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BT49 9EX

Tel: 028 777 68695

27th April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this finds you well and that all families in our school community are safe and healthy.

We are now into week 2 of the summer term with remote learning where I continue to be amazed and heartened by the engagement and endeavour of you all to support the development of your child/ren. It really is inspirational to see so many innovative, fun, interactive learning experiences led by you in the home environment.

Thank you for your feedback in our recent Remote Learning Survey. We have been using this information to implement improvements where possible, as we too are 'learning as we go'.

I understand that there are lots of different situations at home currently and as such you may feel stressed or under pressure as you juggle home life, work commitments, home schooling, caring for loved ones, as well as trying to maintain a sense of normality. Please remember that whatever you do, it will be enough. Complete what is manageable for your child and your situation at this time. The value of some quality family time, indoor and outdoor play and doing a few chores around the home cannot be underestimated – life skills!!! The teachers are providing a broad range of activities and tasks for you to choose from and there is no expectation that you complete all of them. Children learn at differing rates, in different ways and some require more support than others. When we return to school we will pick up their learning at that point and support them moving forward.

Academic progress is important but social and emotional wellbeing is the paramount consideration now more so than ever. Our children need to feel safe, loved and cared for at this time and despite our best efforts there may be some who become anxious or worried by the current situation. I wish to signpost you to some helpful guidance and information from our partners in education on supporting your child emotionally. We hope these enable you to answer questions



with confidence, help your child to understand in language they are familiar with and promote their resilience.

- Children's storybook released to help children and young people cope with COVID-19 produced by UNHCR in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>
- RISENI -Advice and resources to help you and your child understand and cope with the Covid-19 outbreak
<https://view.pagetiger.com/riseni/covid19>
- RISENI 'Simplify Your Home Schooling' - Home schooling advice for parents and carers from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
<https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/covid19/pagetigeradviceleafletsparentscovid19.pdf>

Online safety advice and support is important at this time as we are spending more time using a range of websites and online platforms.

- The **NSPCC** are also offering tips for online safety and in particular social media. (NetAware)
<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/q/11mHuvu4ckaZethXsrxhybd/wv>

As educators we also have a duty of care to ensure the safeguarding of our children and young people and we work closely with the Safeguarding Board for NI and Child Protection Support Services for NI. As Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection in Roe Valley IPS I would urge you to get in touch with me on the school number/email address (see below) if you have any child protection worries or concerns about a child. In addition at any time a parent can talk to a social worker at the **Gateway Team (Western Trust) Tel: 028 71314 090** or the **PSNI at Central Referral Unit Tel: 999 (Emergency) or 101 (Non-Urgent)** Alternatively



you can contact the; **NSPCC's free and confidential 24 hour helpline service on 0808 800 5000**

Communication between parents/guardians and teachers is vital to how successful we are over the coming weeks so please continue to liaise with the teachers through Seesaw. Should you require support with any aspect of home learning, or indeed anything else you feel we could help with please get in touch either by email at info@roevalleyips.limavady.ni.sch.uk or by telephone on 028 77768695. It is really important that we help and support one another through this as a school community. We are here, we will listen and we want to help. I will be available in school on Monday and Thursday this week to provide support and answer queries as well as being contactable by email every day.

I have had no further updates from the Department of Education or the Education Authority with regard to the plan moving forward. I will update you further when I have any additional guidance.

I would like to reiterate our appreciation, as a school community, to those who are members of the NHS, working within our health trusts, health and social care workers as well as all other key workers who continue to provide us with essential services at this time – Thank You!

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves and your family.

Yours sincerely

Joanne O'Donnell
Acting Principal

