****

**Gaelscoil Aodha Rua**

97, Bóthar Dhomhnach Mór,

Dún Geanainn,

Co. Thír Eoghain.

BT70 1HD

Fón: 028 877 53762 gaelscoilaodharua@yahoo.ie

6 Eanáir 2021

A Thuismitheoir dhil,

Beatha aghus sláinte daoibh!

I hope that you and your families are all well and I again ask you to keep Donnacha and Turloch’s Granny in your prayers, as she battles in ICU with the effects of Covid-19.

**Remote Learning**

As previously communicated, in line with DE guidance, remote learning activities will be provided for all children on **Thursday and Friday** of this week. Please log into **Seesaw and Google Classroom** tomorrow morning for details of the supported home learning tasks. If you have any difficulties with logging in, please e mail Múinteoir Meg on mfox444@c2kni.net

**Extended Period of Remote Learning**

Also, as you will have heard in the media, the Minister for Education, Mr Weir, officially announced at approx. 8pm last night that primary schools have been directed to initiate an extended period of remote learning from **Monday 11th Jan 2021 until the February mid-term break.**

In keeping with feedback received from parents after the last period of lockdown, we have decided to provide **a balance of both paper packages and digital learning activities**. Class teachers are currently working hard to put together packages of learning for next week and our class-room assistants will be in tomorrow and Friday to do the photocopying. We will be in touch in the next few days to arrange the collection of paper packages for next week.

As well as the paper learning packs, your child’s class teacher will continue to communicate with the class and to provide learning opportunities via **Seesaw and Google Classroom**. They will also be asking you to upload your child’s paper-based activities to the digital platforms for feedback and correction. Therefore, it is still vitally important that you **continue to log into the digital platforms each day**, despite the provision of the paper packs. The paper packs do not replace the digital tasks and the ‘communication’ element of using the digital platforms is every bit as important and beneficial as the curricular tasks.

**Communication**

If you need to contact your child’s class teacher, please do so via e mail, Seesaw or Google Classroom. I will post a reminder of the e mail addresses on facebook tonight. We will also be posting learning ideas and activities on the facebook page and website – please keep an eye on both of these platforms on a regular basis. To enable us to communicate effectively with you during this period, please ensure that you have provided us with your most up to date mobile phone number. If you got a new phone over Christmas, for example, please phone the school tomorrow and leave your new number with the school secretary. Please also ensure that we have your correct e mail address and that the inbox is accepting messages.

**Key Worker / Vulnerable Supervision**

The Naíscoil & Gaelscoil will both remain open to provide supervision for children of ‘key workers’ and for children who are deemed as being ‘vulnerable’.

A ‘key worker’ is described as an essential worker whose job will continue throughout the pandemic in any of the following employment sectors: medical, education, child-care, home-care, transport, food production, retail, utilities & communication, transport and emergency services.

‘Vulnerable’ children are those who have a statement of Special Educational Needs or who have or have previously has involvement with Social Services or who are currently ‘looked after’ in a fostering / care of the trust scenario.

If you wish to avail of a place in the Naíscoil or Gaelscoil for your child in the coming six weeks, due to being a key worker / having a vulnerable child, please send an e mail to gaelscoilaodharua@yahoo.ie by 12 noon on Friday.

You **must pre-book a place** for key-worker / vulnerable supervision, as we will have to carry out a risk assessment and arrange a rota for staff.

Children who attend school during this period will carry out the same learning tasks as their classmates who are home, but will be accommodated on school premises. They will be supervised by our classroom assistants and a member of teaching staff, who will be providing remote learning for her / his own class whilst in school. Children should wear their **school uniforms** and we are hopeful that school meals will still be available, although this has not yet been confirmed. The Ace Coaches bus will NOT be operating during this period.

We remind you that this period of remote learning has been initiated by the Department of Education due to the fact that the rate of spread of Covid-19 is currently at a dangerous level in all our communities. Mid-Ulster now has the highest incidence of the virus and we have heard of many cases in the immediate local area in recent days.

**The safest place for your child to be is at home at the moment and if you are able to keep your child at home, please do so. Please only use the supervision available in the school as a last resort and if you have no other safe child-care solution.**

As always, our school staff will be available every day to support you and your child with home learning and we will do our utmost to ensure that our curricular and indeed pastoral provision for children continues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via e mail if you have any queries or concerns.

Le mórmheas,

Móna Uí Dhochartaigh

Príomhoide