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Dear Parent/Guardian

In response to this morning's announcements by the First and Deputy Minister, primary schools in and around Ballymena will be closing for an extended half term break starting on Monday 19th October 2020.

This means that from Monday 19th October through to Friday 30th October 2020 all schools will be closed with children returning on Monday 2nd November 2020 for a normal school day. In following direction issued by the Department of Education and the First and Deputy First Ministers, this period of time is an extension of the scheduled half-term break and schools will not be open to Key Workers during this time, nor are they to provide online learning during this fortnight, as the announcement states:

Following last night's deliberations of the NI Assembly, it has been announced that there will be a two week circuit breaker closure of all schools commencing Monday 19 October with potential for review at the end of a two week period. Remote learning and childcare for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers are not required to be provided.

As a group of Principals committed to the education and well-being of the children in our care, it is with regret that we have to put these measures in place, but for the health and safety of the larger community we will adhere to the restrictions announced today.

May we encourage you and your families to stay safe and take no unnecessary risks during this time. Our hope is to return to as normal a school day and year as we can-please play your part in mitigating the spread of this virus by following the guidelines given.

Your child's own school will be in touch should any further communication be needed after this period. Thank you all for your cooperation and support during this difficult time.

Kind regards,

The Ballymena Primary Principals Association