

# PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Steeple Road  
Antrim  
BT41 1AF  
Tel: **02894 468556**



Principal: **Mr G. Beattie B. Ed. M. Ed. PQH**

[www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org](http://www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org)

[info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope this finds you all well in these strange and unprecedented times for us all. Thank you sincerely for your support, patience and positivity at this time.

The closure of 'normal' schooling is designed to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 and we continue to follow closely the advice of scientific advisers and the Public Health Agency.

The school has remained open during the past week to support remote learning for our pupils and to provide support for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. Although uptake at present has been small, I feel it is important to continue to offer this service at present. The school is currently manned daily from 9.00am – 12 noon to answer any queries from parents/pupils and contact can be made at any stage through the school email address: [info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk)

The teaching staff have worked extremely hard to update on-line learning platforms and will update these regularly. Pupils can log onto the Google Classroom and codes for each year group have been emailed to the pupils C2K school email accounts and staff will continue to communicate with pupils through this platform. Please ensure that your child has enrolled in his/her classes in Google Classroom and can access learning in this way. This is obviously a very unique set of circumstances that we find ourselves in and I appreciate the support that parents and siblings can provide at this time, particularly where literacy is a problem.

I appreciate fully that it is important to try and keep the children in a routine that may have some structure similar to a school day. Please only attempt work in short bursts and ensure that breaks are included at regular times.

This is without doubt a very difficult time for us all and it is important that we look after ourselves and our own well-being. Not becoming stressed about completing all of the school work, eating a balanced diet and taking regular exercise daily are important factors of good mental health and well-being. During this time, we will continue to communicate through our social media platforms and through these we will provide challenges in subjects such as Art, Home Economics, PE and some competitions to enter. We have posted on Facebook a wide range of resources and activities that you can engage with your children to promote learning in a different way. Please also encourage your children to try some of the following:

- Read a book - simply to enjoy it
- Practice a musical instrument
- Write letters to some friends you haven't seen recently
- Help out cooking meals at home
- Help in the garden
  
- Take regular exercise

### ***Our Mission Statement:***

*To provide a caring learning environment where each person feels valued and respected*

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- Play some board games you have forgotten about!
- Keep a diary of this unique period of time.
- Sudoku puzzles, crosswords or word searches.

There are many online resources available including YouTube Learning – ‘learn from home’ that can provide video and audio learning, Audible Books for novels you can listen to for free and sites such as Awareni.org for wellbeing support.

Information regarding free school meals arrangements, the support of Counselling Service and ASD support have been posted on our school Facebook page and communicated with parents through Parent App or e-mail. Our pastoral staff will continue to keep in touch as required and provide guidance and support remotely where possible.

I understand fully that many of you are trying to juggle working from home, supporting remote learning for your child and caring for relatives and loved ones. This is an extremely difficult task – do not be too hard on yourselves! Whilst learning is also crucial, our health and well-being both physically and mentally is more important at this time. Please keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

Please be assured of our continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely



**G Beattie**  
Principal

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