**St. Joseph and St. James’s Primary School**

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**Poyntzpass**

**BT35 6SY**

**Tel: 028 3831 8261**

**Email: gdoran749@c2kni.net**

**Website: www.stjosephandstjames.com**

6th April 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I wish to congratulate you all on the wonderful way you have embraced ‘Home School Learning’; I think everyone’s ICT skills have dramatically improved in such a short period of time. Three quarters of parents have downloaded and are accessing the Seesaw app; could I ask all parents to do this as we will be using the app as the main form of communication after Easter.

It has come to our attention that some of you are not receiving our emails. If this is the case, please check your spam or junk mailbox. Contact the class teacher via email if you haven’t received any of them as they may have an incorrect email address.

Staff have been very busy preparing Home Learning packs for term 3. The teachers have planned resources for you to use with your child for the 5 weeks after the Easter break, beginning Monday 20th April. You will find in your pack a weekly plan for Literacy and Numeracy. I must emphasise that this is a weekly plan which we hope will help and guide you. Do not feel that you are expected to follow it rigidly and complete all the activities. We know you are working so hard already, and don’t want to add any further burden or stress in this challenging time. We have decided not to send reading books home with this pack, as it would be difficult to keep an account of them all. Please don’t return any when you are collecting the second Home Learning pack. I urge you all to access Oxford Owl website and the Libby app, as I have mentioned previously. Parents who requested a P6 transfer pack can collect their pack at the door of the assembly hall; these are labelled with your child’s name.

Packs will be available to collect on Monday 20th April. These have been prepared before the Easter holidays and therefore any potential virus will have died before collection. All packs have been arranged in alphabetical order and in families. Arrangements for collecting them will be much more stringent and I ask you all to adhere to the following times and guidelines.

**Collection Times:**

|  |  |
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| **9.30am – 10.30am** | Primary 1 |
| **10.30am – 11.00am** | Primary 2 |
| **11.00am - 11.30am** | Primary 3 |
| **11.30am – 12 noon** | Primary 4 |
| **12 noon - 1.00pm** | Primary 5 |
| **1.00pm – 2.00pm** | Primary 6 |
| **2.00pm – 3.00pm** | Primary 7 |

* Please adhere strictly to the collection times above (larger classes have a longer collection time);
* Sibling packs to be collected at the same time;
* Only one person will be allowed into the assembly hall at a time – one in, one out policy;
* There will be markers two metres apart inside the school grounds; please use these to physically distance yourself from others;
* Mrs Morrow will be working in the office. Please don’t ask her to open the hatch; if you wish to speak to her, please ring her on your mobile.

I am aware that these measures are very rigid but I hope you appreciate that they are extremely necessary.

There are some items of clothing hanging in the cloakroom area to the left hand side of the assembly hall. If you own any of these, please take them with you.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs O’Kane and Miss Lynch for the excellent contribution they have made to our school in such a short time. We are sorry that it came to such an abrupt but necessary end and wish them both every happiness in the future.

Mrs Ciara Wadsworth will be taking over as principal of our school on Monday 20th April. She will be taking over as class teacher in Primary 6 and 7 on Thursdays and Fridays. We warmly welcome her to our school and hope that she will be very happy here. I can honestly say that, although it hasn’t been without its challenges, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as acting principal, but will happily return to my previous post. Could I use this opportunity to thank you all, staff, parents and children for your much appreciated support and cooperation during my time as acting principal. This support and cooperation made my job so much easier, for which I am extremely grateful.

I wish you all a peaceful and safe Easter break.

Go n-éirí an bóthar libh.

Is mise le meas,

Gráinne Doran

Acting Principal