



## **NOTE TO PARENTS**

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

This last week has been such a joy to have all our children back in school! There are many reasons to be thankful. As we break for Easter, I would like to thank all the staff at KPS for their endeavours this past term. Teachers embraced video lessons, which we know the pupils enjoyed and we are ever grateful to the support of our classroom assistants and building supervisor who wholeheartedly supported the continuation of our learning hub for key workers.

### **CURRICULUM:**

Staff have spent time this week, mapping out learning pathways for the coming weeks to ensure that pupils cover key concepts and get up to speed with reading, spelling and mental maths. We appreciate the support of our parents and ask that you continue to support home learning of key facts and spellings. Topics such as time, money, tables and number facts cannot be learnt in school alone and require a drip-drip approach – little and often! We have been able to complete some informal assessments on where pupils are at and we will be focussing on the needs of the children over the coming weeks including additional emotional and wellbeing activities.

### **AFTERSCHOOL PROVISION**

Stay Late and Chatterbox are currently only available for keyworker pupils due to limits in numbers. We will await further guidance from DENI and let you know if this position continues. NO other pupils will be able to avail at present.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We are considering our uniform for next year and will be seeking parents' views after Easter via survey. Our relaxed uniform will continue as we appreciate that shops are not open to purchase items as no doubt your children will have grown since Christmas.

### **ENGAGE FUNDING**

We have just heard that Engage Funding will continue from Easter to June. We hope to continue utilising this funding to split the P3-P4 class 1-2 days per week.

### **WELLBEING FUNDING**

Each school was allocated funding to support pupils' wellbeing. We have spent our money on playground equipment including:

- For Foundation Stage a new sandpit, water pump station and picnic bench.
- For KS1/2: mud kitchen, beat boxes, water trays, outdoor xylophone, outdoor painting easels
- Wellbeing Room: beanbags, sensory bubble tower

### **ENROLMENT**

Our enrolment continues on an upward trend and this is an exciting time for KPS. We have had many opportunities, despite Covid, to showcase our good practice in outdoor play and more recently outdoor learning. We encourage all our parents to talk positively about our school and promote it by commenting under posts on Facebook and

Twitter. We should expect that families in and around Killylea will chose our school for their children and your word of mouth is very powerful. Please take opportunities to share your positive experiences with neighbours and friends who have young children and encourage them to make early contact with the school. Enrolment trends are useful to help us to effectively budget and forward plan.

#### **PARKING**

**I would ask again, that parents, or those collecting your children, DO NOT PARK opposite the school gate. Parents of pupils in P1-4 should collect their children from the school gate [P1 from the inner black gate] rather than sit in their car. As our pupil numbers continue to grow, this is increasingly important and we ask for parental support in keeping your children safe. Needless to say, ALL pupils should travel in a proper car seat.**

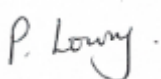
#### **KEY DATES:**

- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April:** School Back after Easter
- **Wed 14<sup>th</sup> April:** Hockey Coaching begins for P1-4 at a cost of £2 per week, payable via Parent Pay. [P3-4 pupils should if possible have gum shields and shin guards]. P5-7 will begin on 19<sup>th</sup> May.
- **Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> April:** P4-7 Sponsored Walk [all payments should be made by Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April.] Sheets will go home on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.
- **Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May :** school closed for May Day Bank Holiday
- **Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> – Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May:** school closed for Bank Holiday [including one School Development Day and one day in lieu of St Patrick's Day]
- **Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** P7 Leavers Presentations [details will follow closer to the time]
- **Fri 25<sup>th</sup> June 11am:** School finishes for Summer

Now that we are all finally back to school, may I remind everyone to take care over the Easter break and remember to adhere to the Covid guidance. We have been very fortunate in having a very low incidence rate in school and I'm sure like us, you do not wish to return to home schooling!

On behalf of all our staff, I wish you all a restful Easter break and we look forward to a busy and productive Summer Term.

Kind regards



Pam Lowry