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**Armoy Primary School**



**Parent Handbook**

School Website: https://www.armoyps.com

Email:             info@armoyps.ni.sch.uk

Telephone: (028) 71810510

Principal: Mrs C Steele

Vice Principal: Mrs A Kane

Dear Parent / Person with Parental Responsibility,

Since March, teachers and families **have come together in a shared goal of keeping learning going throughout the period of lockdown. We would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank you all for the hard work and dedication you put in to home learning in what were clearly the most difficult of circumstances.**



**School appreciates the pressures placed upon families who faced many challenges such as limited access to devices; connectivity problems; lack of engagement & motivation from your child; the additional time and financial pressures of downloading and printing off work, the list goes on.**

**Nonetheless, despite these pressures, it is evident that you did your very best to ensure that your child accessed and engaged in as much home learning as was manageable. For that, we thank you!**



**The purpose of this booklet** is to help us all (both at home and at school) to be better prepared to cope with ‘remote learning’ due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**With the benefit of hindsight, staff now feel better prepared to provide a more manageable ‘Remote Learning Plan’ that will take into account any difficulties previously experienced.**

**What is a Remote Learning Plan?**

In order to provide continuity of learning for your child, a Remote Learning Plan (RLP) outlines the strategy that A PS will be using during potential school closures. A RLP explains everything you need to know in order to support your child through a home learning experience. ***However, it is important to note that if pupils are ill, they should take time to rest and recover and can resume their remote learning once they’re feeling better again.***

**How can I communicate with my child’s teacher during remote learning?**

All communication to teachers must be through Seesaw **during school hours (9.00am-3:45pm**). Please refrain from contacting staff in the evenings, unless there is an urgent matter, in which case we would urge you to contact school using the email address provided on our school website and on the front cover of this booklet.

**Teacher availability during a period of ‘Remote Learning’**



If your child’s class teacher becomes ill, they will not be able to provide further activities until they are feeling well again. In this instance, we would encourage you to ensure that your child continues to read and learn his/her tables & spellings. You should also make use of the internet resources and links that are provided in this guidance to source out additional literacy and numeracy activities / games.

**Other Communication Methods**

Seesaw will be used for teachers to communicate instructions and share resources relating to your child’s learning.

School website and Facebook Page: We will regularly update these platforms with school related information.

**Printed Learning Packs**



**In the event of a school closure or the need for some form of ‘blended learning’ approach, children may be provided with a pack of pre-printed worksheets and activities – enough to keep them working until teachers have had time to plan properly. Should school be required to remain closed or provide blended learning beyond this time frame, further work will be provided with specific instructions for completion of activities provided by individual class teachers. This work will be provided through Seesaw, however, should you have no access to a laptop / computer, please email us to discuss alternative arrangements.**

**Seesaw**



**The printed work will be supplemented (via your child’s Seesaw) with further resources such as Powerpoint presentations and links to educational videos / websites etc.** Through Seesaw, staff will provide an overview of the learning with instructions, guidance and links to additional resources for the week ahead.

**Your child’s class teacher will always be available during normal teaching hours to provide instructions for learning and communicate with you through Seesaw. Children will be given exercise books in which they can complete any work that cannot be completed directly onto a worksheet.**

**Marking and Assessment**



**It is vitally important that all children continue to engage with home learning as much as possible. We would ask that you return all completed work to school through our online platforms (Seesaw or teacher’s email) so that it can be marked by teachers. In some cases, you may be asked to take a photograph, record a video and upload this to Seesaw. Any outstanding work should be returned when school reopens.**

**Monitoring of Completed Work**

**Staff will monitor closely all pupils’ completed work and will liaise and communicate with you directly should there appear to be a lack of work uploaded. Therefore, if you find that you are struggling in any way to complete the work, it is important that you let your child’s teacher know so that all avenues of support can be explored together. Please be aware that in the case of a child not completing any written work provided, or participating in online tasks, an absence code will be recorded for that period of school closure.**

**eLearning: Accessing online Platforms**



Children may be required to complete some online tasks (e.g. using the Mathletics/ Readiwriter/ Maths Seeds) in addition to their printed / written work. Where this is required, we recommend that your child spends no longer than 10 – 40 mins engaged in such activities.

Each child then has a unique username and password to access their personal portal. This information has already been provided by each class teacher and may continue to be used in the event of a school closure.

**Accelerated Reader**



To access the AR website children can type in the following unique web address:

<https://ukhosted15.renlearn.co.uk/2235509/> will direct them to our school’s portal where they will be able to type in their individual username and password.

Children can complete online quizzes from 7.30am to 9.30pm from Monday to Friday.



To access this site, just type ‘MySchool’ into an internet browser.

From time to time your child may be asked to access MySchool. This is their own personal workspace provided for all pupils by C2K. Each child will be provided with their username and password to enable them to access their files and apps.

**Other ongoing daily revision activities**



In addition to learning activities provided by your child’s class teacher, we would also encourage you to ensure that your child spends some time every day engaging in reading, revising spellings & keywords, reciting number facts and / or times tables.

Please find enclosed in this booklet some further suggestions as to how you can help to develop your child’s literacy and numeracy skills, with a list of good websites and other ‘free’ resources you could access.

**As a parent, you can support your child’s learning by:**

* Establishing routines and expectations
* Defining a space for your child to work in
* Monitoring communications from teachers
* Beginning and ending each day with a check-in
* Taking an active role in helping your child(ren) process their learning
* Encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
* Checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
* Monitoring how much time your child is spending online
* Keeping your child(ren) socially active, whilst keeping in mind limitations around social distancing.

Remember – take this time to have some fun too!

**Child Protection & Safeguarding**

What child protection and safeguarding measures will be in place for pupils during this time?

Existing safeguarding and child protection arrangements will continue to apply through Circular 2017/04 “Safeguarding and Child Protection – A Guide for Schools” and our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy which is available on our school website.

**Tips for looking after your children during isolation:**

* Talk to your whole family about what is happening. Understanding the situation will reduce anxiety.
* Help your children to think about how they have coped with difficult situations in the past and reassure them that they will cope with this situation too. Remind them that isolation won’t last for long.
* Exercise regularly. Options could include exercise DVD’s, dancing, floor exercises, yoga, walking around the backyard or using home exercise equipment, such as a stationary bicycle, if you have it. Exercise is a proven treatment to promote well-being and relieve stress.
* Encourage your children to keep in touch with family members and friends via telephone, email or social media (where appropriate).

**If you have any concerns about a child during a period of school closure, you can contact:**

* **Education Authority – Welfare Officer: 028 2566 1111**
* **Duty & Assessment Gateway Team (Social Services): 028 7032 5462**
* **PSNI Central Referral Unit (CRU) 02890259299 ext 30299**
* **In case of immediate threat / danger / crisis – phone 999**
* **Suicide Prevention: 24/7 helpline: 0808 808 8000**

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| **Useful Websites to extend and support home learning.** |
| **Foundation Stage** | <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies> <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html><https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting><https://nrich.maths.org/early-years><https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/help-child-learn-age-4-5/> <https://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/number/>https://www.getepic.com/ |
| **Key Stage 1** | <https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/index.html><http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize> <https://www.mathplayground.com/math-games.html> <http://www.maths-games.org/><https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/help-child-learn-age-7-8/> <https://www.funbrain.com/math-zone> [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)https://www.getepic.com/ |
| **Key Stage 2** | <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/help-child-learn-age-9-10/> <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html><https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize><https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/maths/><http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html><https://www.spellzone.com/word_lists/index.cfm> |
| **Literacy Specific** | <https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/free-resources><https://www.thebookseller.com/insight/publishers-work-hard-provide-free-homeschooling-resources-parents-and-children-schools-stay><https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html#!/><http://www.lovemybooks.co.uk/>[www.phonicsbloom.com](http://www.phonicsbloom.com)https://www.getepic.com/ |
| **Numeracy Specific** | <https://corbettmaths.com/><https://www.mathsbox.org.uk/index1.php><https://myminimaths.co.uk/><http://bedtimemath.org/fun-math-at-home/> |
| **Science / World Around Us Specific** | <https://mommypoppins.com/kids/50-easy-science-experiments-for-kids-fun-educational-activities-using-household-stuff><https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/><https://clubhubuk.co.uk/listings/nature/><https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-self-isolation/> |
| **Other useful websites.** | <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx><https://wonderopolis.org/> <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/><https://www.artforkidshub.com/><https://happiful.com/10-virtual-pe-lessons-your-kids-will-love/> |