



Kilkeel Primary School

EDUCATION AUTHORITY SOUTHERN REGION

Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

The Education Minister, Mr Peter Weir, has established an Education Restart Programme to address the phased reopening of schools. As we receive guidance and direction from the Department of Education and the Education Authority, we will be in a position to finalise our arrangements for a phased reopening. I recognise that you are anxious for details about how the pupils will return in the new term and that is why I want to ensure that information I give to you is as accurate as possible and in line with PHA and DE advice.

The 'New School Day' document was published on Friday 19th June 2020 and we are currently assessing numbers of pupils that can safely be accommodated following the guidance and recommendations. At the moment we envisage that this will involve a 'protective bubble' and blended approach to education combining a mixture of face-to-face teaching and remote learning. Therefore, it appears that not all pupils will start the new term on a full time basis and may only attend on a timetabled basis. I will provide more details as soon as possible.

An important point to remember is that we are currently in an ever-changing situation and our best laid plans may need to be adjusted at short notice. The guidance will be reviewed throughout the summer months and we will try our best to plan for the safe return for all of our pupils as soon as possible. It goes without saying that school is going to be very different in the new term and every decision we make has implications for many of our existing policies and practices. Please be assured that our priority is to get our children back into school for as long as we possibly can each week whilst adhering to PHA and DE guidance.

It is unfortunate that our Primary 7 pupils did not get to finish their year in school, but I look forward to seeing their final presentation. Thank you to all of the Primary 7 staff and PTA for arranging the planned events scheduled for Thursday. P7 reports will be included in the Record of Achievement packs. Refunds of money paid for the Dublin Residential will also be available for collection.

End of year reports for other pupils will be available for collection on **Friday 26th June and Monday 29th June 2020 10am-12noon and 1pm-2pm**. Details of next year's class teachers, items required for the start of term and the current holiday list will also be included. At the moment I am waiting on advice concerning school meals and I will notify everyone about this as soon as possible. If you are eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please do so - not only does it guarantee a supplied meal for your child but it also adds to more funding in the overall school budget.

I have designed an online questionnaire to assess how you have found the remote learning experience. If you have a spare minute, please access the questionnaire at the link below – there is one for parents / guardians and one for pupils:

Parent Questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqPQwqpr4ZWRJnBoZk4HgDppUOE1XMTc4RDZXNEdNWUwwRTZORTZGTjYwUy4u>

Pupil Questionnaire:

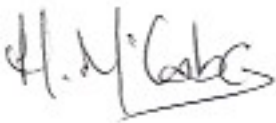
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqPQwqpr4ZWRJnBoZk4HgDppUMzNYQVpUQkUN01VSDBERkiQMFU2NUdGVy4u>

As some of you may already know, Mrs McBride has decided to retire at the end of August. Due to the current restrictions we are unable to give her the send-off she deserves, but we do hope to arrange something as soon as possible in the new term. On behalf of everyone involved with KPS, I would like to wish Mrs McBride a very long, healthy and happy retirement - her experience and dedication will be greatly missed.

I will keep you informed over the coming weeks on our planned return. In the meantime, please stay safe and thank you for your continued support and encouragement throughout this ever changing and challenging time.

Finally, I would like to extend our very best wishes to our Primary 7 pupils who are about to embark on the next exciting chapter of their education. We wish you every success for the future.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H McCabe

Principal:

H. McCabe, BA (Hons). PGCE. MEd. PQH (NI)

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