***“To be the best we can be every day, in every way!”***

ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Hello to everyone!

It’s so hard to believe that we are into a second month of lockdown measures isn’t it? If you are like me, there are days when this is fine and other days when I just can’t seem to settle to anything constructive – I can only guess how confusing it must be for your children!!

Can I firstly thank you all for the great manner in which you have taken on the role of home educator on top of parenting and also for many the additional hat of working from home.

We have received many emails and messages regarding the quantity of work to be downloaded for each child daily. It is amazing how, without realising it, we had added more than we intended in our efforts to provide children with as much as possible in order to learn and master new concepts while consolidating more familiar skills and knowledge. Equally, with the website ‘crashing’ on us on Monday this week due to work demands and user traffic, we must evaluate how best to utilise our on-line remote learning platform.

To this end, we will, from Monday 27th April, reduce the quantity of sheets per child that must be printed off daily to 2 or 3 sheets at a time for use at home. Many of the other worksheets do not require printing but can be downloaded and worked on screen; others can be copied manually and completed this way and others can be simply answered on a page without downloading the page. Teachers will also ask for alternative work to be done eg finding words with particular sounds around the room; learning facts such as tables or addition facts etc.

Please, do what you can and do it well! This will stay with your child more than multiple sheets that send them into a trance. For extension work, should you want to use it, teachers will signpost you to web sites and provide web links to activities that they have checked are appropriate for your child at their age, and for the topic they are doing.

As always, please do remember the essential value of reading every day for every child. If you can share the book with them, that is just the best experience they can get. For older children, they need to have silent reading time daily and ask them to tell you about what they read each day. Please make sure your child/ren keep reading at all times every day to ensure they continue to develop their vocabulary and understanding of how language works.

Above all, spend time outside with them at home; Spring is well in bloom and provides an enchanting medium for discovery and investigation, enjoy this if you can.

Regarding enquiries about First Holy Communion for this year, unfortunately, this celebration is ‘on hold’ until meetings and mass gatherings are allowed once again by Government. As soon as this is allowed, P4 parents will be informed immediately when consultation with Canon Benny have been made.

If there is anything you think we can help with further during these very strange times, please, do not hesitate to email the school on:

[info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk)

and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Take care and stay safe,

with very best wishes, always,

Anne Mc Guinness (Principal)