



Hamiltonsbawn Primary School

Remote Learning Policy

2020-21

Introduction

In the event of school closure, staff at Hamiltonsbawn PS will continue to provide education and support to our pupils using remote learning. This learning will be conducted using Class Seesaw from Primary 1 to Primary 7. This will allow staff to keep in daily contact, in a professional and confidential manner with parents/pupils in their class.

Teachers will be able to provide children with learning activities which will replicate classroom learning to the best of our ability. In all communication we will adhere to our commitment to maintain the education and well-being of the child.

Flexibility

We realise that the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:

- Parents may be trying to work from home and so access to technology as a family may be limited
- Teachers may be trying to manage their own home situation and the learning of their own children
- Systems may not always function as they should

An understanding of, and willingness to adapt to, these difficulties on all sides is essential for success.

In the case of long-term closure, we believe that it is in the best interests of our pupils that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability. Bearing in mind the need for flexibility, we understand that work may be completed out of sync with when it is shared and as such, no hard deadlines will be set.

However pupils and parents should consider the arrangements as set out in this document as highly recommended.

The first day of any extended closure will be used by teachers to prepare for the coming period and there will be no remote learning scheduled. The programme of remote learning will start from the second day of the period of extended closure.

Teaching Staff will:

- Share teaching and activities with their class through Seesaw.
- All activities/teaching required will be uploaded each evening for the following day.
- Continue teaching in line with the current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school.
- Learning remotely will be more difficult and therefore tasks may need to be adjusted and additional instructions/support given as necessary.
- Reply to messages, set lessons, and give feedback on activities during normal teaching hours only: 9am to 4pm.
- Not set hard deadlines for the completion of activities as all teachers have an understanding that closure will affect families in different ways.
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow.
- If unwell themselves, will be covered by another member of staff for sharing of activities. Responding to and following up

messages via Seesaw will not be undertaken at this time; will recommence once the teacher has returned to school.

Pupils will:

- Be assured that their well-being is at the forefront of our thoughts and that they should take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities.
- Only access the material shared by their teacher and will ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
- Read on a daily basis, either independently or with an adult.
- Follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or be creative.

Parents will:

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability.
- Encourage their child to access and engage in learning set by the class teacher.
- Know that they can contact the teacher as normal, in a respectful manner, through Seesaw if they require support.
- Teachers will reply and give relevant feedback in due course; within the hours of 9am to 3pm.
- Check their child has completed work daily and encourage the progress that is being made.
- Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.