

**BALLYLIFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

142 Ballinderry Bridge Road  
Cookstown  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 0AY

**PRINCIPAL:** Mr Ciaran McElroy

**Tel / Fax:** 028 79418388

**Email:** [info@ballylifford.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballylifford.cookstown.ni.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.ballyliffordps.com](http://www.ballyliffordps.com)

**Twitter:** @BallyliffordPS

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Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well and that you all had a lovely Easter. As we begin Term 3, the children will have started 'Home Learning Pack B' which was issued on 25<sup>th</sup> March. As a school we decided to issue Term 3 packs on this date to ensure the health and safety of our school community as we were following government information on the COVID19 peak and the current lockdown guidelines.

The idea of Home Learning is a complex one and can bring many anxieties for parents. It is important for all parents to remember, you are the first educators of your children so please have full confidence in your ability in the home learning role because anything you can do at home with your child/children will have a positive impact on their learning.

### **TERM 3 HOME LEARNING**

Pupils should try their best to do some of the learning pack each day. Please do not worry if packs are not completed daily as they can always catch up another day.

We would stress the importance of reading every day. Children can log into MyON in the educational websites section on our school website. The MyOn website is linked to Accelerated Reader which is a brilliant learning tool to motivate the children with their reading. It provides a wide range of cross-curricular, fiction books and non-fiction books. The children can then complete an AR Quiz once they have finished reading the books. The MyON website also has a news tab section that provides news articles and videos daily to further extend their reading and learning.

We would encourage all the children to complete set tasks on 'Education City' and Accelerated Reader quizzes. The teachers are regularly monitoring pupil progress on all Education City tasks, AR quizzes and word counts. There is a wide range of the educational apps and websites uploaded on our school website to further extend and reinforce their learning.

The Home Learning section of our website has been updated for all year groups. These updates include the answers to the work in the learning packs for KS1 and KS2 along with additional work for all year groups.

The password for the Home Learning section on our school website has already been issued in the information letter attached with the Home Learning Pack B.

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT**

Throughout the school closure, parents have been kept updated about all Home Learning through Private or Public Messaging on the Schools NI app, Ballylifford PS website and Twitter account.

Moving forward to support our parents who may have any concerns or queries, a parental comments tab has been added to the Home Learning section. Teachers' email addresses have also been added to the ***Home Learning Pack Overview and Information*** section.

We understand that this is a very difficult and challenging time and we do not wish to put any additional pressures on families. The activities and tasks are provided to support and guide Home Learning so please complete what is manageable for you and your child/children. Take this opportunity to spend time with your children teaching and experiencing many life skills such as the appreciation of the World Around Us through outdoor play and physical activities and assisting with household chores.

Everyone connected to the Ballylifford School community are fully committed to ensure the children maintain a positive outlook on their education and fulfil their potential. Our school motto 'Nurturing Potential, Achieving Together' is very much to the fore during this difficult time and we thank you all for your hard work and continued support.

All the staff continue to miss each and every one of the Ballylifford children and we look forward to seeing them very soon. Take care everyone and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ciaran McElroy  
Principal

