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**Loanends Primary School**

193 Seven Mile Straight Nutts Corner Crumlin BT29 4YR

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20 January 2021

Dear Parent

I hope you are coping with week three of Remote Learning! Well done to those people who are returning their work on Seesaw. I know juggling work and online learning isn’t easy but it is important to set aside time to ensure that tasks are completed. As we know this will continue until half-term and possibly longer.

**TRACKING ONLINE LEARNING:**

We have been told to track engagement with remote learning and to mark registers accordingly as required by DENI. We appreciate that some pupils/parents do a “bulk upload” at the weekend. Teachers therefore will mark registers each Monday for the previous week. As a minimum, the expectation is the completion of Literacy and Numeracy tasks as well as reading, spelling, tables and high frequency words.

We have also decided to pause written homework for February which might help with time management and reduce stress! Teachers may provide optional tasks, such as a STEM activity which you may choose to complete, if you have time, in place of the normal homework activity.

**COLLECTION OF PACKS:**

As previously explained, packs should be collected from school on a fortnightly basis. Packs will supplement tasks sent by Seesaw. Some packs have remained in the foyer since 11 January and have not been collected. This suggests that some pupils are not completing their tasks. Please bear in mind that it takes time, effort and resources to collate these packs so it would be greatly appreciated if all parents could make arrangements to collect these at the appropriate time.

The next collection date is:

**FRIDAY 22 JANUARY 2021 1:00 TO 4:00PM** (work for w/c 25 January and 1 February).

This will be the same arrangement as before; please collect from the cloakrooms via the external doors. Packs will be placed in the cloakroom areas in order to avoid congestion at a central point. I would be grateful if you could please wear a mask and sanitise your hands before touching the packs.

**CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS/STATEMENTED PUPILS:**

I would ask those parents who have now requested Key Worker provision to contact the school, using the info account, info@loanends.crumlin.ni.sch.uk to confirm their requirements for the next two weeks**: w/c 25 January and 1 February by Friday 22 January at 6:00pm.** This will greatly help with the creation of a supervision rota.

**“A child of a key worker is a child for whom both parents (or a parent in a single parent family) is a key worker, with no other safe alternative.”** It should be our aim to reduce the footfall in school in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Therefore, supervision should only be requested as a last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.

The Department have stated children who qualify as children of key workers will be in the building for “supervised learning.” This is not face to face teaching; this is being supervised in school doing the same activities as the children who are at home.

The above also applies to any statemented pupils.

Just a reminder that your son or daughter will require:

* Break, drinks and a packed lunch
* Hand sanitiser, wipes and tissues
* **All the tools and resources needed for them to complete their online learning**. (This is essential as supervising staff do not have access to individual Seesaw accounts and in most cases are unable to print off or see the tasks set). School iPads will be available for those pupils who need access to videos/presentations. However, please ensure that your child has their login details and comes with the correct accompanying worksheets from their pack. Please do not send in personal devices as we cannot give out the school wifi code for safeguarding reasons.
* They may also bring a game, toy or book to break up the day.
* It will not be necessary to wear school uniform.

**P7 TRANSFER-AQE**

We continue to think about our P7s as they wait for information regarding admissions criteria for post-primary schools. This is not straightforward for anyone. The P7s (and their parents) have been through a lot of uncertainty in recent weeks. Both are to be commended for the time and commitment they have given in preparation for the tests. We all share with them in their disappointment regarding the cancellation of the tests. Whist they didn’t have their opportunity to shine this time round we do know they will in the future and will succeed wherever they go. The P7 class are a great bunch of pupils who deserve the very best. We assure them of our continued help in whatever way we can as we navigate through online admissions and the admissions process on the whole.

Once again, If I can do anything to help or support P7s or the parents at this stage please let me know.

**MUSIC SUPPORT-EA MUSIC SERVICE**

Mrs Rogers from the Music Service has been in touch with me regarding support for the pupils whom she would normally teach. As we have not been in a position to safely offer this provision in term one, I am unsure who is planning to continue on with their tuition. Mrs Rogers can offer advice, set homework and point pupils in the direction of good resources if needs be. If any current P5-7 pupils are interested you can contact Mrs Rogers directly: erogers214@c2ken.net.

**NEW WEBSITE**

Our new website was launched on Wednesday 20 January. The web address remains the same as before: [www.loanendsps.com](http://www.loanendsps.com) Please feel free to visit it at your convenience. We would also welcome any feedback you have about the new site to help us as we strive to make it is as user-friendly and effective at keeping you updated and informed.

Thank you for continued patience and support in these difficult times. It is important that we work together at home learning as we await the magical day when we can return to school for direct teaching. We don’t expect parents to be experts but is important to establish a routine, as teachers and parents share a collective responsibility for teaching at this point in time. Please strive to do your very best in the interests of our pupils.

Stay safe and look after each other.



Mrs L Armour CC: Mr R McCourt

Principal Chairman of the Board of Governors