



15.10.20

Dear Parent,

I am sure like us, you were watching closely to see what further decisions the Executive had taken regarding a 'circuit breaker,' and in particular decisions around school closure.

We received a letter from the Minister for Education Mr Weir yesterday afternoon stating: -

"Today, the Executive has announced that schools and other education settings will have the half-term holiday break extended from 19 to 30 October.

Education settings will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks including for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Schools and other settings will reopen on Monday, 2 November.

Schools are closed to all pupils. As this is an extension of the half-term break, it is not intended to be used for remote learning."

We are disappointed that the primary schools have been directed to close again. We felt that with the hard work of staff and amazing support of all our parents we had successfully settled the children into new learning routines. Whilst both staff and children are exhausted after a challenging half term and are all ready for the week off, we did not wish this break to be extended.

However, in so many things over the last six months this is out of our control. We also appreciate that the Executive has many areas to consider, not just schools. Our combined hope is that the decisions made by the Executive have the positive impact on infection rates, new cases of COVID-19, hospital admissions and fatalities that we would all wish to see and that come the 2nd of November we can return to school as planned.

This extended break affects our planned Parent-Teacher Consultations next week, however we are keen to continue as planned, rather than carrying them forward until November. Staff will be in touch with you before the weekend via Seesaw should any of these consultation times now need to be rescheduled. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility with this.

Sadly, our plans for the Harvest Storehouse collection are also affected. We therefore ask, if you are in a position to help, please leave your food donations to our front door this afternoon or any time tomorrow and we will arrange a collection from Storehouse. The need for this practical family support in Bangor is greater than ever, so we encourage your generosity.

Our P3s have been working hard for their Harvest Assembly and we still intend to complete filming of this, although now a little time pressured. To give us all a little bit of light relief, they also suggest we work together in our community to create a Pumpkin Walk (instead of a Rainbow Walk). So why not get your colours out and post a pumpkin on your window over the extended break (see attached or create your own).

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continued support. I really feel that it has been our combined efforts that have seen us return the children safely to school, have kept the pupils and staff safe over the last eight weeks and will see us safely return on 2nd of November for the final half of this term.

Thank you for taking the time to read another long letter. It is important that we keep informed and up-to-date as we continue to rely on each other to keep ourselves and family members as safe as possible.

Kindest regards,

Julie M Hardy

Principal