**Ballymoney National School,**

**Ballineen,**

**Co. Cork.**

**Phone: 023-8847583**

**6th January 2021**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

You will all have heard the Taoiseach's announcement this evening that teaching is to move online for the next three weeks. This is a major inconvenience for some of you and a great relief for others. Thank you for filling in our survey. The results were completely divided, 50% agreed that the schools should close and 50% felt that they should stay open. Neither the staff or the pupils would choose remote learning, we all had a wonderful first term and we are all looking forward to returning to school as soon as it is safe.

As parents, balancing home-schooling, family commitments and work commitments is extremely challenging. Please encourage your children to engage with us as much as possible. The children who uploaded all their daily work and had daily interaction with their teachers on Seesaw, made great progress during the last lockdown. It is really difficult for us to plan appropriate work if we do not see whether the pupils are managing to complete it or not. If you have multiple children in the school, Seesaw family app allows you to view all their work in one place without having to log in to each child's individual portfolio.

**Junior Classroom**

We hope that we have all learned from the first school closure and that we can improve the way that lessons are delivered. The junior room work will be e-mailed each week. A video explaining their work will be uploaded to Seesaw. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that a photo of their completed work is either uploaded to Seesaw or e-mailed to the school. A weekly zoom meeting will be held for the junior pupils to give them an opportunity to socialise with their peers.

**Senior Classroom**

The work for the week will be e-mailed to the senior pupils each week. Any extra supports such as links and pdfs will be uploaded to Seesaw. There will be a daily zoom meeting at 9:30 so that we can have a chat and the work can be explained to them. It is hoped that they will get most of their work completed during this zoom meeting. I will have three young children to mind, including a preschooler, so we will all have to be patient with each other and do the best we can, there may be a few interruptions! The pupils will be asked to upload their work to Seesaw afterwards which they all know how to do. Please ask your children if there are any novels that they would like to borrow from the class library. Photographs of each shelf of books will be uploaded to Seesaw this evening. Please let us know by Friday so that the books can be placed into their box of books. Four lovely warm hats were left behind at the senior classroom coat hooks, I will upload photos of them to Seesaw.

**Special Education**

Ms. Hawkins and Mrs. Quin will be in contact with each of their pupil's families to discuss a time that would be suitable to zoom them.

**Textbooks**

The teachers are packing up the pupils' books and getting the resources that they need ready. Boxes with the pupils' books will be left outside at the front gate and can be collected from the school between 2 and 3 o'clock on Saturday. Their names will be written on the boxes so that you can identify your box and take it home.

There will be broadband challenges for some families, some of you may have a shortage of suitable devices and some of you may have reluctant children. We all hope that this school closure won't last for too long. Please be positive about engaging with their schoolwork. The first zoom for the senior pupils will begin at 9:30 on Monday morning. We will begin with their news to break them in lightly.

Stay Safe.

Kind regards,

Shireen