

BE HAPPY

STAY SAFE

THEN

YOU CAN LEARN

Dear Parents,

We are thinking of you all and hoping that you all remain healthy and safe. These are challenging times for all of us as we now live with tighter restrictions. Please let all of your children know that we are thinking of them and that they can now send emails to their class teachers and perhaps some images of their work.

We are also thinking of all our grandparents and those living alone in our school community. Perhaps some of our boys and girls have a relative in hospital or a nursing home. They would be so delighted to receive a letter or picture from you so perhaps this is something that you could do in the coming week.

We really appreciate and thank all of those in our school community who are working in the healthcare profession or other frontline services. If there is anything that the school can do for you please email and let us know. Our school and the community have always supported each other and this remains the case. We will help in any way we can should the need arise.

Please continue to check on the school website for regular updates and suggested work for the children. This work is a menu for you to choose from should you wish. As we have said before please do not feel under pressure with this work. While we would like the children to make an effort, we do not want to cause anxiety and stress in your homes. Everyone has a different situation and you as parents know best what you are able to do taking into account your own circumstances.

School work can be especially challenging for parents with a number of children or for parents who have to work from home or for those parents who are working in our essential services so please don't allow school work to take over and become a negative experience. If school work is causing upset, leave

it, make contact with your child's teacher and perhaps they can offer some help.

I came across this phrase while doing a webinar last week. **HAPPY, SAFE, LEARN.** The message from this phrase is simple. Prioritise the children's happiness and safety before learning. Those words in that order are the guide by which all of us as parents should work off. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us as parents to spend time providing children with alternative learning opportunities. Opportunities that are not academic but are life lessons and will remain with our children after this pandemic has passed. Perhaps they might take on some household chores, take responsibility for a family meal time, read some books, explore art or spend some time gardening. Activities such as these has untold learning opportunities and really should be embraced as such.

We as your teachers want to remind each and every member of our school community the absolute need to practice social and physical distancing and to minimise physical contact with each other, to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. We advise against meeting up with each other and to adhere fully to guidelines issued by the HSE.

There are a wide range of additional supports available for parents during the school closure, some of which are listed below:

National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) The Department of Education and Skills' NEPS psychologists have developed advice and some resources for young people to manage and stay well when schools are closed. Please click on the link below.

<https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/information-for-schools-preschool-s-and-third-level-institutions-on-the-coronavirus.html#15>

Department of Health and the HSE Covid-19 Resources.

NCSE -for children with Special Educational needs. In addition to the normal supports, the NCSE is currently preparing online resources for children with Special Educational Needs who are at home as a result of the schools' closure. Click on the link below <https://ncse.ie/online-resources>

There are lots of amazing resources online to assist home learning. The following is just a selection:

<https://www.seomraranga.com/> is offering a free daily quiz (answers must be in by 3pm!) offering a daily prize of a €20 gift voucher, the winner each day will be announced on Twitter.

<https://www.twinkl.ie/offer> is offering free access to parents: enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS.

https://dabbledoomusic.com/p/parents-subscription-full-access/product_id=1122889&coupon_code=19924 Dabbledoo music programme, free at home access

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> (online games for maths and English practice)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga> (time for a little peace and mindfulness!)

<https://family.gonoodle.com/> (our classes use GoNoodle for an active break in the classroom)

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/> (Author David Walliams reads daily short stories)

<https://www.youtube.com/artforkidshub> (lots of drawing tutorials for kids to follow)

<https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet-services/world-book/> (excellent, reliable, age-appropriate information source for students)

<https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library> (as the libraries are currently closed you can use your library card details or sign up at this link to get temporary card details, use the BORROWBOX app to download 5 books/ audiobooks as you would from the library)

RTÉ has confirmed that it will broadcast over an hour of "school on TV" to support primary school children and their parents at home. The one-hour programme will begin on Monday. It will run from 11-12 Monday to Friday on RTÉ 2, with a shorter "catch-up" segment later in the afternoon. It will be aimed particularly at children in 1st to 6th class.

<https://www.nessy.com/> Students who have access to Nessy Reading and Spelling

Our Easter Holidays would have been due to commence on this Friday 3rd April until Monday 20th April. No work will be uploaded during this time and we would encourage you to allow the children take their holidays as would have always been the case.

Take care and mind yourselves,

Joan and all of the staff

Below is a list of contact emails for the class teachers:

Ms. Donnelly: joandonnelly09@gmail.com

Ms Donohoe: sharon.banagher@gmail.com

Ms Dillane: edillane2020@gmail.com

Ms Lynam: caitrionalynam@gmail.com

Ms Boland: bolandolivia@hotmail.com

Mrs Nevin: jacquelinenvn1@gmail.com

Ms Golden: clonbonnyns@gmail.com and inset FAO of Ms Golden in Subject box