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| **St. Mary’s P.S and Cill Chluana Parish Nursery** | scan0003*Learning through faith, laughter and love.* | 123 Granemore RoadTassaghCo ArmaghBT20 2NJ |
| **Principal: Mrs B Casey** bcasey632@c2kni.net | **Telephone: 02837538018****Facsimile : 028 37538018** |

Dear Parent 29-06-2020

As we are now at the end of term, I would like to update you on how we propose to move forward in the new school term.

As you will be aware, the latest DE guidance on distancing in our classrooms has changed from 2 metres to 1 metres. This is good news as it allows us to accommodate all children for a 5-day return to school in August/ September. We realise that the layout of each classroom will look different than before and we will be forced to use every space available to us in the building. However, we feel it is crucial that our pupils are offered the opportunity to come back to a normal timetable, after such a long absence from school. We will have all essential measures in place for the safe return of your children and will update you on this in August.

DE has directed that all schools reopen on Monday 17th August this year.

We will have staff training during that week and school will reopen for some pupils on Monday 24th August. We hope to take each class in at some stage during that week but we haven’t worked out the finer detail as yet. We will let you know how this will work at the beginning of August.

We hope to offer some form of our breakfast club in September to facilitate our working parents.

At present we are being directed not to run minding clubs or after school clubs in the first term.

Again, we will provide more information on this at the beginning of August.

**Summer scheme**

DE has proposed that some schools might run a summer scheme in mid-July this year.

We are not in a position to do this, unfortunately, as our building is undergoing a deep clean in preparation for the August restart. We have large numbers in P5-P7 (the suggested age group) and would have to use all classrooms if adhering to the guidelines of 7 pupils per adult.

Therefore, **we are not able to offer this facility** in the school.

**P7 Tribute**

Many thanks to all the families who came to give our Primary Seven pupils such a wonderful send off last Thursday. Thank you to our parents, Sean and John, for putting up the bunting at the school and to Mrs McGeary, who helped with organising the event.

 We were truly touched by your response and we hope that the leavers will remember fondly their farewell to primary school!

**Confirmation**

 Confirmation will take place for our P7s **on Friday 28th August at 5pm.** Originally, it was agreed that it would take place in Granemore for our pupils. However, Fr Greg has now asked that it takes place **in St Michael’s Church, Clady.** Therefore, Clady and Foley pupils will have their ceremony at 2.30pm in Clady and St Mary’s pupils will have their ceremony at 5pm in Clady.

We intend having the pupils in for a morning or afternoon during the week of 24th August to practise for Confirmation. The occasion will be much more low key this year but nevertheless, a very special day for the Primary seven pupils and their families.

**Holidays 20/21**

The holiday list for the academic year is now available on our school website.

Due to the earlier restart this year, we may be finishing slightly earlier in June 2021. We will keep you updated regarding this.

**Reminders**

Please keep all books and borrowed resources in a safe place for returning in the new term.

We advise you to hold off on buying new resources for your child’s return to school. We may have to limit the items being brought in from home, such as pencils, rubbers, folders and even schoolbags.

Because pupils are remaining in the same classroom to begin with, it may be an idea to wait until they are moving classes before buying new supplies. Anything they need will be provided in school.

Again, we will provide more information on this in August.

I would like to thank the staff of St Mary’s PS, who have shown their usual dedication and commitment to the school and its pupils throughout this year.

 I would like to thank our nine teachers, in particular, who worked tirelessly through this unprecedented time, ensuring that all pupils had regular contact with and reassurance from their teachers. We hope that you, as parents, felt supported with your child’s learning during a very challenging period for everyone.

I wish also to thank you, our parents, for your continued support to the school and for your engagement in helping your child work through the ‘home learning’ period. We fully appreciate the challenges that were faced by many of you and we thank you for your perseverance throughout a highly stressful time.

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back in August and to working again in partnership with you and your families.

Wishing you all a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Brenda Casey