

# St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that it has been 5 weeks now since our pupils last attended school. We continue to miss them very much and they remain in the thoughts of our staff every day. This is certainly going to be an unusual Term 3, one that is not what we sought or desired. At the start of Term 2 we could never have envisaged or imagined the position we are currently in. In mid-March, within the matter of a few days, we as a school had to reimagine education in a completely new way. We had to move from the physical to the virtual, whilst at the same time come to terms with a world-wide pandemic. This has been a challenge for us all.

We have all had to adjust to a new way of living and you the parents have been doing a fantastic job. As a school we are not asking you to become your child's teacher; it is impossible to replicate the classroom at home. What we are asking is that you try, as best you can, to do a little bit of work with your child each day. This will be different for every family and child. Try and develop your own daily routine. Plan your day with small, achievable goals and celebrate those when completed. Your routine has to be one that works for you as a family. Use the Home Learning packs (which will be distributed next week) and the resources posted on the Home Learning Area of the school website, as best you can. You do not have to complete all of these. The most important thing is that you are all safe and happy. As a school we are working to try and support all of you as best we can, but we do recognise that individual families have different needs and priorities. When we return to school we will endeavour to get your child back on track and to ensure that they reach their full potential, but this will take a little time and your support.

Over recent days there has been some media speculation about the reopening of schools. The UK Education Secretary of State has said that there is no set date for a return to school. As yet we have heard nothing from our Department of Education nor from our Education Minister. As it stands we are closed until at least the 7<sup>th</sup> May. We will keep you informed of any updates that we receive regarding schools reopening. As a school we will continue to communicate with you in a number of different ways, including the school texting service, email, school website and the school Facebook page.

As a school we are here to support you. Please do not feel overwhelmed. Do not hesitate to email me if you need any information or clarification regarding Home Schooling. You can also message the class teacher on the comments tab in the Home Learning Area on the school website if you need support. We are all finding these circumstances challenging. Could I also re-emphasise if anyone is having difficulties or needs to talk, we as a school are here to support and help you during these difficult times.

Stay safe and well and I hope I will see you all soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Louise Quinn

Acting Principal