



Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

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Dear Children and Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. The staff are all fine and we are busy either working at home, or supervising some children in either our own school, or some other schools in Ballymena. Like you, our lives are very different and it's been strange getting used to not being out and about. The staff and I really miss seeing you all every day and we are disappointed that it's looking likely that we won't be back in school before the end of June. Last week the teaching staff phoned each parent to see how you all were and how you were getting on with learning at home. It is very important that children keep working at home to ensure that they don't get too far behind. Please remember to do the following:

1. Use the bulletin posted in your child's class area on the home learning section of the website, every Monday morning, as your guidance for the week ahead.
2. Read what is in the work pack and try hard to do the activities as best as you can.
3. Email your child's teacher if you need any advice or guidance or have any questions.
4. Email your teacher with any news and pictures of work, or upload comments/photos to the website. This really encourages your teachers as they love to hear from you!

We know home learning is not easy, particularly if you are working or you have more than one child at home, so just do your best. The key to success for good behaviour and productive outcomes in any classroom, and at home, is routine, and children respond much better when this is consistent. Getting up at the same time each day, getting dressed, having breakfast and then settling to work is best. Try and do literacy and numeracy in the mornings, with a break in between, and then other activities after.

We are providing further work packs for the children, these will contain some more literacy and numeracy, but also more fun activities and some activities to help with feelings and emotions. The packs will be available to collect from the canteen on **Friday 15th May** at the following times:

P.7:	9:00 – 10:00
P.6:	10:00 – 11:00
P.5:	11:00 – 12:00
P.4:	12:00 – 1:00
P.3:	1:00 – 2:00
P.1+P.2:	2:00 – 3:00

*If you have a more than one child at the school, please come at the **eldest child's** time slot.*

A number of packs were not collected last time, and we had to make many phone calls! Can I appeal to EVERY PARENT/CARER to collect these at the times above (or arrange for a family member/friend to do so), as they contain important work for your child, and the staff have spent a lot of time putting them together. Friday 15th May will be your only opportunity as the school will be closed for the following 3 weeks.

Other Information:

In the event of school not opening before the end of June, we will keep you updated regarding school reports and your child's class teacher next year. Uniform has been ordered, we have plenty of stock, and it will be available to buy from school before the children start back. Jigsaw is still providing a service to the school and the contact details are on our website. They have also put together a pack for P7 children to help with transition to secondary school. This can also be collected on Friday 15th from 9:00 to 10:00. From next school year we will be operating a 'cashless' system, more details will follow.

Please make sure you have the Schools NI app downloaded on to your phone and that you have subscribed to our website to make sure you are getting messages and important information from the school. Please check the website regularly.

If your contact details change, eg phone number or address, please email the school at info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk and let us know. Take care and keep safe.

S Sheeran

Principal: Mrs S. Sheeran, B.Ed.(Hons), P.G.Dip.Ed, M.Ed.

