

Newsletter 23—Homebased Learning

28th February 2021



Weekly Services

Zoom—These meetings offer a chance to catch up with staff and pupils.

My School & Fronter (P1-P4)—Work and activities are uploaded regularly here for Homebased Learning.

My School & TEAMS (P5-P7) —Work and activities are uploaded regularly here for Homebased Learning.

Ballyhenry App—Available free from Google Play and App Store, get updates and reminders from school and submit homework for feedback via the app.

Email Contact—Email your child's class teacher with questions or to submit work. Your child's teacher will reply.

Paper Packs—Packs have been prepared for every child. They can be collected on Fridays 2:00 to 3:30 and Mondays 8:00 to 10:30. You can drop off the work your child has completed to be marked. A courtesy phone call will be made if you haven't collected your child's pack. This is to support you in case you need us to drop it off to you because your family is isolating or needs help.

Face-to-Face Supervise Learning—School is open to support the pupils of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. Emails are being sent directly to these families. Remember to complete the appropriate form to access this support. <http://bit.ly/SupervisedLearn> . **If you are in new to this service please email Mrs. Knocker to confirm your participation** lknocker496@c2kni.net

Dates for your Diary

- Supervised learning will end at 12:00 noon on Friday 5th March to allow the school to be “reset” for Face-to-Face Learning for P1 to P3 pupils on Monday 8th March. When face-to-face learning resumes we will continue with all established protocols including:
 - staggered starts/end
 - class bubbles
 - social distancing of adults
 - mask to be worn by all adults in common areas

- Parents/carers should adhere to social distancing and wear a mask when dropping off and collecting their child from school.
- School will be closed on Wednesday 17th March. There will be no face-to-face, supervised or remote learning on this date.
- The current plan is that P1 to P3 pupils will resume homebased learning on Monday 22nd March. However, this arrangement is under review and may change.
- School will be closed from Monday 28th March to Monday 12th April (inclusive).
- Face-to-Face learning will continue for P1 to P3 pupils on Tuesday 13th April. We are waiting for guidance from the government relating to the return to school for P4 to P7 pupils.

Nut Free School



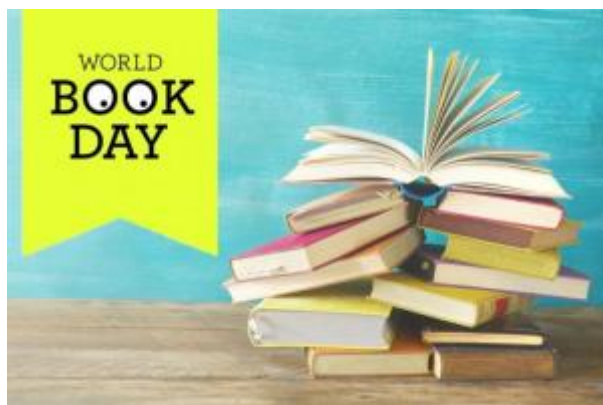
We have recently been informed of two children who have a severe food allergies to peanuts and nuts. It is important there is a strict avoidance to these feeds in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reactions. We are asking for your help to provide all our pupils with a safe school environment. To help reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send your child to school with any products containing peanuts or nuts.

Thank you for your support with these procedures.



World Book Day

There is lots to do this week for “World Book Day”! Your child can enter the colouring competition and book competition to win prizes. There is also a photo challenge —Find a strange place to read a book, take a photo and send it in to Miss Collins (pcollins589@c2ken.net). On Thursday we will have a special “World Book Day Assembly” at 1:30. Why not join in the fun?



Remote learning

Remote learning will continue for all pupils until Friday 5th March. Here are a few reminders which might help it go a little more smoothly:

- Paper packs should be collected on Fridays 2:00-3:30 p.m. or Mondays 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. We will call you if your child's pack is not collected. Remember to drop off any work completed along with reading books etc.;
- We are happy to drop off paper packs to families that are self-isolating;
- Teachers provide extensive support material online. This material will help your child learn and provides links to short videos, PowerPoints and games. P1 to P4 pupils are currently using Fronter. This is accessed through "My School". P5 to P7 pupils are now using Microsoft TEAMS. Teachers are able to monitor online engagement on both these platforms (i.e. Teachers can see when children log on and what they have viewed. This helps teachers understand each pupils needs. Online engagement also contributes to attendance mark.



Online Access at Home

Getting online at home can be difficult. You may be struggling with the cost of WIFI, access to desktop or laptop, have several children trying to use the same device or trying to view school work via your mobile. That makes homebased learning very challenging!

GOOD NEWS: The EA has just extended their scheme! Laptop Loan Scheme and BT Vouchers. You will likely be able to keep the laptops **until at least the summer** to enable them to do additional work. This help is not just for remote learning but includes continued support while we get children back to school and support reengagement and continued learning. There is no guarantee but we will do our best to help you in whatever way we can!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqEy9oaQEKAPlji0dvjYKpVURTgyU01ZQkVUU01QTUEXN1IEWIFJWUc1Wi4u>

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Attendance

The Department of Education requires schools to mark attendance even when children are learning from home. The decision to mark a child present and learning at home is determined by their level of engagement. For us, this means answering these questions:

- Is your child's paper pack being collect and/or are they regularly on Fronter? Remember if you can't come to school we will arrange for someone to drop it off and collect your child's work to be mark.
- Is work being returned for marking either online or through our drop off system?
- Has your child engaged in any Zoom Sessions?
- Have you contributed to Facebook?
- Has there been any telephone/email contact?
- Is your child enrolled in face-to-face supervised learning?

There are a lot of options here and we don't expect everyone to do everything. Instead we are providing lots of choice so that you can choose what is best for your child and your family. Homebased learning is challenging and we have to work together. We just need a little bit of evidence that you and your child are doing your best to engage and do a little bit of work. Unfortunately, we are also being told that we still must make contact with the Education Welfare Service if a child is below 85%. We really need your help to ensure that their support is not necessary. Letters will be sent out this week to pupils for which there is an attendance concern.

Zoom Meetings

The teachers are doing some formal teaching sessions through zoom. Children should bring their whiteboard and pen to each session. If you haven't had a chance to join in, why not give it a go? Simply download Zoom on any device and enter the Meeting ID Number followed by the Passcode: School (capital "S"). You will then be admitted to the waiting room. If your child is a little nervous keep the camera off and let them listen and participate with you. You can see more of the class at one time choose "gallery view" (click in the upper right corner).

Monday

Wave-In 9:30 Meeting ID: **820 6575 1177**

P1 Class Zoom 10:00 Meeting ID: **961 1840 3854**

P2 Class Zoom 10:45 Meeting ID: **954 7788 8732**

P3 Class Zoom 11:15 Meeting ID: **939 9789 3427**

P4 Class Zoom 11:45 Meeting ID: **937 5321 5499**

Children should bring their whiteboards and pens to all zoom meeting.

Password for all Zoom Session: School (Capital "S")

Tuesday

P5 Class Zoom 10:00 Meeting ID: **842 0656 5167**

P6 Class Zoom 10:45 Meeting ID: **851 5913 5506**

P7 Class Zoom 11:15 Meeting ID: **847 7936 7773**

Children should bring their whiteboards and pens to all zoom meeting.

Password for all Zoom Session: School (Capital "S")

Wednesday

P1 Class Zoom 10:00 Meeting ID: **948 1601 9094**

P2 Class Zoom 10:45 Meeting ID: **984 2890 2088**

P3 Class Zoom 11:15 Meeting ID: **917 8933 8841**

P4 Class Zoom 11:45 Meeting ID: **910 3981 5732**

Children should bring their whiteboards and pens to all zoom meeting.

Password for all Zoom Session: School (Capital "S")

Thursday

P5 Class Zoom 10:00 Meeting ID: **858 0643 4504**

P6 Class Zoom 10:45 Meeting ID: **853 3219 6695**

P7 Class Zoom 11:15 Meeting ID: **861 2339 2120**

School Assembly 1:30 Meeting ID: **885 1171 4814**

Children should bring their whiteboards and pens to all zoom meeting.

Password for all Zoom Session: School (Capital "S")

Friday

P7 Feel Good Friday 10:00 Meeting ID: **889 6684 3064**

Children should bring their whiteboards and pens to all zoom meeting.

Password for all Zoom Session: School (Capital "S")

Feel Good Fridays for P7

Start your transition journey to Post-Primary school on the right foot! Join us on zoom weekly for games, quizzes and a virtual circle time hosted by Mrs Morrison, our circle time guru! You will be given a learning journal, gel pens and stickers so you have the right tools for your trip. Feel Good Fridays will continue face-to-face when school returns.

Fridays starting

Friday 26th February

10:00-10:30

Meeting ID: 889 6684 3064

Passcode: School

Find out more by watching this video: <https://prezi.com/v/qzrlr-yur652/hello/>



DENI Information



On Thursday 18th February 2021 the executive announced the following information (as copied from the DENI Website:

Pre-school, nursery and primary school pupils in P1 to P3 will return to full-time face-to-face teaching from 8 March 2021.

Education Minister, Peter Weir also said that students in years 12 to 14, who will be awarded qualifications this summer will return to full time face-to-face teaching with effect from 22 March 2021.

To enable the return of years 12 to 14, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery children and pupils in P1 to 3 for the week beginning 22 March until the start of the Easter holidays.

Pre-school, nursery and primary schools pupils in P1 to P3 will then return to full-time face-to-face teaching after the Easter holidays along with years 12-14.

The Minister said: “I have always sought to be guided by the prevailing public health advice and scientific evidence, while recognising the priority the Executive has placed on education, and all the benefits that brings, not just in the short term, but also for longer term societal and economic benefits.

“Today the Executive has agreed to a phased return focusing, in the first instance, on the early years in pre-school and primary school which are crucial for children’s development. Those year groups engaged in learning for key qualifications (i.e. years 12 to 14) must also be prioritised in our return planning. It is vital that they have every opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required for progression to the next stage of education, employment or training.”

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Concluding, Peter Weir said his main objective was a full return of all pupils to school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but this had to be balanced against the public health position.

He said: “The clear feedback from schools, unions, parents and pupils has been that once a decision is taken to return to school, there should be no further periods of wholesale remote learning. However, I recognise that it may be necessary in limited cases.

“All settings will be reminded of the need for stringent adherence to good practice and additional signage will be provided to all schools to encourage people to comply with public health messaging.

“It is likely that schools will require additional resources to manage these different stages of pupils returning and my officials will work to identify what is required, including the use of substitute teachers if needed.”

In relation to the provision of youth services, the Minister said he would bring a further paper to the Executive soon to provide clarity to the service.

Department of Education officials will engage with practitioners and unions over the next week to discuss and prepare for the phased return.

Schools have yet to receive formal notification of this information and there have been no supporting documents to underpin the statement. We can assume certain things from this statement:

Preparation

The school needs to be reorganised to facilitate Face -to-Face Learning, Remote Learning and Supervised Learning SIMULTANEOUSLY while maintaining our bubbles! We will need a little time to

prepare for this challenge! Supervised learning will end at 12:00 noon on Friday 5th March to allow staff time to reset the school premises.

Children in Years 1-3

P1 to P3 children will return to school face-to-face schooling from 8th-19th March (off on 17th March) followed by another period of remote learning 22nd to followed by the Easter Break from 27th March to 11th April. There will be an exceptional closure on Monday 12th April.

We are still working out the details of how this will work for our pupils. It is our understanding that all P1-P3 pupils will be in school unless they are extremely clinically vulnerable or are self-isolating due to being symptomatic, awaiting a test, having tested positive or being a close contact. As such work and supplementary material & paper packs will be available on request. All pupils will be sent home with a pack on Friday 19th March to be used during remote learning and resources will be made available on Monday 22nd March.

Children in Years 4-7

P4 to P7 pupils will continue with remote learning. We are doing our best to ensure we provide a full range of support is available. Please ensure that you are able fully engage in remote learning by:

- Picking up and dropping off work digitally or in person (let us know if you can't as we can help!)
- Logging on and viewing supportive materials on TEAMS
- Contributing to online chats
- Engaging in online lessons on Zoom

Note: It is essential that there is some form of engagement during this period in order for the school to mark you child as present (Please see the section on Attendance).

Keep in touch!

We know that working from home can be difficult and we want to provide as much support as we can. Please email lknocker496@c2kni.net if you need anything. There will be someone at school every week day from 8:15 to 4:00 p.m. (usually longer). The phones are busy so please be patient and we will get back to you.

Remember that we can only do our best and together we will get through this challenging time!

Stay safe,

Mrs Knocker