

MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Principal: Mrs L McClimonds, B.Ed, PG CET, PQH

12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You have done an amazing job in the last few months - you have juggled so many roles and learned many new skills in the need to support your child's learning at home during the coronavirus pandemic and I thoroughly commend and thank all of you for your efforts. The staff in Mullavilly Primary School are currently gearing up to what lies ahead. We are also awaiting further advice and guidance from the Department of Education and the Public Health Authority.

SEE-SAW App and Survey

The staff are to be **highly** commended for the standard of teaching and support they are providing for each and every one of our pupils during this difficult and uncertain period, whether the child is at home or in school.

The teachers have been working extremely hard to manage the level of teaching on See-saw and provide adequate videos, explanations and work to help you at home. As such, I have devised a questionnaire to consult with you on how best to support you in developing your child's learning at home. Please complete this questionnaire so that we can learn about the experiences of every single pupil working at home and better understand your perspective as a parent or guardian.

In relation to online learning, we quickly became aware that some families either lacked devices for online learning or had devices that were incompatible for our school forums.

In relation to home learning, we need to know:

- What worked well for you and why?
- What didn't work well for you and why?
- Moving forward, what will help further?
- What resources you need to support your child in online learning?

I want to consult with you, as parents/guardians, as the evidence in research would indicate that effective partnership with parents enables the best outcomes for children. We all want what is best for your child and our staff really appreciate and

value the opportunity to work in partnership with every parent or guardian in our school community.

Please complete the survey and don't hesitate to ask for help if required. We can improve our practice if we get constructive feedback. The survey may be accessed on the school app under 'forms'.

Pupil's Engagement and Attendance

Children are expected to engage **daily** in online See-saw activities with their teachers and complete the work set. We follow up remote absences in line with the school policy on absence and attendance. If a child is not engaging in remote learning the class teacher will contact parents via See-saw or a phone call. If it continues, the teacher will forward concerns to the Principal and a phone call or a letter will be sent to parents. If a lack of engagement continues then this will be escalated to the Education Welfare Officer to see what else the school can do to support their learning and encourage engagement.

We expect to receive work from children every day. If your child is unable to complete work set on a given day please provide a valid reason. If work is submitted more than one day late it will be approved by the class teacher but not marked thoroughly.

If your child is struggling to access the learning materials online, please contact Mrs. McClimonds. (lmcclimonds066@c2kni.net).

It is essential the children engage with the remote learning activities to continue their education during this period of school closure. However, we do acknowledge that each family's home circumstances are unique and there may be factors that affect engagement with home learning.

It is vital that teachers see a true reflection of your child's efforts with their work. Not all work needs to be corrected before submission, teachers need to be aware of what areas your child needs additional practice in when they return to school. Please encourage your child and help them, but **do not complete the work for them**. This will only give teachers a false understanding of the areas that need revisited on return to school.

As already mentioned, we do not want to put any pressure on families and well-being must always come first. We will check in with families that we have not had any contact with to see how we are able to support them.

Key Workers

The staff of Mullavilly Primary School continue to provide in-school support for:

- children who have been identified as '**vulnerable**' according to the Department of Education's criteria, and
- the children of parents who have identified themselves as **Key Workers** and have provided written evidence of this.

The risk of contracting Covid-19 remains high. The health and welfare – physical and mental – of our whole school community remains the **most important** consideration at this time. Therefore, **if you are in a position to keep your children at home to do**

their remote learning, you should do so – even if you meet the criteria to send them into school.

Children who are in school are **supervised** by a teacher and classroom assistant. During this supervision we encourage children to complete Literacy and Numeracy tasks first. **Lessons are not taught by a teacher and work is not marked.** Pupils and parents are still responsible for logging on and checking See-saw notifications from the class teacher and completing any work that is not finished in school. Please note that reading, spelling and mental maths homework are not completed in school and must be completed at home.

Please have a well deserve half term break. Remote learning will commence again on Monday 22nd February. Some teachers have reading books and homework activities to give to their class. You will be notified of collection times for these in the near future.

We thank you for your consideration of this information.

Yours sincerely,

L McClimonds