



ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
To Treasure Our Past and Invest in Our Future

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June Update

12th June 2020

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you all well and you are still enjoying home schooling. The staff really miss seeing all the children everyday and I'm sure the children miss all their friends and teachers too.

There has been a lot of discussion on the news about the reopening of schools next term. We have had no official confirmation from the Department of Education of a start date or what year groups are coming back to school first. We may not get this confirmation until the end of June. I have posted our proposed holiday list for 2020/21 on the school website (under parents-holidays). Please note that this is **PROVISIONAL** and may be subject to change following DE guidance that will follow at the end of this month. I will let you know of any changes to start dates and holidays as soon as I know.

Google Classroom

The staff have continued to do an excellent job uploading daily lessons on Google Classroom and the school website. They have relied on your support to assist your children with these lessons and activities. We are all amazed and delighted at the fantastic group of parents we have, who have supported the children so well during their time at home. What you have done over the last number of weeks is amazing. I'm sure it hasn't always been easy and I know what a struggle it can be to motivate and teach your children and continue with your own daily tasks or work.

We can see that the children who have been kept in a routine and go to 'home school' everyday are motivated and are producing fantastic work. These children will hopefully integrate quickly back into school routine. If your child has not been engaging with Google Classroom or the website activities, I would encourage you to get them on in the last few weeks of term to engage with the teaching and learning and to see what their friends have been up to. (I'm sure most of you will be glad to hear). I know the teachers have a lot of lovely activities planned for the end of term. Some classes have been completing projects and the standard of work is so high, I'm really impressed. Lessons and activities will continue to be posted to the end of term. Home schooling and Google Classroom will finish for term 3 on Tuesday 30th June at 12!!

Next Term

Next term in school will probably be very different to the norm. It is proposed that there will be some form of blended learning, combining face to face lessons with remote learning. Pupils may not be in school 5 days a week and they will probably still be engaging with their teacher through Google Classroom. Again we are still awaiting guidance about this from the Department of Education.

Contact with Pupils

The staff have managed to keep in daily contact with their pupils through Google Classroom through comments and emails but we would still like face to face contact with pupils. We have tried live video conferencing for chats and for teaching lessons with some classes last week, using **Collaborate Ultra** and we also intend to use **Zoom** (please download the free app). We would like all members of the class to see each other and have a chat before the end of June.

We would ask that pupils adhere to the following guidelines when using video conferencing:

1. Only use the supplied code emailed to you by your teacher for your own use. Never pass it on to anyone who is not in your class.
2. Always have an adult sitting with you.
3. Ensure you are dressed and not in bed.
4. Listen to others when they are speaking.

Money Refunds

Any school trip, after school nursery club, meals, music festival or swimming money that was paid in advance will be returned to parents on Monday 29th June. One envelope per family will be available for collection with reports.



Share Centre

Obviously our P7 residential to the Share Centre will not be taking place next week. This is an event that the P7s and the staff always look forward to. I know it is so disappointing for the P7 pupils, so maybe they could get a special treat next week at home instead. I have contacted the Share Centre many times through phone calls and emails and at this stage it looks like we are not getting the £50 deposits back. All other money paid for the trip was still in the school bank account and this will be returned to parents with any other money owed in an envelope on Monday 29th June when parents are collecting reports. If we do manage to get the deposits back this will be forwarded to you.

Reports

Reports will be issued on **Monday 29th June**. We plan to have all family reports, books, P7 prizes, money owed and any other items belonging to pupils ready for family collection on this day. We would ask that one parent/adult would come and collect everything at the time slot allocated for your eldest child's class. Could all school text books/reading/library books that pupils have been using at home or any P5 instruments be returned at this time also. Please remember social distancing! IEP reviews will also be issued with reports and there will be a list of resources needed for the year ahead. All pupils will be told what class/teacher they are moving onto next year on the bottom of their report. Again this is our proposed plan but this may change depending on DE guidance.

On Monday 29th, the new nursery pupils starting next term and the new P1s can collect their induction packs. Due to the current situation, we cannot hold induction meetings for parents or for new pupils. Further information with regard to start dates and times will be forwarded as soon as they can be confirmed.

Timetable for the collection of Reports/books/P7 Prizes

Oldest child in family in:	Collection Time
New Nursery pupils Sep 20 (with no siblings in the main school)	9.00 - 9.30 am (collect nursery induction pack)
Current Nursery Mrs K	9.30 - 10.00 am (collect P1 induction pack)
P1/2 Mrs D/Mrs McC	10.00 - 10.30 am
P2/3 Mrs E/ Mrs McC	10.30 - 11.00 am
P4/5 Mrs N	11.00 - 11.30 am
P5 Mr C	11.30 - 12.00 am
P6 Mr C	12.00 - 12.30 pm
P6 Mrs A/Miss B	12.30 - 1.00 pm
P7 Mrs A/Miss B	1.00 - 1.30 pm

Healthy Kidz Virtual Sports Day- Saturday 13th June. If you had signed up for this and took part, please remember to send any photos to Mrs Allen kallen398@c2kni.net she will then put them on the school website.

P7 Virtual Prize Giving

Friday 26th June at 11am via Zoom. A link will be sent to you before it starts through Google Classroom.

Devices for Home Learning

The Department of Education announced a scheme to lend digital devices to disadvantaged children. They agreed a process to lend laptops and tablets to those children/families who are struggling to provide equipment for their children, to support their learning. Priority will be given to disadvantaged pupils going into P4 and P7 and also those who are considered vulnerable, those entitled to free school meals and newcomer children. If you think you meet the criteria and would like to apply to this scheme, please let me know. With remote learning probably likely to continue in some form next term, the purchase of a family iPad or laptop may be more of a priority for birthday or Christmas presents than Xboxes or Play stations. (I may not be very popular with the pupils by saying that).

Provision for Keyworkers

Since 23rd March our school has remained open for the children of keyworkers. I am very grateful to all the staff who have ensured that this service has been maintained daily. This service will cease when school closes on Tuesday 30th June at 12 noon.

Retirement

I wish to inform you that Mrs B Kirkland, one of our classroom assistants will be retiring at the end of June. Mrs Kirkland has been working as a classroom assistant in Orchard County for many years. She has been an excellent assistant and will be greatly missed by the staff and pupils. We would like to wish Mrs Kirkland every blessing for a long and happy retirement and want to thank her sincerely for her dedication and professionalism to her role within school. We hope she will continue to visit Orchard County.

If you have any questions about any of the above information or require help with anything else, please telephone school or contact me by email.

Yours faithfully

J McMillan

Principal

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