



25th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Reopening of Schools

I hope that you and your family are well at this time.

It is now two months since school closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic and I hope that all our pupils are keeping safe and well. All of the school staff miss seeing our pupils and look forward to seeing them all again when school reopens.

You may be aware that the Minister for Education made a statement to the Assembly last week, which included the following key messages:

1. He confirmed that schools would not reopen again before the end of June.
2. He stated that his aim was for a phased reopening of schools beginning with limited provision for key cohorts in late August followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September.
3. When school reopens it is likely that all pupils will not be in school at the same time so education will be a mix of in school learning and online distance learning at home. The Department of Education are calling this a 'blended learning approach.'

At this stage we have not received clarification on what this phased return to school will look like in August/September or what the 'blended learning approach' will look like in practice, but I will keep you updated on this when I receive further information from the Department of Education and Education Authority.

In his statement, the Minister also outlined a commitment by the Department of Education to provide devices eg laptops to assist with learning at home, for pupils who do not have access to these at home and I will write to you separately about this later in the week.

Annual Reports and Nursery Transition Forms will be posted out to you as originally planned on 19th June 2020.

Finally if there is anything that school can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Richard Woolsey
Principal