

## WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL – 1 June 2020



**Well hello again!** It seems a long time since we last issued a school note. As a few things have changed recently, I thought this would be the best way to update everyone, rather than a succession of messages. I plan to send out another note before the end of June to keep you all up-to-date.

**Thank you Parents!** I want to thank all our parents who took the time out to share their views on how home schooling was going by emailing us. I passed on the positive feedback to our teachers and this was a great source of encouragement to them all. Please do continue to share any concerns you may have, or any ideas to help us to improve our remote learning. We welcome your suggestions as we seek to provide the best for all our pupils.

**Transfer Test 2020:** AQE and GL opens for applications on 1<sup>st</sup> June and closes on Friday 25 September 2020. These tests are for admission to grammar schools. Please go to the relevant school websites to check out how to apply this year. Both tests have been delayed for a mere two weeks, so it is vital that children hoping to take the test keep up with their work set by their teacher. If your child plans to transfer to a secondary school at the end of P7 they do not have to sit the transfer test. However, they will have to sit a test in the school of their choice to stream them into classes, so keeping up Maths and Literacy work during the coming months is important for all pupils.

**P7 Notification of School Placement for September 2020.** Parents will receive this notification on Thursday 4 June 2020. If you are a P7 parent and you do not receive the letter via the post on Thursday you can email the school on [info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk) and we will get back to you with the name of the school where your child has been allocated a place.

**Current Situation:** There has now been a decision that schools will remain closed until September 2020. Children can (and should) access work via the SeeSaw App and the 'Home Learning' section of the school website. So far, guidance and support from the Department of Education has been, at best, patchy. We are doing our very best under the difficult circumstances and this is not the way we would want your child's school year to end. Nevertheless, everyone staying safe and healthy is everyone's top priority.

**Induction:** Given the current situation, we will not be able to have our usual induction for new P1 pupils. Parents will receive information through the post including a P1 welcome pack with photos of their teacher and assistant etc. If we are able to have some kind of induction at some point before September (and we will do our very best!), we will let you know.

**Reports:** Reports will be posted out this year. They will be issued during what would be the last week of term i.e. week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We have had to simplify our reports to make them more meaningful to parents, so you will receive a revised format. You will note that no assessment results have been included this year as we were not in school to hold them. The teacher's tick boxes and comments will be based on their experience of your child in class before 19 March 2020. We will hopefully run our standardised tests early in the new term and update parents of the results when we have them.

**Be Prepared!** When school does re-start in whatever form in September, we will be asking parents to send their child with as much stationery etc. as possible to avoid the sharing of equipment in class. A list will be issued of what your child should bring to school in due course on the school website, it will include a mini bottle of hand sanitiser and tissues. Currently we are experiencing great difficulty in accessing any kind of PPE, including hand sanitiser and this is likely to get more difficult in September.

**Devices for Pupils** – Are your children having difficulty accessing devices at home for remote learning? If you are struggling to provide a device for your child to use for part of the day to complete their remote learning then please email the school ([info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)). We will be in contact with the Department of Education and hope to source more devices to loan to families most in need.

**Temporary Staff Needed** – If you are available for temporary work and interested in working as a cleaner or classroom assistant in our school please email us and let us know as we may need more temporary staff in September.

**The 2020 Garden Olympics** – To take part in this fun sporting initiative parents need to register their children at [www.ActivityNI.co.uk](http://www.ActivityNI.co.uk). The idea is that children will complete 30 activities throughout the month and record them and send a photo of their activity sheet. Children who submit their activity sheet will receive a medal. We would encourage all families to get involved in this free initiative designed to motivate children to continue to look after their physical and mental health. Visit our school website for more information.

**P1 Health Checks** – the school nurse will be in contact with parents of P1 pupils to arrange a meeting which will take place in school on 22-23 June in our school hall.

Take care everyone. Hope to see you all before too long.

Mrs White

[info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)