



***Braidside Integrated Primary
and Nursery School***

**87 Fry's Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN
1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration**

028 25647899



Principal: J McAuley

www.braidside.co.uk

20/04/20

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope you have enjoyed the Easter break and that this letter finds you all safe and in good health. The weather over this past week/ ten days has been lovely and I have enjoyed being outside for walks, doing a little gardening and sitting outside with a cuppa and a good book. As I've taken my daily walks, I've even encountered some Braidside children and their families and it's been lovely to meet, catch up and hear how they've been getting on during this time of lockdown. I miss the children such a lot, hearing their laughter and chatter and spending time with them and our wonderful team of staff.

As we look to the term ahead, we will endeavour to continue with the remote learning packs and will be back providing guidance, information and updates on our website and Facebook page. Please remember to visit your class page regularly (www.braidside.co.uk – classes) and if you can, send us an email/ picture of your work. Prior to Easter, the Facebook page highlighted many resources for Literacy, Numeracy, PE, Music, STEM and a wealth of other online resources that parents can access. I hope you have found these useful. If you have any questions/ queries you can email your class teacher; either directly using their C2k email or by using the school email (info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk). We'd love to hear from you!

For those parents who are key workers, information about school emergency provision is still on the website should you require further detail or places.

For our P6 pupils and parents, we will be in touch in the next few days, to provide information on the collection of further transfer packs for those who are planning to sit Transfer Tests later on this year. While GCSE, AS and A-Levels examinations have been cancelled this year, Transfer tests; which are administered by AQE and PPTC (GL); appear to be still planned for the Autumn. Indeed, registration for these tests is still scheduled for 29th April (AQE) and mid-May (GL). We will provide any further updates as they become available.

Obviously we had all hoped that this summer term would be commencing in our new school; unfortunately, the move and completion of the build were also impacted by the current crisis. Even our current school is not the same, with boxes and crates stacked and rooms too quiet by far! I know everyone in the school community shares my disappointment, but I also know our contractor and Project Board continue to plan and work towards a resumption, when the restrictions are lifted. I look forward to that time!

I hope too, that you have all been able to take some time to look after your own mental health and well-being during this challenging time. Even though we are all in our own homes and physically separate taking time to connect and talk to others, our friends and family especially, on the phone or other online apps has never been more important. Similarly getting some time outside, in nature, has been shown to have many health benefits for children and adults. On our website you will also find further information and contact details of telephone and web support that is available for children who are experiencing difficulties. If you or anyone you know is struggling, I would encourage you to reach out for help.

Finally, I would like to say thanks again to all our Braidside families for your support and cooperation. A special word of thanks to all our key workers; in particular, all the NHS and care workers, for their incredible work and commitment. We are grateful to you all!

Yours faithfully,

_____*J. McAuley*_____

Principal.

