

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe during these challenging times.

As we commence Remote Learning, it will be important that we continue to work together to support our children in their learning. The teachers will be delivering teaching and learning via Google Classroom and have been working very hard using this new online platform. Please see the school website Home Page for help on accessing Google Classroom from home. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/>

We have also added links to:

- Big Cat e-Books
- Wordshark
- Accelerated Reader P4-P7
- Myon P4-P7
- Athletics.

If you have not yet completed the electronic device survey via Google forms, it is important that you do so before Monday 11th January. (<https://forms.gle/ZGLvsK1n3UZv9Twn6>) If you are having any difficulties accessing your child's online learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The Department of Education have issued schools with new attendance guidance and codes to use when recording absences. The majority of children should be undertaking remote learning. Some children may not be capable of engaging in remote learning due to health or other circumstances. If your child is not able to engage with their remote learning, we ask that you contact the school to discuss your individual circumstances. These are challenging times for everyone and as a school, we will support all of you as best we can. The school will use a code that reflects the individual's circumstances. The Department of Education have directed that a specific absence code should be used when there is no evidence from learning at home.

Your child's teacher will post a weekly planner on Google Classroom and set 3 tasks per day (one Literacy, one Numeracy and one other subject area) and links to videos, websites, powerpoints and other engaging and interactive resources. Your child's teacher will mark and respond to your child's work in a timely manner, however, I ask for your patience and understanding if they do not reply on the day of upload.

I am very conscious that every family situation is different and therefore it is up to each parent how they wish to timetable their child/children's day. We would encourage parents to establish a good routine. Have a getting up time, home learning time, playtime, lunch time and bed time. We understand that parents may be working from home and have more than one child home learning. If you are feeling overwhelmed or encountering difficulties, please send a message to your child's teacher via Google Classroom or contact the school. The health and well-being of our whole school community is paramount. Do as much as you and your family can cope with each day. We recognise that individual families have different needs and priorities and many children and parents are experiencing stress and uncertainty in these worrying times.

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We encourage all our children to follow our e-safety and SMART rules to help keep them safe whilst working online. If any parent or child has not yet completed and submitted their Remote Learning Agreement via Google Forms, we ask you to do so before Monday 11th January.

- Remote Learning Parent Agreement - <https://forms.gle/mBphfUusPQnCpPJ6A>
- Remote Learning Pupil Agreement - <https://forms.gle/uSySnBRqrDuhpF8L9>

Free School Meals

Provision in lieu of free school meals will be made (by direct payment) to those children entitled to free school meals while normally in school.

Provision for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children

St. Mary's will open to accommodate children of key workers and vulnerable children. If your child meets the criteria, we will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for your children. (8.45 am – 1.30 pm for Foundation Stage children and 8.45 am – 2.45pm for Key Stage 1 and 2 children.) All children should remain at home except for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who cannot be accommodated by alternative childcare arrangements.

If your child will be availing of supervision in school, please note that:

- All applications must be made using the weekly Google Form and submitted on time.
- School uniform should be worn.
- School Transport- From 11th January normal services will **NOT** be operating. Parents of children of key workers or vulnerable children (who are entitled to transport assistance) who still need transport assistance to access supervised learning should advise the school. Parents should be aware that transport may take a bit of time to organise.
- Children should not arrive before 8.45 am as there will be no supervision available until this time.
- Children should enter through the fire exit door in the Assembly Hall and will be asked to sanitise their hands on arrival.
- New bubbles will be formed.
- School meals will not be available, so your child must bring a healthy snack and a packed lunch each day they are attending school.
- Children should bring a coat. Weather permitting, children will be going outdoors during break time
- Children should be collected promptly at the school gates. It is essential that social distancing regulations are strictly adhered to.

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Collection of Packs

The teachers have prepared a pack including exercise books etc to assist with home learning. Your child's pack will be available to collect at school on **Monday 11th January between 11am and 2.45 pm.** If you are self- isolating or displaying COVID -19 symptoms, please do not come to school. Contact the school office to make necessary arrangements.

The health and safety of all our parents and school staff is paramount. With this in mind, it is essential that social distancing regulations are strictly adhered to. We ask that all parents/guardians wear a mask when collecting their child's pack. When you arrive in school, please stand at a cone in the school car park and allow at least 2 metres between each parent.

We would ask that you do not approach the fire exit door, at the Assembly Hall, until prompted to do so by a member of staff. Your child's pack will be placed on a table at the fire exit door. We also kindly request that no parents enter the school building at this point in time.

We urge parents not to gather at the school gates and to please leave the school grounds promptly after collecting your child's pack.

Trusting you understand, that the measures we are putting in place, are to ensure the health and safety of all our parents and the entire school community.

Please stay safe everyone.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn