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**St.Mary’s Primary School**

**Caledon Road**

**Aughnacloy**

**BT69 6AJ**

**Principal: Mrs Mairead Leonard B.Ed (Hons) PQH**

**13/3/20**

**Dear Parents,**

**The announcement from the Government yesterday instructed all schools in Northern Ireland to remain open. We have no choice other than to follow this advice but as a Parent myself I completely understand your worries and fears for your children and families. Some Parents have already made the decision to keep their children at home and this is your right to do so should you believe it is the correct decision for your family.**

**It is widely believed that the Government will close schools soon so we have put a brief plan into place for your children if you choose to keep them at home or should the Government decide to close schools.**

**We suggest the following work should be done with your child at home if they are off school:**

**Primary 1 and 2:**

* **All children have been sent home three reading books at their level to work on. Please do these in the way we normally do in school. Those who attended our reading night will have lots of tips for this.**
* **Mathletics will be a brilliant resource for your child to ensure they keep up to speed. Teachers will continue to monitor your child’s progress in Mathletics if there is a school closure and will set tasks. If your child has lost their password please send a WhatsApp message to the school mobile on 07512194147 and I will send you a new one.**
* **Continue to hear your child read and read to them. Work on their Phonics and flashcards and encourage them to write simple sentences.**
* **Jigsaws, board games and painting/arts and craft will be a great way to pass time and will keep minds active.**
* **Work on number stories – we are currently up to the Story of 7. There are lots of games and ideas online to help your child learn these important number facts.**

**Primary 3:**

* **As above plus more independent writing and sentences/stories.**
* **If your child is on Accelerated Reader they will also have three books home in their ZPD which they can take a quiz on when school reopens. Read as much as possible!**
* **Revise spellings covered to date and the first 100 key words which you will also find online.**

**Primary 4 – 7:**

* **All children will have three Accelerated Reader books home within their ZPD.**
* **Home Connect has not been set up yet but in the event of a closure we will work behind the scenes and keep you informed as of when they can take quizzes at home.**
* **Mathletics- Each class teacher will monitor their class progress and will set activities and tasks.**
* **Check out AR Book Finder to see if you have books at home in your childs’ ZPD and keep them busy and occupied.**
* **Reinforcement of Times Tables/ Number Facts and Spellings covered this year will be invaluable.**
* **P6/7 continue with next vocabulary tests and continue Maths homework as normal.**

**We have also been informed that Confirmation has been postponed and most likely this will extend to First Holy Communion.**

**In the event of our school closing we will keep you informed through our website and Facebook page and WhatsApp service.**

**With prayer and time, Please God, this will pass and we will be back to our full school life with our amazing children.**

**Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and I will do my best to help.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mrs Leonard**

**Principal**