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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** |

12th January 2021

Dear Parents,

First of all I want to acknowledge the effort you have all gone to support our staff with remote learning. We are all trying our best to keep education going for our pupils and it is great to see the effort you are making. We really appreciate this and will be on hand to answer any queries as soon as we possibly can. As I am sure that you can appreciate, it can be difficult however to answer immediately as staff are busy preparing different levels of work, looking for the best ways to make teaching and learning as pupil and parent friendly as possible, uploading work, marking and keeping contact with kids and parents. To all the children, well done. We are proud of what you are doing.

There are a range of activities uploaded but recognising that times are difficult, should you want to focus on Literacy and Numeracy please do so. We full appreciate that not all family circumstances are the same. All we ask is that you try your best. The children may enjoy the other activities so they are there for you to explore.

We are all aware by now what the NI Executive classify as a key worker. **We have also been told that this supervised learning in school is only to be used if parents have exhausted all means necessary for child care.** PHA would indicate that the best possible place for us all now is at home and that less mixing in bubbles decreases the risk of catching Covid. Perhaps this will be the only way we will be able to return to normality as soon as possible, with children availing of the full educational and social experiences that our school has to offer.

**With this in mind, please only use the supervised learning service in St Mary’s if there is no one else available to care for your child on a particular day**. **Please do not use this service if there is an adult who can be at home with your child/children.** No doubt we are all committed to trying to protect our young people, our families, our staff and the wider community, many of whom may be in vulnerable situations and have stories to tell of their own.

For a child to attend school on a particular day or week, this needs to be booked before 12 noon on the Thursday previous. This is **essential,** as a rota needs to be put in place, and bubbles of a social distance of 2 metres to be organised and adhered to. Please ring the school or leave a voice message and someone will correspond with you before the Friday of the previous week. **This phonecall needs to be made every week to book a place for the next week. Children cannot just arrive at school without prior booking the week previous. It is not possible to ‘block book’ for weeks in advance as circumstances change.**

Finally, as I am sure many of you have seen, we are getting a lot of work completed around the school. It is great to see it and we owe a huge thanks to some of our parents and the EA Maintence crew who have went over and beyond to see this work finally being carried through.

Stay safe everyone. You are in our prayers daily. Continue to look out and after one another as has always been the way in this community.

Miss R Robinson