



Ampertaine Primary School

Friday 26th February 2021
Latest Information



Dear Parents,

Thank you for all of your emails and comments this week. Your support and commitment as we continue on this journey has been amazing and much appreciated. Announcements have been made and as always the communication to ourselves directly, rather than through the media, has constantly lagged behind. We greatly value your patience and understanding as we as a school try to provide a clear direction on our way forward for our pupils, staff and school community.

Whole School BinsmART Challenge

- Well done to all who took part in our challenge before half term. Talent is simple in abundance in Ampertaine. Creativity and use of recycled materials was excellent.
- ALL photos sent in are on our school website as slide show. We would encourage you all to take a moment and watch it.
- DON'T forget to send your entries into the Midulster council.
- Entries must include the child's, name, age, school and contact details and a paragraph explaining what your sculpture is and listing the main materials used.
- It must also include a minimum of 2 photos but no more than 4 of your sculpture.
- Sculptures must be photographed and entries must be submitted electronically to recycling@midulstercouncil.org by Wednesday 10th March 2021.



Pan cake day activities

- What a great way to finish the last term with a lovely warm pan cake topped with delicious healthy toppings! Or in most cases beautiful chocolate spread with even more sugary items on top!
- We hope you enjoyed the activities set by your teachers and had a flippin' great time.
- ALL photos sent in are on our school website as a slide show. We would encourage you all to take a moment and watch them.



Remember to click on 'Learning' tab on the website

- PLEASE make use of the links and shortcuts to apps which can be found on our website. You simply have to click on the 'Learning' tab and this will bring you to the page. The information found here ranges in appropriateness for the pupils. We would ask parents to explore for themselves first. The links range in subjects and offer an alternative avenue to gain more activities for those at home. Some of the links require a sign up process to access the free material. We hope you find the links helpful and beneficial.

Remote Learning Survey

- Thank you to those of you who took a few minutes to complete our simple questionnaire on the basis of your experience during the current period of remote learning.
- Clearly face to face teaching is the best way for children to learn, with recent announcements we are encouraged that soon we will be able to provide this for a section of our pupils.
- All survey responses have been correlated and analysed. Your feedback has been discussed in a staff zoom meeting. We have reviewed and reflected on both the positive comments and those which have identified issues or problems.
- We are in an ever flowing situation and are adapting and reviewing as we move along this course. Your feedback has been vital in allowing us to progress and develop our approach.



Work uploaded by pupils to Seesaw and Google classroom

- We thank you for all of the work uploaded. This has been a steep learning curve for all dealing with new technologies and a new way of life.
- We understand the pressures at home and encourage a flexible approach with regards to the time frame to upload set work. It is not expected on the date it is set and can be uploaded at a suitable time to assist your needs at home and external pressures.
- Teachers marking also reflects the same time frame. We ask for patience and understanding.
- **Work should not be expected to be marked on the day returned by pupils.** All work is read through and will be marked in due course. This may mean a comment, sticker, actual markings on work etc.
- **We are all working hard and trying our best to manage and maintain a high standard.**
- Working remotely as you are all aware can bring external issues which are beyond our control. Internet with slow speeds, devices not playing ball and family life needs.
- Our staff are committed to our pupils and are managing a very difficult situation incredibly well and professionally.

Seesaw and Google Classroom

- Materials will be available from **9pm the evening before, read over all the instructions given by the teachers. These are very detailed with specific guidance for your children.**
- The Department of Education's guidance to all schools for this lockdown has changed. Each teacher must continue to record daily attendance. **Children who are not active in remote learning will be recorded as absent.**
- Each child should leave a message and upload work every day, where possible. **Uploaded work will demonstrate participation and the school can record that accordingly in our system for attendance.**
- If your child misses an activity or is unable to upload work on the day it was set that is okay! We understand! Remember your teachers are available online every day during normal teaching hours.
- If you are unable to do the work for any reason please contact the school through our info account and **we can grant an attendance mark.**

World Book Day 2021



Thursday 4th March

Can you believe it's almost World Book Day again? Last year we were all packed into the Assembly Hall in our pyjamas for a Big Bedtime Read.

This year we still have a fun day planned, but instead of YOU dressing up, you are going to dress a potato up!! Your World Book Day challenge is to make a 'booked potato' just like some of the ideas in the photos.

You can turn your potato into any storybook or novel character you wish. If you have brothers or sisters you can work together and make the characters from one book eg The three little pigs or Horrid Henry and Perfect Peter. The choice is yours... time to get thinking!

Also look out for a special World Book Day Quiz!! There are prizes to be won.



Ampertaine Stars



Becca having lots of fun in the snow just before half term. Loving the family of snowmen/people.



Adam attempting to build the tallest snowman ever! Fantastic.



Kelsey has managed to build this fantastic Lego house which she got for her birthday. Super job! We hope you had a great birthday.



Matthew has been very busy in his minecraft town construction. The detail is amazing.



The Cunningham boys have managed to make the most of the snow day! A brilliant snowman and an igloo. Fantastic work boys. We hope you enjoyed the fun in the snow.



The Elder family have a new construction in their back yard. Rebekah managed to make an incredible igloo with the help of her brilliant big sister. Love the use of the plastic baskets to make snow bricks.



James certainly had a busy snow day. Just when you thought it was a large snowman you go round the back and are able to sit in it as well. A snowrrific idea James. Lovely to see you didn't leave your dog out of the fun and excitement as well.

It has been brilliant to see all the different things you have all been up to. If you would like to send a picture to share with our school community email info@ampertaineps.maghera.ni.sch.uk and include a little sentence or two about the photo.

The collection of School Resources due to lockdown extension

- Materials were made available for parents to collect from school on Monday 22nd February. The materials are pupil specific and range in provision according to their class and educational level.
- We would like to thank all of the staff who enabled the smooth collection of the resources. It was a fantastic team effort and we are very grateful to have such staff working in our school.

P6 Transfer Preparation

- Thank you to those who have registered an interest for your child to take part in this year's extra work.
- Packs have been made this week and we will be in contact with our plan forward with regards to collection and the form of assistance being provided. The school phased return announcements/saga has hindered our planning this week as we are sure you understand.

Provision for children of Key Workers

- While it is crucial that key workers are able to attend work, if there is a parent / guardian / elder sibling at home or other provision available to key workers, then you must use that provision. This is essential to avoid schools becoming overwhelmed and having to close completely on safety grounds. THE SAFEST PLACE FOR CHILDREN IS IN THEIR OWN HOME.
- In order to avoid mass lock-downs we ask anyone sending their children to school to be particularly vigilant. If a child shows any symptoms he / she should remain at home.
- Children will have their temperatures taken on arrival and will not be allowed entry should they be presenting with a high temperature.
- **Children should bring a packed lunch.**
- **Children should attend wearing their school uniform.**
- **If learning activities are paper based, these should be printed and brought to school.**

Anyone who feels they may be entitled to apply for key worker provision needs to email Mr Dillon on mdillon539@c2ken.net no later than 2p.m on Friday. Please provide the following details:

- parents names;
- a contact telephone number and email address;
- children's names, classes and teachers;
- parents' occupation that entitles you to key-worker provision; and
- which days you need your child to attend.

Play Matters

- Never before has play been so important for children's health and wellbeing. It is through play that children make sense of the world that they are living in – a world at the minute; for many, is full of change and uncertainty.
- Make sure you *take time to play every day*.
- PlayBoard (the lead agency for children's play) are kindly sharing the following Play Matters – Play for Parents guide <https://www.playboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PlayBoard-Play-For-Parents-Guide-2019.pdf> here you will find lots of tips and information on the importance of play.



Crime Prevention advice

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland would like to take this opportunity to provide some useful Crime Prevention advice which will complement the increase of the devices being used at this time.
- The electronic information booklets include the '[Cyber Aware](#)' brochure and the '[Little Book of Big Scams.](#)' Please click on each to download or alternatively visit or school website.
- We are also hoping that parents and children will visit the Scamwise NI website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni
- This is an important message in order to keep people safe and hopefully prevent them from becoming a victim of crime.



Finally.....

As we begin to slowly start face to face teaching again we are encouraged by this but mindful we must continue to do the good practice in place.

All staff can't wait to see and speak to our children in person again. It will be fantastic to not hear the echo of a corridor but instead the noise of it being filled with laughter and chat from the pupils.

We hope everyone has had a good first week back and enjoys a lovely weekend. As a school we will continue to keep you informed with the ever changing situation.

Keep persevering, Keep safe and keep trying your best.

From all at Ampertaine