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| Capture***Principal: Miss R Robinson******Tel: 028 38851778******Fax: 028 38852568****B Ed (Hons) M Ed PQH*  |  **St Mary’s Primary School****84 Maghery Road****Maghery****Dungannon****Co Tyrone****BT71 6PA**  |

25th Februrary 2021

Dear Parents. Again I hope this finds you all well.

Please read the following extracts from a letter sent to all Principals on the 24th February 2021 from Minister Weir.

“From 8 March until 19 March, pupils in P1 to P3 will return to full-time face-to-face teaching. This does not include any children in other primary school years who may be in composite classes with these pupils;

In recognition that any further increase in pupil attendance before mid-April has the potential to impact on the trajectory of the pandemic, the Executive have decided that to enable the return of qualification years, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery and pupils in P1-3 for the week beginning 22 March until the planned start of the Easter holidays for individual schools. Pre-school, nursery and primary schools pupils in P1 to P3 will then return to full-time face-to-face teaching after the Easter holiday

My objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but I recognise this has to be balanced against the public health position.

Schools are reminded that breakfast clubs, education visits, inter school sports and after school activities should remain paused until at least 12 April or until advised otherwise.

School meal services should be offered for those classes and year groups attending schools”

Hence those children availing of supervised learning will need to bring a packed lunch to school.

In preparation for the return to school the staff composite in St Mary’s from 8th March until 19th March will be as follows:

Miss E Campbell to teach Primary 1&2 (in school)

Miss R Robinson to teach Primary 3 (in school) and will prepare work for remote learning for Primary 4

Mrs L McAvera to teach and prepare remote learning for Primary 5,6&7

Mrs S Copeland to support Primary 4-7 teachers and children with remote learning

As we operate with a small staff, the return to school on the 8th March no doubt has made it extremely difficult for us to cater for parents and children who wish to avail of supervised learning. Over this past few weeks we have seen an increase in those wishing to avail of this service and thankfully have been able to accommodate everyone. As our staff are actively engaged in the above teaching roles, I ask that you work with us and only avail of the supervised learning service if you have no other means of child care. For now the protocol will still remain the same should you wish to book a place in school. Please contact the office and leave your name before 12 noon of the Thurday previous.

We have had no further up-date regarding transport from the 8th March onwards but will inform you when this information is made available.

Please also be reminded that the school will be closed on the 17th and 18th March.

Please remember that online applications for secondary school opens on 1st March via the EA website portal.

For Primary 6 parents, we are still unsure as to the procedure regarding the transfer tests next year. However if you wish your child to take part in the test please can you message Mrs McAvera through google classroom by next Wednesday and she will pass on your details to me.

We have no further up-date from Armagh regarding the Sacraments. However for Confirmation, St Mary’s Maghery and St John’s Eglish will join together in celebration at 2pm on Friday 16th April. At present Fr Garrett believes the child, parents and sponsor will be the only ones who are able to attend. Fr Garrett will officiate at the ceremony. I know Mrs McAvera is busy preparing Confirmation packs to send home. These are to be collected on Monday 8th March. Please ring the school office and someone will bring the pack to the school gate. Please also complete the Confirmation Cards she has sent to all children online.

Primary 4’s had been practising their Act of Sorrow and Confiteor in preparation for First Confession so it would be great if you would continue on with this for now. No date has been arranged as yet for this Sacrament. However it is looking likely that this will be a small ceremony around the time of First Holy Communion.

It is great to see the good weather. Hopefully it will continue and lift our spirits.

Take care of yourselves

Miss R Robinson