

**HART MEMORIAL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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New School Year 2020/21

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. I want to thank all of you so much for the fantastic work you have done in supporting your children's Home Learning over the last 9 weeks. You never signed up to be teachers but that is exactly what you have had to become!! The Seesaw posts of the work and activities your 'pupils' have been doing have been tremendous, as has the regularity and diligence with which the children have been tackling the online tasks set by their teachers.

As we near what would have been the end of term and school year, I want to inform you about what we know and what we don't know about the new school year 20/21.

What we know / don't know (of course, any of this could change but this is the information we have received so far):

- There will probably be an earlier than usual return to school after the summer holidays – likely the third week in August. However, it seems that this may be for P7 pupils (the current P6 year group) only. We do not know when other year groups will start back.
- When all year groups return, there will be a combination of in-school education and remote learning – i.e. at home. We don't know how many children will be allowed in to each classroom and how many days a week they will be in school / learning at home. We do know that there are unlikely to be half day sessions.
- The Department of Education has said it will provide clear guidance but this is not yet available. There may be some discrepancies between schools e.g. some schools have larger classrooms than others so will be able to have more children in whilst continuing to maintain social distancing. Please note that, apart from the two new P2 classrooms, all of our rooms are much smaller than regulation size.
- We do not know if we will be able to operate Early Birds as it is impossible to socially distance in the club room. We hope to be able to run after school activities *outside*, but numbers may well have to be limited.

Until we receive detailed guidance from DENI, it is impossible for us to start preparing for the new school year. The new 'blended' approach to education – i.e. in school and at home – is going to be *incredibly* difficult for you to manage, especially when both parents are working. My heart goes out to you, trying to organise this.

As soon as I have any more information, I will pass it on to you via the school app. Please look after yourselves and know how much the staff of Hart Memorial appreciate all you have been doing since we last saw you.

Yours sincerely

J Shipley
Principal