



St. Joseph's Primary School
42 Castle Street
Lisburn
BT274XE

'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 3rd April 2020

No. 24

Key Workers Information

The Education Authority, through a request from the Minister of Education, Peter Weir, have set up an online application/request form that parents, who are key workers, can fill out to request their children attend a 'hub school'. This form can be completed using the following link <https://www.eani.org.uk/key-workers> Once this form has been completed, Link Officers, from either EA or DE will be in touch regarding placement for your child.

Distance Learning

As the first two weeks of distance learning, online learning and activities draw to a close we take great pride and positivity out of the feedback we have received from parents through the regular communication channels and through emailing staff. This is something that the Governors, SLT and staff will regularly review. As it is the school's first time setting up work like this it is important to both remember and acknowledge, that we are all learning in this new way together. I feel it is important to share with you some of the feedback from your children's teachers in relation to this.

P7

We have a google classroom set up and the children can post messages and interact with us on there. On a Friday we send home the weekly structured timetable and answers to the Literacy and Numeracy tasks. It has been hard work, particularly with tech support and getting the pupils where they need to be in terms of Google Classroom, but we have created a great learning page which is regularly updated and we have been keeping in regular contact with our pupils and parents.

P6

Mrs Gartland and Mrs Fleming are absolutely delighted with how their Primary 6 pupils are adapting to home learning. They are working hard on all their numeracy and Literacy tasks as well as having some fun with ball skills, crazy hair styles, Minecraft challenges as well book spine poetry writing. Mrs Gartland and Mrs Fleming are very proud of you all and are really enjoying your photographs and messages through Seesaw and Twitter. Well done Primary 6 and keep learning.

P5

Mrs Gorman and Ms Kitt are really happy with how the first two weeks of distance learning has went in Primary 5 so far. Feedback from parents has been both very positive and extremely appreciative of the work that has been put into preparing activities and tasks for the Year 5 children. As with all 'online learning' there have been teething issues, but it has been fun finding solutions to any queries that have and may continue to arise.

P4

Mrs Hanna and Mrs Connolly have been in regular contact with parents using SeeSaw. There have been some queries around logging on to My School, Fronter room and Lexia but we have resolved those. Work was initially planned for two weeks and this will now be reviewed on a weekly basis. There are just so many different 'home' circumstances, so we have made it clear to parents to use the resources to fit round them and whatever level of support they can give the children.

P3

P3 have been busy working away through the first weeks of home learning. Parents have been keeping us updated via SeeSaw with photographs and videos of the great work that has been taking place. Children have also been participating in the C2k NewsDesk hour. They have been busy making rainbows and putting them on their windows to spread some cheer! Our P3 Home Learning Fronter Room is updated each week with weekly overviews, activities and discussions that the children can take part in.



**Shared
Education**

Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn



Principal: Mr Declan Murray
Email: dmurray538@c2kni.net

Vice Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net



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P2

Mrs Crilly and Miss Mc Anerney are using Google Drive to upload all activities for the coming weeks. There have been some lovely videos and photos of the children working away at home which has been so uplifting to see. Specific times have been set aside each Thursday and Friday to discuss the progress of the week and organise the tasks for next week.

P1

Mrs McManus and Miss Hearty have been so impressed with how well Primary One have been working at home over the past two weeks! Home learning packs have providing structured curriculum based activities in Literacy and Numeracy. We also hope you are enjoying exploring our 'P1 Home Learning' page on Fronter, which is updated weekly with guidance activities and links to further learning. Enquiry, investigation, problem solving and interpersonal skills are all being developed through the medium of play. We have seen some wonderful photos and videos on See Saw of children enjoying the great outdoors, conducting mini beast hunts, tally charts, painting rainbows, baking, writing letters to loved ones, the list could go on! This is what P1 is all about! Learning is FUN!

Creative Voices

Initially, two weeks' worth were uploaded onto the school website. Booklets were also sent home and Ms Gorman is keeping in regular touch with the pupils/parents via SeeSaw. The focus of the work has been wellbeing with the following areas of mental/emotional health, anxiety, art and coping skills being explored.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The Department of Education has asked the Education Authority to pay the entitlement or costs of weekly Free School Meals to parents of children that are entitled to receive them. This payment of £27, will be made on a fortnightly basis and should help to supplement meal preparation at home. The Education Authority are also exploring the options of providing a service within the community to provide additional food and assistance for families and the vulnerable.

School Money

We understand that many of you will be in credit on our school money system, be it for dinners, after school clubs etc. We want to let you know that a record of all credit is maintained on the school money system. However, because we are not receiving any money into the system, we are unable to refund the money at this point. Please be assured that these will be refunded as soon as is possible. Thank you so much for your understanding at this difficult time.

P4 – P7 Arts Awards

Message from Ms Gorman "Arts awards candidates from P4 – P7 are not to worry if they didn't get their awards booklets in time. Entries have been postponed until September. We will sort everything out then".



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