



**Week beginning Monday 22nd February 2021
Newsletter**

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Week Beginning 22nd February

I hope and trust everyone had a relaxing mid-term break and you all continue to keep safe and well. On Monday, we return to remote learning and our teachers will once again be communicating with you via the Microsoft Teams app, our school website and you can also contact your child's class teacher via e-mail.

Our next set of 2-week scheduled work packs will be available for collection, from the school hall, on Monday 22nd February from 9am - 12pm

While I acknowledge that the announcement last Thursday may not have been what we wanted to hear it does however give us some clarity about what a return to school will entail, in the short term.

For our Nursery, Primary 1,2 and 3 pupils' school is scheduled to reopen for face-to-face learning on Monday 8th March for a period of two weeks. However, within these two weeks we have St Patrick's day and as this is one of our scheduled holidays, our school will be closed on Wednesday 17th March for all pupils.

On week beginning 22nd March all Nursery, Primary 1,2 and 3 pupils are scheduled to return to remote learning for a period until the Easter Holidays.

Primary 4,5,6 and 7 pupils will continue with Remote learning until after the Easter Holidays.

To date, no official confirmation on any of these arrangements has been forthcoming from the Education Authority and my understanding of this is from media reports. Once I get official confirmation of these facts, I expect to be able to issue further information this coming week, via the school website.

Remember, if you need anything from us, continue to get in touch and we will do our best for you and your children, as always. If you have any queries we would appreciate you contacting the school to discuss by email: pgilchrist570@c2kni.net



WRAP WELL-BEING PACKS

Along with our class work packs we are delighted to be in a position to be able to present your child with a special "Well-Being Pack" full of goodies and ideas to help them at home during this period of school closures. These will be distributed, with the work packs on Monday morning. As you are no doubt aware, our pupils' health and well-being is an important area as we map our way through this period of school closures and indeed when our pupils



are also attending school. Our Parent's Support Group WRAP programme, Well-Being Wednesday's and online seminars are just a few initiatives we have instigated thus far and there were many more planned for our pupils being in school and hopefully we have Term 3 to look forward to these.

We hope that you and your children enjoy the contents of the pack and in particular completing some of the activities contained within these

Inside your pack you will also find a pedometer and we ask you to keep these safe as we have plans to use them in school once our pupils return.



We would like to thank our many partnering organisations who assisted us in securing items for these packs; our very own Parent's Support Group, Co. Down Rural Community Network, DAERA, Ards Council, Portaferry and Strangford Trust, Portaferry Flowers in Bloom and Portaferry Community Collective. It is great to see such community spirit in action working together and supporting the children within our locality.



Well- Being Wednesday

Each Wednesday, during this period of school closures we will be putting up some thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how you may wish, as a family, to get involved in "Wellbeing Wednesday" at home. All we ask is for you to be open to the ideas expressed and maybe pick one theme, line or quotation and try to incorporate it into your home.



Parenting NI Webinars

The next session of our very popular Parent webinars is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 23rd February from 11am-12pm. The focus of this discussion is on "Children's Emotional Health" whereby it aims to help encourage parents to recognise the importance of their child's mental health and offer advice to help support their child's emotional well-being. This is open to everyone and not just members of our schooling community. Pass this on and for further details contact stmarypspsg@gmail.com



 ParentingNI**23RD****FEB****2021**

CHILDRENS' EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Children who have positive emotional health and wellbeing tend to have better outcomes in life. This workshop encourages parents of children to recognise the importance of their children's mental health, exploring how parents can provide opportunities for children's emotional development.

11AM - 12PM**TO REGISTER CONTACT:****STMARYSPSPSG@GMAIL.COM**