

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following on from the announcement in Stormont about the half-term break being extended for two weeks, the following arrangements will apply:

1. Minimise loss of learning

The Minister for Education has determined that the shut down next week is an extension of the half-term holiday period and that there is no requirement to engage in remote learning. DENI has granted 2 optional days and 3 additional exceptional closure days to cover the days when schools will be closed next week.

Given the need to keep exam classes up to date with work and other year groups on track with the coverage of the curriculum, teachers have been informed that they may set homework for the pupils to complete over the extended half-term break. This may be set directly in class or posted in Google Classroom. This will mean that the pupils will be able to locate and complete the work easily. Information on online learning for all key stages can be accessed by following this link <https://www.methody.org/pre-school-preparatory/online-learning>.

Pupils have been prompted this week to update their passwords in school before Friday.

2. Access to buildings

The school buildings will remain open for staff only. The additional closure time will be used to carry out a deep clean of the premises.

3. Contact Tracing

We will continue to monitor any Covid positive test alerts on Monday and Tuesday of next week so that close contacts can be identified and informed.

4. BMAT exams

For those U6 pupils registered for these exams, they will go ahead as scheduled, even if the period of closure is extended.

5. School will reopen on Monday 2nd November unless we are instructed otherwise.

Hopefully the additional measures being put in place nationally will bring the R number back down below 1, enabling us all to get closer to normal than we currently are.

Keep safe and stay well.

Mr S Naismith