

**Plumbridge**

**St Peter’s Primary School**

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**Principal: Miss S Falls**

24.2.21

Dear Parents,

I trust you had an enjoyable Mid-Term break and are ready to embark on another few weeks of Home Learning.

The Department of Education has just clarified that children in Year 1 – 3 will return to school on the 8th March until 19th March for face - to - face teaching. Remote Learning will then resume for ALL pupils in the week beginning 22nd March until the Easter holidays.

The Education Minister has stated;

*‘My objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but I recognise this has to be balanced against the public health position.’* (D.E. Letter to Principals 24th Feb. 21)

As we move forward, I wish to acknowledge that we have great engagement levels amongst our pupils and that everyone is doing their best. I wish to thank the teachers and staff who have really tried to make remote learning accessible for all children. Please do not get weary in the weeks ahead - you are doing great and we are here to support you.

Presently the school is open for vulnerable / keyworker pupils and if anyone is **really struggling and has no other safe option** for their child they can request a form by contacting their class teacher via Seesaw. Forms need to be completed by Wednesday 3rd at 10 am. Once the form is completed you will be contacted if your child has a place as places are limited due to staffing ratios and Public Safety Guidelines. Forms need to be completed and submitted each week on a Wednesday at 10am for the following week.

As the Minister of Education states in his letter today

‘Further increase in pupil attendance before mid-April has the potential to impact on the trajectory of the pandemic…..’

**I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS TO ONLY CONSIDER SUPERVISION IN SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD IF NO OTHER OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE. THE SAFEST PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD IS AT HOME. SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED TO MINIMISE CONTACTS.**

All children this week will get an opportunity to participate in an online platform so that they can see and listen to their friends. Working in an open forum requires certain behaviours. In preparation, it would be appreciated if all parents could make themselves aware of the Remote Learning Policy on the school website beforehand and share with their children.

As remote learning will still be part of the teaching process, I wish that you could provide us with some feedback by completing a short questionnaire which will be available next week on Microsoft Forms. Class teachers will let you know when the questionnaire is live. A few children and parents still have to complete the parent and child agreement form on Microsoft Forms found on the website so if you could complete as soon as possible.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Every Monday during Lent there will be a link via Seesaw to an Assembly from the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre.

On Thursday the 4th World Book Day will be celebrated and each teacher will share a story book via Seesaw.

The school will be closed on the 17th March to mark St Patrick’s Day.

In the interim, keep safe and thank you for your continued support in these most challenging times.

Yours Sincerely

S Falls

Principal