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Dear Parents,

As we prepare to close school for 2 weeks today, I wish to thank you for working so well with us during the past ten weeks. You respected every request we made, even though many led to more work for you eg sourcing those disposable lunch bags, changing uniforms so frequently, juggling changed pick up arrangements etc.

Our children have had a great half term and have thrived on the routines and the friendship. I would love you to have seen them as I have. Each day I delighted in watching them at work and play, in a way that I had always taken for granted, prior to our lockdown experience. I am so appreciative of our staff, who went above and beyond to keep the children safe in school and to help them adjust and 'catch up' emotionally and academically. We have not completed this work, but have made an excellent start.

I urge you and your families to make the most of the break, although I am aware that it will be challenging for many of you because of work commitments. I can see now that it is needed to build us all up again for November and December. We have been on high alert for 10 weeks and some 'slow down' time will be greatly appreciated.

Just before I conclude, There are two things that I wish to share:

1. Parents availing of Free School Meals for a child will receive a direct payment into their account for the week of 19th October, as per the arrangement during Lock down.
2. One of our parents has alerted me to a free two week online programme for primary schools. It will involve online spooky sports sessions and will take place on Monday - Friday from 9.30 - 10 via Zoom. The programme will be run in conjunction with Newry Mourne and Down District Council and parents can register their child for free via the Clanrye Group website on the link below:

<https://www.clanryegroup.com/book-now/primary-school-online-spooky-halloween-sports-sessions>

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Yours in Partnership

Mrs Monaghan