

Dear Parents,

We are now closed a week and I hope that you are all safe and well. I know that this is a very difficult and worrying time for you all. As well as worrying about keeping your children and yourself safe, I am aware that many of you are also caring for other family relatives and elderly parents. I know that you may also have financial worries at this time when so many are losing their jobs.

It will be difficult self- isolating with the children. I know that they will want to be out playing with their friends in this lovely weather. They will be grumpy and fed up in the house all day and this will lead to additional challenges for you especially if you have several children. I am sure your patience will be stretched over the next few weeks.

Staff have worked hard and are continuing to work daily from home preparing work to help keep the children’s mind active and also to create some routine for them. Having a set routine for the children each day will make it easier for them and yourselves. Staff will upload work each Friday for the children to complete the following week. There are loads of companies also offering fun on line activities for your children to get involved in. As well as the work being set by staff, we hope the children will also get a chance to take part in some physical and creative activities.

I am very aware of the challenges that online learning and teaching the children at home presents for parents. I know that it may be difficult trying to access online learning if you have several children trying to use a computer at the same time and I am also aware that some of you are also trying to work from home. We would ask you to try to get the children to do some work daily but we also know that some days you or the children may be too stressed to complete what has been set. This is fine. This work is set to help occupy your child, it is not there to cause additional stress at this very difficult time. I know that many of you are communicating with your child’s teacher via Seesaw and they will be saying to you the same as I am.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the work they are doing from home. This is new to our staff and they are continually developing new ICT skills to enable them to support the pupils. They are continually seeking out new and varied activities for your child and are also communicating to you on Seesaw. I am very proud of the work they are doing.

I would also like to thank the staff who are coming into school each day working with the children of key workers so that they can continue their valuable work. Once again testimony to the dedication and commitment of our staff.

This is a very difficult time for parents and there is a lot of pressure on you and the children. We do not want the stress of this to affect you or your child’s mental health. If you are worried or concerned, need some support or even just need to talk, I am in the school each day or you can contact me on my email address which is in your child’s pack. I am here if you or your child need me. Hopefully I can listen, help or point you in the right direction of someone who can. Please remember that you are not alone and we will get through this together as a community.

It was a very abrupt end for the children and I know many of them will miss out on special events planned for this year. I promise that I will do something special for the P7 children who have missed so much. I will get them back together for a Leavers Mass, an end of year trip or a fun day so that they can get the opportunity to say goodbye to their friends. I will try to get First Communion and First Penance organised as quickly as possible.

We miss the children and yourselves but the important thing is staying safe, healthy and sane. Do not stress or worry just try to stay look after yourselves and take this opportunity to relax and enjoy family time. Hopefully this nightmare will end soon and we will get back to normality. I am looking forward to the day when we are back together and I feel that we will be stronger and more united as a result of it.

Take care everyone. Stay safe

Thank you

Mrs F Boyd