



# Clare Primary School

58 Cloghoge Road  
Clare  
Tandragee  
Co Armagh  
BT62 2HB

Tel: 028 38 840 843

[www.clareprimary.com](http://www.clareprimary.com)

Miss S Lindsay (Principal)  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a school we are following the guidance provided to us by the Public Health Agency, the Department of Education (NI) and the Education Authority. However, you will no doubt appreciate it is a very fluid situation and things are changing rapidly.

Teaching and non-teaching staff have been preparing resources for our pupils to complete during the imminent closure. As yet the date and duration is to be confirmed.

Preparing work for 134 children for an unknown duration of time from an unknown point in time is what we have been tasked to do by the Minister of Education, First Minister and Prime Minister. This would be challenging at the best of times without concerns about a pandemic sweeping the planet.

Our team have made the following short term, medium term and long term plans. As and when the start of this closure is communicated resources will be sent home with children, made available for collection for a limited period of time or posted if feasible as well as downloadable from the school website.

**Please be aware if our school is closed because of significant health guidance I will not be instructing staff to return to school to distribute this information. Please make every effort to collect this from school as soon as it becomes available.**

## **Short Term - up to imminent closure**

This is very difficult to plan for given absences of pupils and potentially staff. There may need to be amalgamations of classes to ensure appropriate level of cover. Missed work will not be sent home during this time period as it is parental choice to self isolate and as the absenteeism rate and reasons are very difficult to track currently. We would encourage you to continue with your own home learning during this time.

## **Medium Term - up to Easter**

Work has been prepared in packs for each child and will include relevant activities relating to spellings, mental maths, literacy and numeracy. Reading books are not being sent home. Content will vary from year group to year group and more details will follow with the packs. You will appreciate logistically how difficult it is to produce these packs with one photocopier in school and we have done our best to provide appropriate activities.

## **Medium to Long Term - up to Easter and beyond.**

We are fortunate to have a number of online resources available to use, this list will be detailed in the home learning link of the website. A letter with your child's details to log on to the school provided websites will be included in the work pack to be sent home when closure is announced by the Minister of Education.

## **Education City (All pupils)**

This is a fantastic resource that we have used previously in classroom and occasionally for homework. There will be specific activities posted by our staff as regularly as possible during closure.

A wonderful feature of this site is that children will also be able to access activities at differentiated levels in Literacy, Numeracy as well as in Science and Spanish. Children can also PlayLive against other pupils in class, the school or worldwide in a secure online environment. This site is well worth exploring and will provide endless learning opportunities for your child.

## **School Website Home Resources**

An additional feature on our website has been added and is accessible via the Home Learning tab. Work will be posted by teachers. This is set by year group not class, please note we are not sure how well this feature will work and it is something we have to try and figure out remotely.



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## My School (All pupils)

This is how children can access resources that they use in school. There are many resources that are available to use online at home but some are unavailable outside of school to both pupils and staff. Passwords may need reset, details can be found via the school website by [clicking here](#). These details are needed for the office downloads.

I know you will join with me in thanking our staff for their efforts to pull all this together in such a short period of time. Their professionalism and dedication is what makes our school so special and once again they have surpassed expectations.

## What will we as a school be doing?

- 1) Staff will be frequently washing their hands to lessen the chance of germs spreading.
- 2) Frequently used items will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- 3) Staff will be monitoring the health and well-being of each child to ensure they are well and not displaying symptoms of Covid-19.
- 4) Staff will be exploring ways to provide for children in the event of closure. It may be necessary to take a Staff Development Day, at short notice, to enable staff to prepare for closure.
- 5) Staff will be preparing 4 weeks worth of work for children.
- 6) The Principal will continue to listen to and act upon advice from the Department of Education regarding steps which need to be taken.
- 7) Assemblies will be postponed for the foreseeable future.
- 8) After School Clubs will be cancelled from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

## To support us, here are some steps which the NHS website directs you to take:

- 1) Make sure children have disposable tissues in their pockets to catch coughs and sneezes.
- 2) Dispose of tissues immediately after use and wash your hands.
- 3) Encourage your child to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- 4) Teach your child to wash their hands correctly; this should be using soap, water and for approximately 20 seconds.
- 5) Encourage your child to keep their hands away from their nose and mouth, in as far as is possible.

Above all, at this time it should be noted that the children in our care take priority over all else. As a school we will endeavour to ensure that children feel comfortable at school and that any worries are dispelled, where possible. School is a constant routine which brings comfort to children therefore we would urge you to make sure you send your child to school if they are well and able. **If not, please do not send your child to school and follow the PHA guidelines, self isolating if necessary.**

Finally, these are challenging days. Many of us feel the pressure regarding future provision, but we would ask you to work with us to ensure that children's needs are being met accordingly.

Thank you for your help with this. If you have any individual concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via email; [info@clareps.tandragee.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@clareps.tandragee.ni.sch.uk)

S Lindsay  
Principal