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**WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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15 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

By now many of you will have seen the news reporting that the Northern Ireland Executive have made the decision to close schools on Friday 16 October for an extended half term holiday until 30 October. Education settings will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks including vulnerable children and children of key workers. Schools will re-open on Monday 2 November.

Schools have been instructed by the Education Minister that since this is an extension to the half-term break, it is not intended to be used for remote learning (his letter has been uploaded to our website under 'Parents' - 'Parent leaflets' if you would like to read it in full).

As a school we realise that our children have already missed so much education as a result of COVID 19 so our teachers have agreed to send home some activities to help your child to continue with some learning and revision during the first week of the break. It is important to note that the Seesaw App will not be used during this half term holiday and will only come into operation if there is a further announcement of an additional closure of schools.

The online programmes used by our school, such as Mathletics, IXL and AR will continue to be available during this half term break and we would encourage the children, allocated these programmes, to continue to use them over the break.

If you are in receipt of Free School Meals the DE will be allocating a payment instead of dinners for week commencing 19 October. If any family has paid in advance for school dinners in school this money can be carried over to November. The November menu has been added to our website. November Snacks will be £4.80 (taking account of October snacks not received due to this school closure).

We trust that all of our children and their families will stay safe during this time and we will look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 2 November.

Best Wishes,

Karen White  
Principal  
WOODS PS