 St Matthew’s Primary School 

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 Principal: Mrs AM Kealey BA Hons (ED) PQH NI

 **SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware from the recent announcement from our Education Minister all schools will be closing for another period of time up until mid-term break.

Remote learning is now a feature of school life and is no substitute for face-to-face teaching. We do not expect parents to be teachers, so please do not stress or worry over the next few weeks.

We will provide work in packs and online. This work is intended to assist you as you your best with your children, not to cause undue stress to our families.

Each pack will contain guidance, support worksheets and log-ins to your child’s year group. These resources will provide you with activities which will be of benefit to you so that you can guide your child/children with their learning. Each pack will contain approximately five-six weeks of activities.

Pupils will also be able to access online learning via Seesaw on a daily basis. Teachers will communicate with their pupils and parents via Seesaw and will be there to support with any difficulties in learning or safeguarding concerns. Teachers will be available Mon-Thurs from 9am-4pm. They will be available on Fridays from 9am-3pm.

We understand that some families find the remote aspect difficult, due to issues with devices or issues of time, and we are acutely aware that remote teaching can cause as many problems as it solves. Therefore, if you are struggling with the uploaded work or having device issues etc., **please let us know**. All we ask of you is that you try your best. We will, as always, do our best to meet the needs of all our pupils and the school community as a whole.

Collection of Work Packs

On Friday 8th January you can come into school from 2:00pm-3:30pm to collect a pack for your child. We will operate a system where the packs will be collected from the school foyer. Staff will be available to pass the packs out to you. **We ask that only one parent per family collects the pack**. Only one parent at a time can be permitted into the school foyer. As you are waiting, please follow the advice from the Public Health Agency and remain at least two meters from the person in front of you and please wear a mask. We want to make sure everyone is kept safe.

If you have children in more than one year group, please come to the school at the time when your youngest child’s pack is given out and we will give you the other packs too.

*Packs will be available at the following times:*

P1-4 2-2:45 pm

P5-7 3-3:30pm

This is such a worrying time for us all, we are living through challenging and unprecedented times. The most important thing is that pupils, staff and their families remain safe and well. Hopefully, this period of remote learning will not last too long and we will be back together again very soon!

Look after yourselves and your families, keep safe everyone.

Best wishes, take care

Mrs. Ann-Marie Kealey

Principal