

15/10/20

## Extended Half Term Break

As you will already have heard in the news yesterday morning, the executive has agreed that schools will close for two weeks, including the half-term holiday, until Monday 2 November, at which time a review of the impact of closure will occur. The executive has made it clear that this is not a move to remote learning, rather it appears to be a reallocation of optional days together with a few exceptional closures; I will update you as regards the implications of this upon our stated closures for the year whenever we receive detailed guidance. Consequently, remote learning through Seesaw/Google Classroom and / or learning packs will not be provided / required during this period.

School will, therefore, close on Friday 16 October at our normal time, reopening on Monday 2 November. Parent teacher telephone interviews (P1+P7) will now take place from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. School will have an earlier closing time from 12:30 - 1pm as shown on our school website calendar.

Please note that this extended closure is not something we were calling for. Moreover, we already had plans in place to move to remote learning if and when required. We fully expect to be back to face to face learning and teaching on Monday 2 November. However, this is a fast changing situation, and consequently staff are already prepared to move to remote learning if the planned review leads to further restrictions. If this happens remote learning will be facilitated through Seesaw/Google Classroom with some hard copy worksheets / workbooks etc. To this end your child's class teacher will send home some materials on Friday. ***Such packs are only to be used in the very unlikely event that we move to remote learning on 2 November.*** As always, we hope for the best and plan for the worst.

P7 children who are sitting the transfer tests have already been provided with a pack to be used during this extended period. This is to ensure we keep skills sharp in the lead up to these tests.

Kind regards

M Dillon