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| T:\logo\Capture.JPG  ***Principal: Miss R Robinson***  ***B Ed (Hons) M ED PQH***  ***Tel: 028 38851778***  ***Fax: 028 38852568*** | **St Mary’s Primary School**  **84 Maghery Road**  **Maghery**  **Dungannon**  **Co Tyrone**  **BT71 6PA** |
| **16/03/2021** |  |

**Dear Parents,**

**I hope this finds you well.**

**As many of you are now aware, we have received Government directive that all Primary School Children will return to school on Monday 22nd March. As a staff we are looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school after a long spell of remote learning.**

**I can brief you as follows:**

**Buses will operate for both morning and evening journeys. Please ensure your child has a mask. However we are still not in a positon to provide after school’s facilities to children from Primary 1-3. (As outlined in Mr Weir’s letter) We hope this will change in the future. For now, the Primary 1-3 day will finish at 2pm and Primary 4-7 will finish at 3.15pm.**

**School dinners will be available to all children. I am unsure as to whether or not payments made directly to parents for Free School Meals will continue to operate or cease. I will up-date you upon further clarification.**

**As we all recognise, Covid is still prominent. We in St Mary’s still desire to keep everyone as safe as possible. Therefore upon return to school, we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child brings the following to school:**

* **Own stationary (to include pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, colouring in materials – all within a pencil case).**
* **Own hand sanitizer and small packet of tissues.**

**Please ensure that this is brought to school on the first day. These can remain in school. All children need to bring a healthy snack to school for break. At present we still cannot provide this. Please remember we are a NUT FREE ZONE and to check the contents of any foods which contain nuts before sending any foods to school.**

**We will still operate the same method for homework’s whereby a folder will be sent home on Monday. This needs to be returned by Friday with all the essential books that the class teacher requests. This makes it a lot easier for classroom organisation.**

**All homework needs to be submitted daily on to Seesaw (Primary 1&2) and on to Google Classroom for Primary 3-7.**

**We will begin a period of benchmarking with Primary 4-7 next week. Hence please bear with us until this has been implemented. Homework’s will follow accordingly. For week 1 (beginning 22nd March) (Primary 4-7) spelling homework will be on Google Classroom. Mrs Copeland will mark Primary 1-3 homework remotely until Easter. Please keep a close eye on Google Classroom and Seesaw for up-dates.**

**The same entrance and exit rules still apply as before. Children need to remain off site until 9am until a member of staff comes on to duty. Primary 1&2 will exit through their class side door, Primary 3 and 4, through the back door, Primary 5,6&7 through the canteen door and the Playgroup through the front door. Each bubble has their own assigned toilets. Should you need to collect or bring your child to school during a time which is during school hours, please ring the phone number on the school gate and a member of staff will meet you. In the interest of our safety, please do not enter on-site.**

**The DE legislation advocates that parents and those who collect children remain two metres apart at the school gates. They also advocate the wearing of mask for all adults. We would be very grateful if you would support this.**

**When collecting children please leave the car and come to the gate to collect them. The road past the school is very busy especially with large lorries. Please pass these messages on to others who may be collecting your children.**

**PE will resume for all on Tuesday and will continue for every Tuesday there on in. Children please wear a plain white polo-shirt and plain navy bottoms. (no markings). The school will close for the Easter holiday on Thursday 1st April at the revised time of 12 noon. There will be a bus in operation to bring children to school that morning but not on the return journey home.**

**We still await further pronouncements in regards to the Sacraments.**

**Again on behalf of staff I thank you wholeheartedly for all you support during these past few difficult months. What you have achieved with your child has been invaluable. Be proud of yourselves. Please remember however that we are not out of the woods yet so we still all need to remain vigilant. If we can do so, hopefully it will lead to a brighter Summer for us all.**

**Take care,**

**Miss R Robinson**