



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

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15th October 2020

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, yesterday it was announced that our school will close for all pupils tomorrow (Friday 16th October) for a period of two weeks and is planned to reopen on Monday 2nd November 2020.

These last few weeks our pupils and staff have demonstrated great resilience in making our school a safe, welcoming and caring schooling community. Our pupils have worked really hard to develop their learning and our teachers planned engaging lessons and class tasks and activities to facilitate that learning, greatly assisted by our Classroom Assistants and supported by our Cooks, Building Supervisor, Cleaners and School Secretary. It is in this spirit, and to help maintain momentum, that our class teachers have put together a home learning pack for each child to compliment learning at home over the next few weeks. This work will be sent home with your child on Friday but it should not be returned to school and is to be supervised by parents at home.

We recently began to introduce our schooling community to "Microsoft Teams." This platform is designed to facilitate "online" or "blended" learning but as the Minister of Education stated yesterday, this 2-week period is, "...not intended to be used for remote learning," therefore teachers will not be using Microsoft Teams during this particular period of closure. However, should the school not re-open, as intended, on the 2nd November, then we envisage using "Microsoft Teams" to facilitate learning at home.

It has also been confirmed that during the week of 19th October, direct payments will be made to pupils in receipt of free school meals.

Should you wish to get in contact with the school, for any reason, over the next two week period, you can do so by emailing pgilchrist570@c2kni.net

I really hope you all can continue to keep safe and well over this next few weeks and we really hope and look forward to welcoming our schooling community back together again on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Gilchrist
Principal