



'Happy to Learn'

20th April 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians & Pupils,

It is strange to think that 3 years ago this was my first day as Principal of Ballynahinch Primary School. It was a very early start as our P6s & P7s were heading off to York for their residential trip and now I am at home not able to go anywhere!

I trust you all tried to have some sort of Easter break albeit involving a bit less meeting with friends than usual. The weather has been lovely recently and I encourage you all to take advantage of it and spend some time outside (if possible!) going for a walk or cycling on your bikes.

Again, it has been lovely to see all of the wonderful work you have been doing at home on our SeeSaw app. Keep sending your class teacher updates on the learning please, this allows us to plan the work in line with your child's needs. But do remember we are very aware that a lot of people are trying to work from home as well as teaching their own child, so don't worry if you don't get everything covered.

If you haven't done so already, please follow our Twitter feed (@BallynahinchPS) as we re-tweet some useful home learning resources and updates from the Education Authority & Department of Education.

AQE UPDATE

For all P6 parents considering the AQE tests, please click on the link for an update from the AQE website. Rest assured you are high in my thoughts, particularly as I am in the same boat as you all with my twins being in P6 and I am urgently seeking clarity as to what will happen come the Autumn term. Please be assured that we will ensure any pupil sitting the entrance exams will be as best prepared as we can make them between now and then.

<https://aqe.org.uk/>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

To date I have only received 1 email from the EA regarding statements etc. Any further updates will be communicated directly to parents.

NURSERY & P1 APPLICATIONS

We have been informed that the EA will be posting placement letters out to applicants alongside our own letter. We will issue further communication regarding how the induction process is going to happen as we learn more about the lockdown restrictions.

HOME SCHOOLING UPDATE

Prior to the announcement of schools closing, each class teacher prepared 4 weeks worth of work packs and online resources for their class (2 weeks before Easter break, 2 weeks after). They will now be commencing preparation on the next 4 weeks worth of work. This will take a similar format of using SeeSaw & online resources, however in order to comply with government advice regarding social distancing etc. we will not be creating work packs for collection. Class teachers will be contacting those families that we are aware maybe having difficulty accessing these resources to consider alternative means of remote learning.

Finally, I hope you and all your family are all safe and well. Should you need anything from me or your teacher, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Mr M. Moore
Principal