



# Ebrington Primary & Nursery School

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Principal: Mr B F Guthrie, BA Hons ED PQH

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Given the challenging circumstances we face as a community at the present time, staff from Nursery through to Year 7 have been finalising plans for online learning should a class bubble have to self-isolate.

Nursery through to Year 4 have decided to use Seesaw as their preferred learning platform. This online learning platform will allow activities to be set by teachers but will also allow your child to submit these to their teacher for feedback. When an activity is set that is of a practical nature or requires completion in written form, then the app allows for photos of the set work to be uploaded and submitted to the teacher.

Parents with children in some year groups will already be familiar with the Seesaw Families app, which allows parents access to their child's online learning journal, however for your child to be able to access online activities set by their teacher (either for a homework task or for a period of home learning) you will need to download the Seesaw Class app. Staff will send an accompanying letter with full details on how to do this and with a unique home learning QR code, specific to each individual child. Staff at each year level will also indicate if they wish to use Seesaw as a tool for completing online homework.

Year 5-7 (Key Stage 2) are going to be using Google Classroom as their preferred learning platform. We have made the difference in these year group as we recognise and value the importance of providing assistance with the transition from primary to post-primary school, as well as seeing how these pupils can further develop their ICT skills in completing a range of tasks. Google Classroom provides an interface which will be much more like that encountered in post primary settings.

We hope you and your child will find the online platforms beneficial and we believe it will allow for greater engagement levels should the need for home learning arise. If you have any difficulties with setting up your child's account, please do not hesitate to email your child's class teacher.

Please be considerate about the time and frequency of messages. All teachers using an online platform have been asked by the Principal and the Board of Governors to follow 'quiet hours' during use. Put simply, this means that a teacher might not be reading or replying to messages outside their designated work hours, in the event of a 'bubble' closure. We ask that parents respect the staff work-life balance. Please see overleaf for guidelines for parents and pupils.

B.F Guthrie  
Principal

## **Pupils and Parents Guidelines**

In the event of a bubble 'closure', 'circuit breaker' or the need for a child to self-isolate due to a positive Covid test for either themselves or a family member, the following are guidelines that we would expect our pupils and parents to follow when using one of the two online platforms- SeeSaw or Google Classroom.

### **Staff can expect pupils to:**

- Be assured that wellbeing is at the forefront of our thoughts and we understand the need for children to take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities;
- Only send messages and queries that are in relation to tasks set by the teacher or in response to questions the teacher may ask them directly;
- Only access the material shared by their teacher and ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that;
- Read daily tasks and complete, either independently or with an adult;

### **Staff can expect parents to:**

- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work;
- Be respectful when making any concerns known to staff;
- Be mindful of when any messages are being sent to staff-respect their need for a work-life balance, and recognise their working hours.
- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability;
- Know they can continue to contact their class teacher as normal through the email address or the school office email address if they require support of any kind;
- Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made;

Our aim is to provide a daily literacy and numeracy task through the online classroom, as well as give an overall structure to a topic, which will involve learning across the curriculum. Obviously, this cannot be done to the same level as would be in the classroom, without the direct teaching and learning of a teacher, pupil and their peers.

If staff are supporting a pupil who is self-isolating while the class bubble remains open, they will endeavour to upload the work during their working school day-this may not happen until the end of that school day. Please be patient-school is a very busy place at the minute with teaching staff taking on a number of additional duties already on top of their classroom teaching.

If a staff member is unwell and it is not possible for them to engage with their class through the online classroom, their year group colleague has been given permission to do so. If this is the case, please be patient with and respectful to the additional workload taken on by that teacher.