



'Happy to Learn'

5th February 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we approach Half Term I wanted to highlight how pleased we are as a school at how well the vast majority of our families and children have engaged with remote learning and adapted to this most unusual method of schooling. We recognise that each family circumstance is unique but it is important that our children continue to be introduced to new learning and the reinforcement of the basics to allow them to flourish when schools reopen.

I have been able to follow the work you have all been doing via Seesaw and Google Classroom and it is great to see all of the work being submitted. Please remember that we have been given very clear directives from the Department of Education and it is important that work is being submitted (either via digital means or the returning of printed work packs) in order for a child to receive their present mark. We thank all of those families that have been so good at doing this despite, what we know are very challenging times at home.

REMINDERS

Half Term

Please remember that our Half Term holiday is from **Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February**. Please ensure that both your child(ren) and yourselves take the time to relax and refresh.

School Return

At the time of writing we are still working towards school reopening on **Monday 8th March 2021**. Should there be any further changes to this date I will endeavour to let all our families know in advance. Please remember that I do not hear anything before parents, I frequently am only aware of changes after it has been announced on Twitter or in the press like you.

Supervised Learning

If you are choosing to book your child in for Supervised Learning (either as a Key Worker or vulnerable child) please ensure your child comes to school with their work pack each day and returns with it, if they take it home. It is also important that parents continue to monitor the work their child is doing whilst in school. Could I also remind anyone that has booked their child in, to please inform school should they **not be** sending their child in on a particular day as this has an impact on staffing arrangements.

Penny Wars

The PTA have asked me to pass on their thanks for the donations of copper & 5p coins to each class total. From Term 1 we managed to raise over £140!! Well done to P2 who were the class with the largest total. You will get your prize when school starts again.

Internet Safety Day

With the increased amount of screen time all of our children are currently involved in your class teacher will be sending out a few resources next on Internet Safety Day (Tuesday 9th February). We hope you will find these useful.

Children's Mental Health Week

As we finish Children's Mental Health Week, I hope you all found time to talk and think about the important things at the minute. We know it is a very challenging time for all of our children and they are anxious and worried about a range of issue due to lockdown. It is important that we listen to their concerns and should you need any help, please get in touch with Mrs Armstrong (Designated Teacher) or myself via your class teacher.

Post Primary Admissions

For those with a child in P7, please remember that the Post Primary Online Admissions Portal opens at the beginning of March and admissions criteria is available to view on the EA website now. Don't forget to send Ms Eakin a message should you require an appointment with Ms Eakin & myself to discuss choices before submission.

Finally, thank you again for the kind comments and support provided to our teachers, we all miss being in school and having the children in and have everything crossed for an early return to school, and indeed, normality as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M. Moore
Principal

Principal: Mr M. Moore
Tel.: 02897 563171

Web Address: www.bpschool.co.uk

Croob Park, Ballynahinch, County Down, BT24 8BB