**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

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**Tuesday, 16 June 2020**

Dear Children and Parents

I hope that everyone continues to keep well and that you have been using the packs and the Home Learning section of the school website to keep going with your learning. I know trying to do this continually at home is not easy, but the feedback from the teachers and emails from parents through to me, have highlighted how well we have all managed through this difficult time.

By now we would normally be having sports day, classes would be going on trips and we would be thinking ahead to the summer holidays. A very different end to the school year will be experienced this year. I know many of you tried our virtual sports day and if you have any photos or videos please send them through to us – we’d love to see them all.

Thanks to everyone who sent in the email contact details. We haven’t received them all yet, so if you have yet to reply please send it to info@stbrigidsps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk

There is still a degree of uncertainty with regards to the reopening of the school in September. At this stage, if things continue to progress as they have been, I’m very confident the school will reopen in September. The structure of the school day, timings, practicalities etc. have yet to be finalised. We are waiting on guidance from the Department of Education to help us plan for everything in September. To avoid confusion and help with planning going forward I will communicate information to you all when we know exactly what is happening. The information with regards to the reopening of St Brigid’s PS will come directly from the Board of Governors and myself. I will write to you all again when we know more.

In the meantime, the children can get ready to enjoy the summer holidays. The packs that you have received and the Home Learning section on the website will remain available to you throughout the summer and whilst it is not compulsory to keep working it will be there for anyone who would like to access it. From Monday 22nd June no further work will go up on the Home Learning section. The school will close for the summer on Tuesday 30 June.

The school will be open from 10 am to 3.00 pm on Friday 26 June to allow for parents to come to the school to collect the children’s books and any other belongings. We will also issue the children’s reports on this day. Access to the school will be via the chapel car park only and the packs will be brought to you at the back door. There will be no access into the school. Anything not collected on Friday 26 June or additional belongings that we find during the summer will be made available for collection again in September. The reports not collected will be posted out on Monday 29 June.

It has been the most unusual school year and in the face of all this difficulty and turmoil I am proud of the way the teachers, staff and parents have worked to provide continuity to the children’s education.

Most importantly, I would like to say a massive well done to all the boys and girls from St Brigid’s for working so hard throughout the last 12 weeks. The fact that we kept learning going so well will help with the return to school in September. I can reassure you all that the teachers and support staff here in St Brigid’s will be ready to help you all on your return to school.

I hope you all enjoy the summer. Please don’t think that the children have been off long enough. They have still been working hard with their learning over the last 12 weeks – it has just been a different approach to normal.

I will be in touch over the summer months with regards to plans for the reopening of the school. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Kieran P O’Neill

Principal