**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JXso**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Wednesday, 14 October 2020**

**Dear Parents/Guardians**

Further to the announcement by the executive today and direction from the Department of Education, we have been asked to close the school for an additional 5 days commencing on Monday 19 October. The Halloween mid-term break will now be Monday 19 October – Friday 30 October (inclusive). As this is an enforced extended school closure, by the Department of Education, the school will be closed and there will be no Key Worker facility available.

The school will re-open on Monday 2 November. The same routines and approaches will continue unless otherwise communicated to you by the school.

With regards to this extended closure, we would like to reassure you all that we believe the structures and routines we have in place in St Brigid’s are working and we feel confident that the children are safe here in school.

**This closure will not involve the use of our remote learning approaches at this stage and learning will not be provided via SEESAW or TEAMS.**

Seesaw (Year 1 -4, CA and CB) and TEAMS (Year 5-7) are already being used for homework activities and will be used going forward if we have to move to ‘Blended learning’ or ‘Remote Learning’. We have no indication at this stage that this will be the case.

**The question from many parents may be: What can I do with my child/children to keep their learning going during this extended closure?**

* Encourage reading daily.
* Access the wealth of resources available on the school website in the ‘Remote Learning Section’, in the general section and in the individual class sections.
* Visit the Class Newsletters on the school website for information on the class topics and continue to research and find out more about your current class topic.
* Autumn and Halloween are two times of the year that lend themselves well to lots of creativity and there are many websites that provide resources to be creative.

Payments already made for After School Bookings during the week 19-23 October will be credited to the November Invoice. If you have yet to make payment, please deduct the amount for this week from the October Invoice.

All November bookings for Breakfast, 2-3 pm and Sunshine Club should be forwarded to koneill580@c2kni.net or sent in to school before Friday 16 October. November booking form available in the After School Section of the school website.

Upon our return to school on Monday 2 November it is important to remember that the key messages will remain the same:

1. Please continue to follow all the procedures in place for the school day.
2. Please maintain 2m social distancing as adults when on the school premises and encourage good distancing with the children as well.
3. Please wear a face covering if 2m social distancing cannot be maintained.
4. Please be prompt at drop off and pick up times. This includes after school club.
5. Please maintain and encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.
6. Do not come to school (adult/child) if you have a high temperature (+37.8), a new and continuous cough or experience a loss in your sense of smell or taste.
7. As is normally the case, if a child is unwell with any other illness they should not be in school until they are feeling better.

If you are unsure about what to do, please contact the school between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm daily via telephone call or by email at any time on the days that the school is open. Remember the school will be closed on Monday 19 – Friday 30 October.

During the mid-term break it will be particularly important to communicate any COVID-19 related information to the school via email: koneill580@c2kni.net .

Thank you for your co-operation in everything so far. Take care and keep safe.

Mr O’Neill

Principal