452@c2kni.net or via the school's Facebook messenger. If it is something that we can help with whether it be educational or support in some other way, we will endeavour to support you and help you through this as you have supported us as a school and staff over the last few years.

Yours sincerely,



Mr I. Bayne
Principal
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