



Dromore Road Primary School

Upper Dromore Road
Warrenpoint
County Down
BT34 3JH

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the extended school half term break. Hopefully you all had a restful break and enjoyed some quality family time together. It is hard to believe that it we're in November already and the purpose of this letter is just to keep you updated regarding events in the school in the next coming weeks. Please remember to keep up-to-date via our website www.dromoreroadps.com and if you have not downloaded the school app we would encourage you to do so, as soon as possible.

Mrs McParland is currently setting up the School Web Design messaging service and you should get a test text in the next few weeks. If you have not sent in your permission slip can we encourage you to do as soon as possible. We'll also send home a paper copy tomorrow as a reminder and add a copy to Seesaw for you to fill in online if you'd prefer.

Return after half term

A big thank you to all our parents who have been following the measures we have implemented to try and keep our school community safe. Our staggered start and finish times will continue this term and to ensure a good flow of traffic in the car park, we would ask parents to avoid parking in the centre of the car park at hometime.

In returning to school after the extended break, the Education Minister has recognised that parents/carers are at the heart of fighting the virus, and minimising any disruption to education. As well as families, abiding by all the necessary health restrictions, Mr Weir has reiterated for parents and carers not to congregate at school gates when they are dropping off their children, to always practise good social distancing, wear a mask and to try to avoid going beyond the school gate unless parents have an appointment. We thank parents in advance for their cooperation in following the latest guidance.

Parent Interviews

We plan to reschedule our parent telephone interviews next week and to reduce further disruption to the children's school day we will only be closing early on Friday 13th November to facilitate interviews that require translation. Kindly note that the school will **close early** on Friday 13th to facilitate these meetings.

P6/7 – collection time 1.20pm
P2/3 – collection time 1.25pm

P1 and P4/5 – collection time 1.30pm



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The majority of parent phone calls will be fitted around our teaching commitments and this will obviously differ from class to class, depending on when we can facilitate adequate levels of classroom supervision and access to telephone lines. Mrs McParland will send out a text tomorrow with an approximate time and we would ask parents to try to be available to take the call. If for whatever reason the time is unsuitable, please feel free to contact us either via the school office or by sending a message via Seesaw and we'll rearrange the telephone meeting.

In maintaining good relationships and open lines of communication with parents, we would encourage you to phone or email Mrs McParland at any time, if you have a query or wish to speak to a member of staff.

Homework/ Remote Learning

The Department of Education has issued correspondence to schools requesting that we have contingency plans in place for periods of blended or remote learning. With the Covid situation being so fluent, we have decided to continue to use Seesaw to support homework arrangements and as a platform for pupils who need to self-isolate.

Teachers will upload an announcement each week, with a classroom update and their expectation for homework. It is important that this is viewed by parents and that homework is completed each night and uploaded for marking. Thank you to those parents that have made the school aware of ICT issues.

All pupils now also have login details for Reading Eggs and Mathletics and these will be built into homeworks during the week. P4-7 also still has access to Accelerated Reader and should be encouraged to read their AR book for at least 20 minutes per day and to test regularly.

If any parents need support in using Seesaw, Reading Eggs or Mathletics please contact Mrs McParland in the office and we will organise a socially distanced training session so that you feel more confident about how you can support your child with home learning.

P4-7 Homework Club begins next week

As part of our extended school provision we plan to offer pupils in P4-7 the opportunity to avail of a homework club. I pads will also be available for pupils to access in order to complete AR tests, Reading Eggs or Mathletics. This club will be held in the assembly hall, starting next week for five weeks and will be supervised by a classroom assistant.



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P4/5 - Monday from 2.50pm-3.40pm

P6/7 – Tuesday from 2.50-3.40pm

A permission slip will be uploaded to your child's Seesaw account before the end of the week.

Anti-bullying Week/ Odd Socks Day

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is: United Against Bullying. Anti-Bullying Week will happen from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November and will start with Odd Socks Day to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. Pupils are encouraged to wear odd socks with their uniform on Monday 16th November to highlight that we are all unique. The crazier the better!

Macmillan Cancer

Due to the Executive's decision to close schools early before half term, our planned non-uniform fundraiser was cancelled. Instead, we plan to have a bun day to raise funds for Macmillan and we would encourage each child to bring a bun or tray bake for their break on Friday 13th November and bring a £1 to donate to Macmillan. We hope this will be a fun experience for the pupils.

Head Lice

Unfortunately, head lice have been reported as being an issue again in several of our classes. Please check your child's hair and treat as required.

Attendance

Please remember to inform the office of planned and unplanned absences in order for the correct code to be allocated on the system. If you require advice related to Covid19, please contact your GP or ring the Covid 19 helpline on 111. Please also remember to keep the school informed of any test results.

Support

We recognise that Covid19 has had a significant impact on some of our families both financially and in terms of their health and well-being. As a school, we would encourage you to get in touch if you need help as we may be able to signpost you to appropriate organisations.

Yours sincerely,

S. McGrath
(Principal)