



Loanends Primary School

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2 February 2021

Dear Parent

We are now into week 5 of online learning and we have to keep on going until 8 March at least! I appreciate everyone is beginning to lose a bit of momentum but a break is coming. **The week commencing 15 February is half-term**, so this will afford the opportunity of time away from "the screen" and hopefully some quality family time. There will not be any work sent home for this period.

Parents, pupils and teachers have continued to work hard. The level of activity on Seesaw is a good indicator of this. Just last week, there were 4,533 new items posted on Seesaw, 3,119 comments and 580 parent visits. Keeping up to date with the remote learning from a teacher or parent's perspective is a challenge. In our case we can report that around 95% of pupils are participating consistently in remote learning. For those 5% who are not, please let us know how we can help or if you are experiencing any particular problems. We will do our best to support you as we continue to work our way through this term. Maintaining a connection with school is so important.

TRACKING ONLINE LEARNING:

We continue to record and track online learning through the submissions of work. We appreciate that it is not always practical to do this on a daily basis but if you could try to have work uploaded by the weekend that would be most helpful for teachers marking the registers on 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.

DOUGHNUTS AND COLLECTION OF PACKS:

As previously explained, packs should be collected from school on a fortnightly basis. Packs will supplement tasks sent by Seesaw. Despite the last invitation to collect packs, (Friday 22 January) some still remain in the foyer. 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 5 FEBRUARY 2021 1:00 TO 4:00PM (work for w/c 8 and 22 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.

In addition, we are including a **doughnut for pupils to eat and enjoy as a Friday treat**. Inside the pack, you will also find a template of a doughnut. The idea is, during this mental health week for children, to think about and appreciate the things that they do have/can do rather than the things they don't. In other words: "focus on the doughnut and not the hole." Pupils are being asked to decorate the ring of the doughnut by drawing in all the things that they have which they can do and enjoy at the moment. Please return these to school when you are next collecting packs. Please ensure that the doughnut is cut out and that the name is on the back since we want to display these in school for children returning. It would be lovely if we could display all 203 designs but in the meantime we hope that pupils will enjoy this treat on

us! These have been baked by Tesco and have been placed in bags by staff who have worn gloves, aprons and masks.

CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS/STATEMENTED PUPILS:

I would ask those parents who have 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 8 and 22 February by Friday 5 February at 6:00pm.** This will greatly help with the creation of a supervision rota.

Just a reminder that your son or daughter will require:

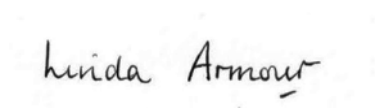
- Break, drinks and a packed lunch
- Hand sanitiser, wipes and tissues
- **All the tools and resources needed for them to complete their online learning.** (This is essential as supervising staff do not have access to individual Seesaw accounts and in most cases are unable to print off or see the tasks 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.

HALF-TERM: MONDAY 15-FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY

I hope that everyone manages to get some respite over the half-term break. It has been tough going this term and for one reason or another seems more difficult than the last time. We won't however get dispirited (think about the doughnut!!) but look forward to the time when school can return safely. Hopefully that isn't too far away.

I would ask however, that if there are any positive Covid-19 cases among the children who have been coming into school to let me know, if this happens over half-term. This is essential for track and trace and it is important that school follows the correct protocols. I can be contacted by emailing info@loanends.crumlin.ni.sch.uk.

Keep well and keep safe over the coming days.



Mrs L Armour

Principal

CC Mr R McCourt
Chairman of the Board of Governors