

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents,

RE: Remote Learning

We have been told by DE & CCMS to have contingency plans in place in the event of:

1. Teaching Staff being off ill and no cover teacher available
2. Staggered reopening at any time as directed by NI Executive and DE
3. Future lockdowns as directed by NI Executive.

The only way to address such circumstances, is through Remote Learning.

As such, we will use the school website as before and each Class P1 - P5, who already have a designated class link for Home Learning, under which staff will upload tasks for children to complete. Google Classroom is the platform used for P6 & P7.

1. In regard to staff unavailability, as this will be very short notice, a text message, to tell parents of children in specific class/es that a teacher is not available, will be sent out. Work will be uploaded to the Home Learning area for that class/es concerned for core subject areas (Reading/Literacy and Maths) for children to complete.

As the teacher is off ill and no replacement available, there will not be any interaction online nor feedback on the day/s this provision must be made.

Please be assured that this will be a last resort if a qualified teacher cannot be sourced to take over a class and it will be for the minimum amount of days possible and is subject to risk assessment.

2. In response to 2 above, should staggered return to schools be implemented by NI Executive, then Remote Learning will take place for classes who remain off until they return to school full time as directed by NI Executive.

Teachers in this scenario, will teach remotely as before, uploading instructional videos and tasks for each group who remain at home. Teachers will respond to questions and queries via online and will feedback on work completed and uploaded by parents for them to view.

Google Classroom will be interactive for P6 and P7 as directed by teachers and pupils of P6 and P7 will be shown how to use Google Classroom before Christmas break.

3. In response to 3 above and NI Executive calling for complete school closures and lockdown, all classes will be remotely taught as detailed above (P1 - P5 via Home Learning links on website, and P6 & P7 via Google Classroom.)

Please note, this communication is to inform you of the essential contingency planning for possible disruption to a child's learning due to COVID from this point forward.

Resources:

Most of the activities can be completed WITHOUT downloading. Answers can be worked out or responses written on paper and then scanned or copied to teacher via website or Google Classroom.

Reading Materials:

Last year we invested in a whole school licence for Collins to assign and track reading for all pupils. While this gave a wonderful variety of books and opportunity to read, children told us afterwards, there was little incentive to engage on an ongoing basis with the resources - 'There was no fun...'

Before renewing the licence for Collins we have trialled a few other resources and arrived at 'Reading Eggs (P1 - 3) and Eggspress (P3 - 7) P3 and P4 kindly trialled the resources in school and at home and they have raved about the fun and challenge they were having using this resources.

Staff have evaluated and decided that we should invest in a whole school licence for 'Reading Eggs and Eggspress.'

This will be the site we will use from January and every class will be introduced to it before Christmas and they will be assigned work once or twice a week for Home Learning from mid-January 2022.

All Usernames and Passwords for each child will be sent home with children and in a short letter to parents via website in January. Instructions on accessing this resource will also be included in the letter.

'Splash Learn UK'.

This is an additional resource that can be used across the school for remote learning. Our P1/2 pupils are already familiar with this resource and P3 from last year. It focuses on Mathematics and is a resource that P1 - 7 will avail off when required.

Once again, children will be shown how to access and use the site in school and all Usernames and passwords will be sent home with them and sent out to parents in January via website.

'TableFables', 'Top Marks', IXL, 'White Rose Maths' and 'Corbet Math's are also websites the staff will utilise for Home Learning remotely, among others.

The important thing is communication and to monitor closely the activities of all pupils online. Know what your child is doing and engage in all they do. Staff in P6 and P7 will monitor closely all exchanges on Google Classroom and pupils will know that this will happen.

Access to Laptops and i-Pads.

In order for online and remote learning to happen all children need access to laptops or tablets. Using an i-phone is not a large enough screen for them to use.

It is vital that parents let the school know if they do not have access to such devices to support their child/rens learning before Christmas to allow us to communicate and find alternative provision for you.

Many thanks for all your support and hopefully, we can stay at school and these contingency plans can remain exactly that - contingency.

With very best wishes,

Anne McGuinness.