



# Buick Memorial Primary School Newsletter

## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now provided all children with their home learning packs. These are for guidance and will include websites, games and suggested activities for the next few weeks.

Teachers will not be requesting evidence of home learning upon return to school as it is important to minimise the opportunities for transfer of the virus.

We recognise that some homes do not have internet access and we would therefore encourage those children to read books, write a diary and complete routine spellings and mental maths activities, as directed by your child's class teacher in the pack.

Some families will be able to complete various suggested tasks but others may have more important health issues to deal with at this time. We understand.

We are all in unprecedented times and we do not want any of our parents to feel undue pressure over the next few weeks and perhaps months.

This is also a prime opportunity for parents to teach children life skills and to include them in home routines such as doing chores, baking cakes and taking part in family activities such as playing board games.

Our Primary 6 pupils have been provided with a vast amount of AQE Transfer work to continue with. These papers follow the same Transfer preparations they would have completed during class time in P6 at Buick and at home in Term 3. We recognise that this is a very worrying time for everybody but please be assured that every child in P6 in Northern Ireland is in the same position. We believe we are continuing to provide the best preparations possible in such abnormal times.

It should be borne in mind that your family's health and wellbeing are of paramount importance during these extraordinary times. Please take care of yourselves and your family circle by following the Public Health Agency guidance on infection control and self-isolation.

I would like to reassure you all that Buick staff are committed to supporting the wellbeing of our children. On Monday, we anticipate a small number of children to be in school. These are children whose parents are 'keyworkers'. Thank you to everybody who telephoned the school today to confirm their child's place. This swift response allowed appropriate staffing to be put in place and effective plans to be made for the incoming week. Pupils should wear school uniform and normal hours will be in operation (9.05am - 2pm/3pm)

Parents and Carers - thank you for your unwavering support and co-operation at this difficult time. Like you, we have many questions and few answers about the long term at the moment.

Upon return to school, Literacy and Numeracy will be the core focus of teaching and learning for all children in the new term.

I would like to thank all Buick staff for their dedication throughout the past few weeks of uncertainty. They have continued to provide a calm and safe learning environment for our children amidst great indecision of government leaders and social media hype.

I would also like to take time to mention our wonderful Primary 7 pupils. This is not the magical ending to their 7 year learning journey which we had envisaged. We all feel disheartened that they won't experience their school trip to York, their Prom, Prize Day and their final Sports Day. These milestones are beyond our control.

We can say, however, that we are very proud of every single child and if they do not get the opportunity to return to Buick this academic session, we hope they will continue to think of us all fondly and visit us in their new uniforms when things settle down.

Thank you to *George* at Moby Chip who provided a delicious lunch for P7p today! This was an incredibly kind gesture and we are so grateful to have such fantastic support within the Cullybackey community.

The children will always remain our core focus here at Buick.

We will keep parents informed of any new developments via our text message service over the coming weeks and perhaps months.

Stay safe.

R. Peters  
Acting Principal