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Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As you are now aware schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March to children (with the exception of key workers). These are completely unprecedented times, and some of you may be feeling anxious and uncertain about the weeks ahead. We have worked together in school to prepare “Learning Packs” to ensure the continuity of your child’s learning as best as possible.

These “packs” are intended to support your child and you, we have also included a long list of useful websites which can be accessed through our own website with lots of ideas and useful advice. Our email addresses are at the bottom of this page, so please do not hesitate to contact us – with any question or concern. Teachers will be in constant communication with you throughout the period of school closure, through email, **See Saw, assigning tasks on Mathletics and Study Ladder** – depending on your child’s class. Each teacher will use a means of communication most appropriate to the age group and ability. We will continue to explore and enhance our online “Distance Learning” over the next few days and inform you immediately. It is essential that you check our **school website** daily.

**On our school website please explore the “Pupil Area”, from the dropdown tab you will see an area called “Home Learning”. In this area there will be specific tasks and materials for each class. We will add to this weekly. This area is password protected – the password is Lissan2020.**

The most important thing to remember is that home-learning simply isn't school. Children who are accustomed to our classrooms and school environment will not be as focused as normal. Lessons will be completely different to the ones they are used to having in school. One of the biggest difficulties for the children will be the lack of socialisation, so it’s important to stay positive, and keep the children’s spirits up. We have added some “positive well-being” advice to our website.

**Allow your children to be a part of the decision-making:**

While we have sent home activities for your child to complete – these are not all compulsory. It is essential that you decide how much “work” is appropriate. Allow your child to have a say in the timetable for the day, the best way to do this is to ask them to make a list of the things they'd like to do and learn and organise your day around this.

**Remember there are lots of ways to learn:**

Children learn best when they are actively involved, so get into the kitchen and do some baking, or out into the garden to explore the world around us. Timetable arts and crafts into weekly activities and again there are lots of creative ideas on the websites we have highlighted.

**Make a timetable for your day:**

Once you and your children have decided on your activities for the day, make a timetable and display it so everyone in the family knows what's planned for the day and when each activity is over. Most children work off a “visual timetable” in their classrooms, so recreating something similar at home can ease the transition to a different learning environment for the next few weeks ahead.

**Exercise and physical activity:**

Children spend a great deal of time outside during their normal school day, morning play, breaks and lunch time as well as planned PE sessions and so it is vital that you include physical activities into your day. Simply running around outside will suffice, but there are also lots of excellent websites to encourage children and get them moving – these are listed on our attached website list.

**Routine**

It is important that your child maintains a good routine, especially at bedtime – this will give their day structure and a sense of “normality”

**Reading**

Reading is such an important part of your child’s day at school – it happens constantly throughout the day in the form of shared, guided and modelled reading activities. It is essential that you encourage your child to read independently, and to AR quiz (link below) when they have completed the book. It is also a lovely activity to “share” a story with your child by reading aloud to them and discussing the story afterwards. The World Book Day website www.worldbookday.com provides lots more information.

We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers the doctors, nurses and all medical staff who are working tirelessly for our whole communities.

If you require anything advice or guidance over the next few weeks, please do not hestiate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Ciara McIntyre (Principal)

Mrs McIntyre – cmcintyre695@c2kni.net

Mrs Coyle – mcoyle358@c2kni.net

Mrs Hagan – mhagan339@c2kni.net

Mrs Donnelly – sdonnelly118@c2kni.net

Miss Devlin – mdevlin514@c2kni.net

**Please Check Out our School Website for the following links!**

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