

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



15th October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Yesterday, the NI Executive announced that there will be a two week 'circuit breaker' closure of all schools commencing Monday 19 October 2020. This is extending our half-term holiday break from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October 2020.

I recognise that this 'circuit breaker' is essential in fighting the pandemic and ensuring that the health and well-being of all is prioritised.

Our school will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks. As per the Department of Education's advice, this will include vulnerable children and children of key workers. As this is an extension of the Halloween half-term break there will be no learning packs sent home nor will there be remote learning through Google Classroom.

We intend to reopen for all pupils on Monday, 2nd November 2020.

During the week beginning Monday 19 October direct payments will be made to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.

To date our school has remained a safe environment for children, staff and visitors. I would like to thank the staff in school and you, our parents/guardians, for your support and commitment shown to our new school procedures. Together we have achieved a lot over the last nine weeks.

Our children have been exemplary in following the guidance and new routines and procedures in school. However, over the Halloween break, we must continue to be extra vigilant and continue to carefully follow the Public Health Agency guidance to avoid the spread of the virus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitiser regularly.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- Keep social distancing rules.
- Follow the guidance regarding households mixing.

Over the next two weeks many of our children will be spending more time online and keeping in touch with their friends via online platforms. While this can bring benefits to children's mental health and wellbeing children can be exposed to risk online. It is very important that parents remain vigilant over the Halloween break and ensure Parental Controls are set on all electronic devices and carefully monitor the children's internet use. Please see some useful links below.

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/help-me-out-staying-safe-online>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

We had planned the 'Spooktacular Day' and Halloween Draw for Friday 23rd October. We hope to reschedule the 'Spooktacular Day' and Draw for Friday 6th November instead, all being well. If you would like more Halloween Draw sheets, contact the school and one can be sent home tomorrow. I have also attached a Draw Sheet if you wish to print some more copies.

I wish you all a happy and safe Halloween Break.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn