



Tobermore Primary School

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Principal: Mr. Ian Cheevers



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent(s),

As we begin what is expected to be a long period of school closure, I wish as best as I can to explain to you how we will work together during this period. This will be a difficult time for our school community; however, I believe this will also be a period of time whereby the best of our collective school community shines through.

I have previously explained the rationale behind the activity packs that most of your children should have now received. I now wish to inform you about how we will manage the children's learning and how we will communicate with each other during the period of closure.

Your first port of call for information should be our school website. Throughout our period of closure, the website will be updated with new and important information, as well as other relevant links to your child's learning. Our school Facebook page and 'NI Schools' app will also be used to relay information to you.

To add to this, your child's teacher will also be available to communicate with you via email. This will be during normal school hours. Please contact your child's teacher with any queries you may have in relation to the activity packs that have been sent home.

Mrs Speers	cspeers883@c2kni.net
Mrs Smyth	jsmyth262@c2kni.net
Mrs Hawthorne	hhawthorne284@c2kni.net
Mr Cheevers	lccheevers766@c2kni.net

If you need to contact the school, please use the following email address info@tobermoreps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk
Leave your name and number and I will endeavor to get back to you.

With regards to the activity packs and home learning, we will be in touch with all parents in a number of weeks with how to collect or download further materials and what should be done with completed activities. This information will be relayed to you once again via our school website and Facebook page so please keep a regular eye on these platforms.

Whilst I am sure the period ahead is daunting for both children and parents, we want to reassure you that any help you can give your child will be invaluable. Please also take time to do fun things with your children - read together, go for walks, paint, play board games, laugh and make the most of this strange situation.

Children also need routine, so as best as you can try to stick to regular times to complete any work set. Keeping the children in routine will also mean that they are less likely to become frustrated or anxious when asked to complete schoolwork at home.

This rough timetable may give you some guidance in how to plan your day.

Time	Activity
Before 9am	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get washed/dressed.
9am-10am	Complete any spellings/mental maths activities.
10am-11am	Lego, draw, music, bake, play, have a snack.
11am-12pm	Complete a Numeracy or Literacy activity set by your teacher.
12pm-1pm	Lunch - Get some fresh air!
1pm-1:30pm	Reading - Book sent by teacher or one chosen from home.
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Complete a different Numeracy or Literacy activity set by your teacher.
2:30pm-3pm	Get active and enjoy some exercise.

** This is just an idea for how you might plan your child's day. By no means is it going to suit every day and every family situation.*

This is a unique situation for us all, however I would also like to share my thanks to all the staff at our school who have been working incredibly hard during these difficult circumstances, showing the upmost professionalism. They care deeply about all the children and will continue to put the needs and welfare of your children first. Please remember that this is a rapidly changing situation and staff are working with the most recent information given to them.

We are also truly gutted at school. This should not be how your child's year at school ends. Our thoughts are with our year 7 pupils in particular. They are a wonderful group of children who have made a vast contribution to the life of our school during their time here and if this is how their final year at Tobermore Primary School will end, I would like to wish them every success in the future at their new school.

In the days ahead there will be many more difficult moments and many events that will change how we work as a school. I look forward to the time when we can get back to some form of normality, but for now it is important that we work together for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ian Cheevers
(Principal)