



# Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

22 Crebilly Road, Ballymena BT42 4DN  
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Email: [info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.ballykeelps.org.uk](http://www.ballykeelps.org.uk)



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The staff and I hope that you and your family are keeping well. We understand how demanding home learning is for the adults and how the children are missing the routine of school, their teachers and assistants and most significantly being with their friends. So many of you are doing brilliantly supporting learning at home including those with more than one child to manage. The teachers have been getting pictures of work sent regularly to them by the majority of parents and will continue to support both parents and children in any way they can. We know this has been a long road for everyone, together we will get through this, we will get all the children back to school eventually and the staff will do their best to get each child back into routine and consolidate and revisit any aspects of their learning which are required.

The announcement from Stormont has indicated the following:

***P.4 to P.7 Children - Remote Learning to Continue from 8<sup>th</sup> March to Easter Break***

***Nursery to P.3 Children - Return to School from 8<sup>th</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> March, Remote Learning 22<sup>nd</sup> to Easter Break and Return to School After the Easter Break***

## **Holiday Changes**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, St Patrick's Day, was due to be a staff training day. As the Nursery to P.3 children are only back for 2 weeks, these children will be allowed to come to school as normal on this day. There will be no supervision for P.4 to P.7 children in school on this day. All P.4 to P.7 children will be asked to have a day of 'rest and reading' and to send a picture to your teacher 'being caught' reading in an unusual place or position. The teachers will be giving you more details about that in their class bulletins.

The Easter break was due to be from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. This has now been changed. The break will start on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April to allow Nursery to P.3 children, (and we are really hoping that this will be extended to include P.4 to P.7) to return to school earlier and therefore reduce home learning by a few days.

## **Nursery to P.3 Children**

- The coming in and going home arrangements and times are the same as before the Christmas break.
- On the first day, please send in the work pack and reading books in a plastic bag with your child (P1-3).
- The canteen will be open for the 2 weeks and all children will be able to avail of a hot meal. The menu will be posted next week and sent as usual as an app message to your phone and by email. Dinners can be purchased through ParentPay as usual.
- Milk for P.1 to P.3 pupils will not be available for the 2 weeks. If you paid for milk from January to the mid term break in February, you will be reimbursed at a later date.
- Please socially distance, and all adults are to wear a mask at all times when on the school premises, unless medically exempt.



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## P.4 to P.7 Children

Packs will be available for collection on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March:**

### Primary 4

**2:30-3:00 P.4H** Parents to enter through the side gate at the Youth Centre and go to the area outside the classroom door.

**2:30-3:00 P.4T** Parents to enter through the main gate and collect at reception

### Primary 5

**3:00-3:30 P.5H** – Canteen (Shetland Gardens side)

**3:00-3:30 P.5MA** - Parents to enter through the main gate and collect at reception

### Primary 6

**1:00-1:30 P.6F** - Canteen (Shetland Gardens side)

**1:30-2:00 P.6M** – Canteen (Shetland Gardens side)

### Primary 7

**2:00-2:30 P.7G** - Canteen (Shetland Gardens side)

**2:30-3:00 P.7H** – Canteen (Shetland Gardens side)

*IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN P.4 TO P.7 PLEASE COME AT THE ELDEST CHILD'S COLLECTION TIME. PLEASE BRING THE PREVIOUS PACK AND READING BOOKS WITH YOU.*

*PLEASE SOCIALLY DISTANCE AND ALL ADULTS ARE TO WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES, UNLESS MEDICALLY EXEMPT.*

## What Way Will the Packs Be Organised?

As usual, the activities for each week will be in a separately labelled plastic pocket. The plan and guidance for each week (including a timetable) will be posted in the home learning section of the website.

## What Do We Need Parents/Guardians To Do?

In order to ensure that children do not get behind with their education, please do the following:

- ✓ Collect the packs on Friday so your child has the work ready for Monday.
- ✓ Continue to use the home learning section of the website and follow the daily timetable, plan and guidance set out by the teacher each day to ensure that the work is completed.
- ✓ Ensure your child completes the activities.
- ✓ At a minimum, send pictures of the 3 pieces of work to your child's teacher for feedback.
- ✓ Email the teacher if you need anything. They are happy to help!
- ✓ Remember you can also post pictures of your child at work on the comments section in the home learning section of the website

We are so impressed at the manner in which you are supporting learning at home – keep going!  
Take care and keep safe.

*S. Sheeran*

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

