

 Ballydown Primary School & Nursery Unit

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 Principal: Mr B Murphy M.Ed. B.Ed. PQH(NI)

**End of Term**

Dear Parent

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of the school year and in such unprecedented circumstances. Most importantly our school community have all remained safe and well. It was so lovely to see all of the children last week and to have a chance for us all to say goodbye. Thank you very much for taking the time to bring them in.

You will have lots of questions about what the new school year will look like for us. NI Assembly, DE and PHA advice changes all of the time. Current guidelines are asking schools to return following a 1m distancing approach, which would only allow for half classes. If restrictions remain in place the school day and week may look different for your child:

* There will probably be a staggered start and end to the school day.
* There is a possibility that children will be in school for part of the week (if this happens families will remain together).
* There may be continued online learning.
* There will be no after school activities, initially.
* We are awaiting guidance on school meals. It may be all packed lunches.
* Children will have to bring their own equipment and only use it.
* Homeworks and reading will have to take a different format.
* P7 are planned to return week beginning 24th August.
* The rest of the school to return 1st September.

I do hope that restrictions will continue to be lifted over the summer if the ‘R’ rate remains low and there are no further outbreaks of the virus. If so we will aim to have children in school five days.

I will keep you updated as best I can prior to the start of the school year.

Thank you all so much for your support and hard work with the children during this period of lockdown. I trust you all remain safe and well over the coming weeks and I look forward to seeing you all in the new school year.

Yours sincerely

**B. Murphy**

Principal

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