

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



Dear Parent/Guardian,

15th July 2020

Over the past few months, Peter Weir the Education minister has announced a number of measures to help vulnerable and disadvantaged children who may not have had access to digital technology during lockdown. This development is part of a scheme announced in May to lend digital devices to those children who would benefit most and to ensure continuity of learning when they return to school.

The Department of Education has been working with BT and the Education Authority to deliver the scheme which will run for up to eight months. It is anticipated that access to free wi-fi will be available from the middle of August onwards for eligible pupils who meet the necessary criteria.

Priority will be given to children currently in year groups: 6 and 3 in this order; and categories: free school meals, special educational needs, Newcomer target groups (including: Asylum Seeker, Refugee and Roma children), Looked after Children and children who are considered vulnerable; rurality will also be taken into account.

Support includes:

- supporting the provision of an initial quantity of up to 2500 MI-FI devices which is a mobile connectivity solution to support those children who are not within a BT wi-fi hotspot; and
- providing 8,300 wi-fi vouchers for disadvantaged children with up to eight month's internet access.

As a school we have applied the criteria and identified a number of children who are eligible to receive a device which our school will lend out. **However, we now need to be aware of how many children are in areas where they do not have access to wi-fi so that we can make a request through the C2k Exchange.** EA will verify the data submitted and work with the school to determine allocation.

Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child/children may be eligible for this free wi-fi scheme.

Email: lquinn460@c2kni.net

Text- 07799900847

I would also like to draw your attention to the BT's [Skills for Tomorrow programme](#). It is designed to empower 10 million people, by giving them the skills they need to flourish for the digital world. Skills for Tomorrow is a portfolio of programmes and initiatives. The portal has a wealth of support for families, parents and children, including educational interactive games and missions tailored for primary age kids. For more information, visit www.btplc.com

We look forward to hearing from you and supporting you the best we can.

Kind Regards,
Louise Quinn