



Dromore Road Primary School

Upper Dromore Road
Warrenpoint
County Down
BT34 3JH

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well. The events of the last few weeks have resulted in significant changes to normal routine for us all, and as lockdown eases over the coming months it will be nice to return to a sense of normality. I would like to begin by thanking you for the excellent job you are doing with home-schooling your children. I understand how difficult this has been for many of you as you attempt to balance your work and other commitments, whilst supporting your children with their schoolwork. You have done a great job!

SEESAW ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM

Since school closed on 19 March, teachers have continued with planning and providing work, thinking of interesting ideas to keep our children motivated and learning. Online learning has been a steep learning curve for us all and we will continue to explore ways to improve its effectiveness as we plan for reopening in the new school year.

We plan to assign tasks next week as normal but there will be no spellings. We will try to make these tasks fun and engaging, as we know it is getting harder and harder to keep momentum for home schooling. During the week beginning 22 June, all final tasks for the school year will be assigned on the Monday. This will allow you to take a more flexible approach, as we near the end of term. Please complete tasks throughout the week as and when suits your home routine. Teachers will continue to respond and give feedback to items added to the pupils' Seesaw journals throughout the week as regularly as they can but please be aware staff will be required in school periodically to work on things and will also be finalising reports too.

Please continue to view the school website and get involved in our whole school challenges. We have tried to use our website to keep connected during this period of school closure and we have added some videos recently from across the whole school. This week's challenge is a 'Bake Off' and we look forward to sharing the images of your child's fabulous creations and the following week will be our virtual Talent Contest!

COLLECTION OF BOOKS

As school ended so abruptly, there wasn't the chance to send home books. These can be collected as follows on Friday 19 June:

P1/2 9:30-10:15am

P2/3 10:15-11:00am

P4/5 11:00-11:45am

P6/7 11:45-12:30pm

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Please collect your child's belonging from Mrs McParland in the main reception area. We would kindly ask that only one family is inside the porch at a time and that current social distancing measures are observed when waiting outside.

If these times do not suit, you are welcome to collect books any day during the week beginning 22 June. Please just ring Mrs McParland to check school is open before calling.

AUTUMN RESTART

We have very little idea at this stage what a return to school in late August/September will look like, but we have already begun the process of thinking through a number of scenarios and options. However, we await further information from the Department of Education and the Education Authority.

Whatever form a return to school takes, I assure you that our number one priority will be our children. What we do know at present is (although this could change!):

- There may be an earlier than usual return to school for some pupils in August, possibly starting with P7 pupils.
- There is likely to be a return to school on a part time, phased basis for pupils. At this point we do not know how many days a week but if media reports are accurate it could be two days a week. This is in order to facilitate social distancing.
- When all year groups return there will be a combination of learning both in school and at home; 'blended learning'.

It is likely that information will be forwarded to schools at the end of June or over the summer months and once I have a clearer picture, I will update you via the website.

REPORTS

Report formats have been amended slightly and will be issued as in previous years, reflecting the fact that school closed on 19 March. Reports will be posted on Monday 29 June.

P7 PUPILS

School closure has had an impact on everyone but in particular our P7 pupils. It is with a deep sense of regret that events such as our trip to East Coast, Final Assembly, Prize Giving and Mystery Trip will not take place as in previous years. However, school leavers' hoodies have been



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arranged and orders are being processed at present! We will be in contact with our P7 parents before the end of term to arrange collection. We have also collated a P7 video, tracking their time at Dromore Road, and we will be putting this on our website on Monday 29 June. In recognition of the fact our P7s have missed out on so many of the fun things traditionally done to mark the end of their school year, we have decided that P7 pupils will have no Seesaw activities assigned after Friday 19 June.

UNIFORMS

As we are likely to be returning to school on a part time basis initially next term, I have decided to streamline our uniform for the incoming 2020/21 school year. Parents will only be required to purchase a school logoed tracksuit, logoed polo shirt and black trainers/shoes. Plimsolls may also be necessary for PE but this will depend on whether the assembly hall needs to be utilised for additional teaching space due to current social distancing measures.

Only clothing with our new logo should be worn next year please, and to ensure consistency in colour and style, uniforms should be purchased from our official supplier. Tracksuits can be ordered via email through the following address: saintsandscholarsorders@gmail.com or by telephone and can be either collected or delivered with a charge for delivery. Saints and Scholars are also adding our school to their online shopping page and we will update you when this has been set up.

Sweatshirts come in chest sizes 24-36 inches and are £13 each.

Jogging bottoms come in sizes 22 to 36 (this is the waist measurement) and are £11 each.

Polo Shirts are in ages 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13, and these are £11 each.

If anyone has any old uniforms (with the new logo) that are too small, please leave them into school for recycling.

On behalf of the staff, I want to thank you all for the messages of encouragement and support we have received. This means a great deal. Please continue to work with your children, as best you can, throughout June and I hope to see you when you're calling in for books on Friday 19 June.

Yours faithfully
Sharon McGrath (PRINCIPAL)