



Ampertaine Primary School

Friday 12th March 2021
Latest Information



Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your support and commitment in these challenging circumstances. The face to face messages of support and appreciation have been very kind and we are humbled by such comments.

P1-P3 Return to School

- It was fantastic to see our P1 – P3 pupils coming back to school this week. The excitement was palpable. All the children have settled very well into class, keen to share stories, meet friends and, yes, even to engage with work.

What a great start!



P1-P3 Latest Update

- As you will no doubt be aware, the Executive has announced that pupils in pre-school, nursery, and primary school pupils in P1-P3 will continue to be provided full-time face-to-face teaching until the schools' planned Easter holidays. This is good news. As yet, there has been no change for pupils in P4-P7.
- Please remember the social distance guidance when leaving children to school or collecting them in the afternoon. The last thing we want is for there to be a resurgence of Covid leading to further lockdowns before the end of the school year.

School Closures

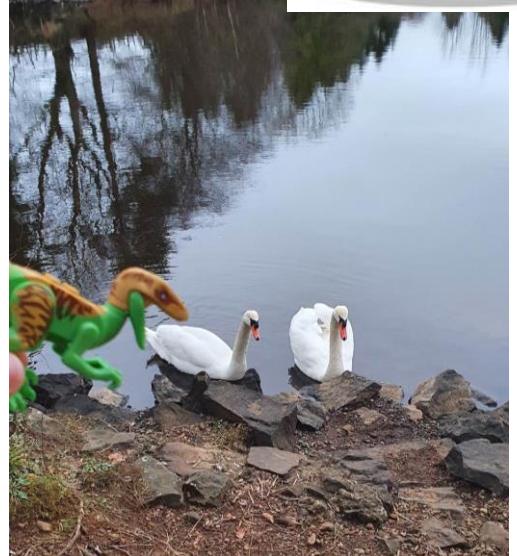
- St Patrick's Day: School will be closed on Wednesday 17 March. This will apply to P1-P3, Key Worker, and all remote learning.
- Easter: School will close (Key Worker and Google classroom remote learning) at 12.00 noon on Friday 26 March, reopening on Monday 12 April at the normal times for P1-P3, with P4-P7 working remotely.

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.



Ampertaine Stars



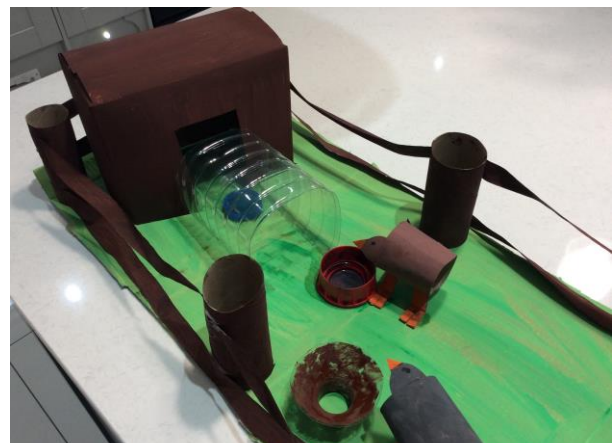
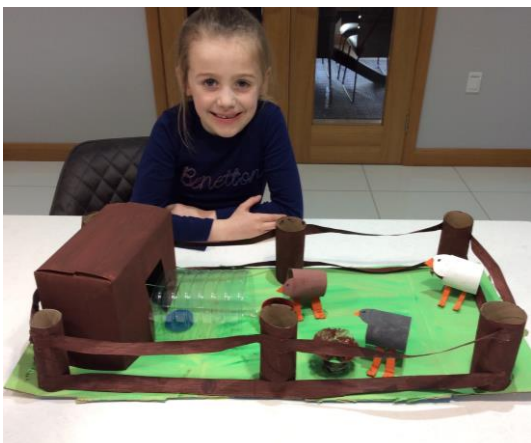
James and Isaac having a great time feeding the swans. Watch out for the T-Rex! Super to see the boys out and about enjoying the fresh air and dry weather.



Adam Bolton with his first lambs which arrived last week - triplets!



Adam and Matthew helping on the farm every day, feeding cows and calves. Super effort!



Sienna and her brothers got some hens recently so she decided to make a model of their coop in the field and of course some of the hens. She used three materials that we recycle, cardboard, newspaper and plastic bottles. Fantastic work Sienna. Hope you are helping with the hens.



Thomas G helping his mum do some gardening using his New Holland Farm Tractor and Link box. Looking good Thomas. Great piece of kit being put to fantastic use.



Daniel's Minecraft Park (Nillager Park) is really taking shape. Here is the latest photo from the Minecraft town which looks simply amazing. Unbelievably job Daniel!

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.

Mathletics

- A BIG SHOUT OUT to James Conner, Dylan Crockett and Joshua Malcomson from P1 who have achieved their first 5 BRONZE certificates in MATHLETICS which means they've got their first SILVER CERTIFICATE! Absolutely SUPER boys, we are SO proud of you..
- Mrs Penny can't wait to get back to school and deliver all these special certificates to all the hard workers throughout the whole school.
- There's also SPECIAL NEW AWARD TROPHIES for those who have achieved more than 5 GOLD certificates over the past few years! More information to follow soon...
- Please keep up your time on MATHLETICS, certificates are updated weekly and added to the website monthly. FANTASTIC work to all of you who are on Mathletics frequently.
- AMPERTAINE is VERY PROUD of you.



Parentline *FREE* sessions

- Please see our flyer giving further information on Parentline's free sessions to support any parent/carer who is concerned about their child's separation anxieties or reluctance to return to school.
- These sessions will take place every Thursday throughout March and April. Parentline have a limited number of spaces available and would appreciate if you could share this with any parents/carers you think this would benefit and encourage them to book a place by calling our free helpline on 0808 8020 400.



**Back to School or Childcare Setting:
Supporting you to support your child.**

 Parentline NI is running **FREE** and confidential one to one sessions with Parent Support Officer Kathy.

The aim of these sessions is to support any parent/carer who is concerned about their child's separation anxieties or reluctance to return to school.

- Explore your own strengths and feelings.
- Explore ways of coping with change and building resilience.
- Explore separation anxiety and approaches which may help your child to overcome it.
- Explore school reluctance, its various causes and some positive coping strategies.
- Explore co-regulation and ideas to strengthen family communication and relationships.

When: Every Thursday in March and April
For more information or to book a place call free 0808 8020 400

 facebook.com/parentlineni  [@ChildreninNI](https://twitter.com/ChildreninNI)



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 try to 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 comment or 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.**

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 full 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.

Finally.....

Our staff have had a fantastic week in school and in our remote learning world thanks to the energy, motivation and the perseverance demonstrated by our school community. We have had many challenges over this time period which have been met with many solutions.

As a school we will continue to keep you updated on the ongoing debates on face to face teaching and if and when this will begin for some of our pupils.

We wish everyone a super weekend and a brilliant Mother's day.

From all at Ampertaine