



153 Roemill Road  
Limavady  
Co L'Derry  
BT49 9EX

Tel: 028 777 68695

24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this finds you well and that our Roe Valley IPS families are safe and healthy at this time. I would like to update you in light of Education Minister Peter Weir's statement to the Ad Hoc Committee of the NI Assembly on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. I can confirm that Roe Valley Integrated Primary School will not be open to all pupils for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Our status continues to be 'open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children for supervised learning'.

As a staff we are disappointed that we will not physically see our fantastic pupils and be able to provide them with the usual activities, celebrations and events that we look forward to in the summer term. We will however, endeavour to complete the school year positively, using our newfound remote working skills and hope this helps our boys and girls to process the end of their academic year, celebrate their achievements and reflect positively on 2019-2020! School reports will be issued as normal in early June and there will be a designated day for collection of all pupil books and belongings in mid June. I am disappointed particularly for our fabulous Primary 7 pupils, who will soon leave us to embark on their post primary education. We cannot give the 'Class of 2020' our usual RVIPS send off, but hopefully in the near future, when guidance allows, we will be able to celebrate together one more time!

We do not yet have detailed guidance on what the future holds or how we will return in the 2020-2021 school year. Minister Weir and the Department of Education;

*'...are now looking strategically at how to support the system in the medium and longer term. Building on what exists and planning for a return to school over an extended period of time and with a blended learning approach.'*



Minister Weir goes on to state;

*‘Subject to medical guidance and safety it would be my aim to see a phased reopening of schools, beginning with a limited provision for key cohort years in late August, followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September. This will not be a return to school as it was prior to COVID, but rather a new normal reflective of social distancing and a medically safe regime. For all pupils it will involve a schedule with a mixture of school attendance and remote learning at home.’*

*(Extracts from Minister Weir’s statement to the Ad Hoc Committee of the NI Assembly 21 May 2020)*

As we know guidance changes very regularly and even this initial information may change significantly prior to the new term beginning. As such, we are currently implementing measures and procedures in the planning phase of the ‘Restart Programme’ and will continue to liaise and engage with this, while also being reactive and diligent towards guidance and updates in the days and weeks to come. We aim to keep you fully engaged with this process and up to date, as and when we can, with dates and detailed arrangements.

We will now take a week long break from remote learning as per our planned holiday week Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you all for your engagement to date – enjoy your week off home schooling everyone! Remote learning will then resume on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June as we embark on the final month of our 2019-2020 academic year – one not to be forgotten! I would like to emphasise once more the fantastic work you are doing in such unusual, challenging times. Our teachers continue to work hard to support all aspects of learning and appreciate your feedback and commitment to making this an effective and productive experience. We have been really heartened to see our RVIPS pupils working hard, but also enjoying their time at home, even though the circumstances are unusual. We understand that energy and enthusiasm may not be what they were in the early weeks but we are ‘almost there’ and remote learning for the remaining weeks will be reflective of the fact that it is the final month of the school year. I also want to reiterate that ‘whatever you do, it will be enough’. Complete what is manageable for your child and your situation currently. When we return to school, whatever the format of that may be, we will pick up their learning at that point and support them moving forward.



Academic progress is important but social and emotional wellbeing hugely important at this time. Our children need to feel safe, loved and cared for, and despite our best efforts there may be some who are anxious or worried by the current situation. I wish to remind you that should you require support, on anything, please get in touch either by email at [info@roevalleyips.limavady.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@roevalleyips.limavady.ni.sch.uk) or by telephone on 028 77768695. It is important that we help and support one another as a school community. We are here, we will listen and we want to help. I will be available in school on Tuesday(26<sup>th</sup>) and Wednesday(27<sup>th</sup>) this week to provide support and answer queries as well as being contactable by email every day.

I would urge you to get in touch with me on the school number/email address 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**

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

