

Ard Easmuinn Dundalk County Louth

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12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our half term concludes today, a half term that has undoubtedly been a challenge as we have all had to learn whilst staying at home. I want to congratulate parents/guardians for the remarkable job they have done so far in helping us to facilitate remote learning. The teachers have been impressed with the quality and quantity of work that has been submitted to them over the past 5 weeks. Next week is a chance to put the tablets and laptops away and enjoy some time without the pressures of remote learning. Please pass on our congratulations to your son/s, they have adapted so well and are absolute 'Super Stars'.

Pupils enrolled in the mainstream school will return to online learning on Monday 22nd February.

Staff have been busy this preparing work packs for the two-week block after the mid-term and these will be distributed with the food packs next Thursday 19th February. No formal decision has been made as to when mainstream primary schools will reopen or whether or not this will occur in a phased manner. The pace of this return will undoubtedly be guided by public heath advice and trends in the transmission of Covid-19 in the community.

There will be a full return of our two ASD classes on Monday 22nd February. Parents have been contacted by telephone in this regard and a separate letter will be issued next week with specific details on how we intend to navigate this reopening.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of our school for their efforts across the past 5 weeks. Teachers have been working tirelessly to set work, record videos, create learning paths and provide feedback. Our non-teaching staff have been supporting learning by linking in with families and assisting in the preparation of resources for the learning packs. Our caretaker and cleaner have been keeping our school building safe, clean and secure.

We hope to open our school gates to ALL pupils sooner rather than later.

Please remember that school staff can be contacted at any time via email should you require advice or support. Additionally, Matthew McArdle (HSCL teacher) can be contacted on 085 785 0787.

I hope you have a restful and safe mid-term break. M.Murray