14.10.20

Dear Parents,  
  
Due to today’s announcement from Stormont we regret to inform you that we will be closing for an extended holiday on Friday 16th October, where we aim to return to school on Monday 2nd November. This will change our planned holidays for Halloween so looking ahead we envisage the following:

* **Monday 19th- Friday 23rd October**: Remote learning. School closed. Pupils supported by Teachers.
* **Monday 26th- Friday 30th October:** Mid-term. Halloween Break
* **Monday 2nd November:** School reopens for all.

This disruption is the last thing our school wanted. We were the first school back working with all pupils, full time from 24th August and have been able to manage a very difficult period with pupils very settled and learning. I wish to pay tribute to all our staff who have gone the extra mile to give your child the best. We will continue to do so in the forthcoming months.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

We will have to postpone our planned phone calls from teachers regarding your child’s progress until week beginning Monday 16th November all being well. Teachers are currently doing check-ups and baseline assessments which have been cut short so we will try and keep those days and times the same but hopefully in a few weeks’ time.

**Home Learning**

While schools have been advised from DE not to provide remote learning for next week, we wish to offer that support and will do so with work (hard copies) for next week being sent home on Thursday 15th October and teachers will be communicating with you via Class Dojo throughout next week. Pupils will also have the option of using Mathletics online programme. If unfamiliar with it, pupils will be given usernames, passwords and guidance on how to access assigned work from teachers. Older pupils are very familiar with the programme. P2 pupils have the option of using a programme called Lexia. We signed them up for a free trial and you may find this useful. Mrs Conlon and Mrs Mc Kernan will direct you on this.

Pupils will be bringing home new guided reading books and Accelerated Reading books (P4-7) for next week and encouraged to keep reading throughout the break.

**Halloween Fancy Dress.**

As mentioned on the school text service today, we aim to have our dress up day this Friday 16th October. I know it is very late notice but the children have worked very hard and we have built up to this celebration with the School Council’s Halloween raffle and Christine has spent a lot of time preparing decorations in the school. If pupils would like to purchase any more tickets, they can do so before Friday. To cancel it would be unfair for our pupils. Please don’t go to any trouble in sourcing an outfit. If pupils can’t get one, then pupils can wear their own clothes, but hopefully all can organise something to go along with our planned class parties.

**Communication**

Our Class Dojo will be the most direct way to communicate with your child next week. It has been a very useful tool for us and we hope to use it more and more. Teachers will be able to support you next week, but I have insisted that teachers take the following week clear from work as they have been under a lot of pressure maintaining busy classes from mid August. Pupils too will need that week away from school as they have worked very hard and I have spoken to them on many occasions about how proud we all are at how they settled back and worked each day.

As always the best way to communicate with myself will be via email: cmonaghan632@c2kni.net

**Outstanding Monies**

Could I please insist that any outstanding breakfast club, minding club and dinner monies be paid before Friday 16th October.

**Looking Ahead**

All being well we can return to school on Monday 2nd November. If school is open, then so will breakfast club and minding club. If school is not then we will do our best to support our pupils, but I very much doubt schools will stay closed. The best place for our pupils is school and please God, we can see them return on Monday 2nd November.

Best Wishes,

Ciaran