



28th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Devices for Home Learning

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

As you are aware we took the decision that during the current closure our Home Learning would be provided in the form of paper packs with some online activities eg Mathletics and AR. The other option would have been not to send these paper packs out and to have used online learning platforms. These means pupils would have had to have logged onto a computer or other device to access all of their work. We took this decision because we were unsure if all of our pupils would have access to devices which would allow them to complete the bulk of their work online.

Moving forward however the Department of Education has made it clear, as I informed you earlier in the week, that when school reopens they want a blended approach to learning. Although we still do not know what this will look like in practice, it most likely means a mix of pupils being taught in school for part of the time and being at home using online distance learning for part of the time. This means that we will have to review how we set work to be done at home and keep in touch with pupils and parents, for the start of the new school year.

The Department of Education (DE) wants devices eg laptops to be lent to pupils who do not have access to these at home, to assist them with online distance learning. DE is also looking at providing internet access for pupils who do not have this at home. They have published criteria for the distribution of these devices.

If you do not have a device eg PC/laptop/ipad/tablet for your child to use at home to complete school work or you do not have internet access, could you please email me in the strictest confidence at info@ballyoran.portadown.ni.sch.uk by **Tuesday 2nd June 2020**. Please ensure that your child's name and class is on the email. Please also note that a phone is not a suitable device for pupils to complete work on.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Richard Woolsey
Principal