

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee



31st March, 2020

Reference: Home Schooling

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you regarding the work packs which were sent home on Friday 20th March and online learning activities that have been set up for all P1-P7 children.

I am very conscious that we are living in challenging and stressful times and school work may not be at the forefront of your thoughts but at the same time it is important to create a sense of normality in our children's lives. It is also very important that your children engage regularly in some form of learning to ensure that they retain the knowledge and skills that have already been developed this year.

The work packs that have been developed by the teachers will give you a solid base to ensure that your children continue to consolidate their: reading, spelling, comprehension, mathematical and other important skills. If you follow the weekly grids they will give you a good structure to complete the activities over the course of each week. The work packs will not replace school, but they will give you a basis to support your children with their learning.

All P1-P7 children also have access to Mathletics which is an excellent online resource to assist children with their Numeracy work. The P1-P7 children all have logins and passwords for Mathletics, although if your child has lost theirs you can email their class teacher and they will email it to you. Each week the teachers are assigning tasks for the children and monitoring their progress. Thankfully the majority of children are accessing Mathletics but quite a significant minority of children ranging from three in some classes to as many as six in others have not completed their tasks. I would urge you to ensure that your child is accessing this program and completing these tasks. Perhaps offer them a reward if they achieve a bronze or silver award. We will continue to monitor the children's participation and progress in Mathletics, especially those children who haven't completed any tasks yet.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 children have been set up on 'Seesaw'; details are available on our school website for anyone who hasn't registered yet (registration closes on Wednesday 1st April). Mrs Hegarty and Mrs Dillon will be setting tasks for the children to complete each week so it is important that you register ASAP. Some children also have access to Nessy and Wordshark programs and it is very important that they regularly engage in these programs.

I appreciate that working from home and managing your children's learning as well as dealing with everything that is happening at the minute is very difficult. I don't think I have ever watched as many news reports. There is no perfect plan but from my own experience as a father of three children it is important to agree a routine and work to that as best as you can. Your children will benefit from a structure; vary the work each day between written tasks and online learning tools. Ensure your children have regular movement

breaks and agree targets with them. These targets should be challenging yet attainable perhaps with a small reward agreed.

There are also many online tools and TV programmes that are available to assist you at home. RTE have a leaning hour every week day from 11-12noon. Many celebrities are posting videos on Facebook and YouTube to promote: fitness, reading, writing, mathematics, science and Will Sliney, Marvel artist, is setting daily drawing challenges for all budding illustrators at #wewilldraw. There are plenty of resources out there but remember you can't do everything. Focus on getting the main learning activities completed and then encourage your child to maybe engage in some of these more enjoyable activities to enrich their learning whilst continuing to monitor their use of the internet.

Teachers are available to support you and your children via email although they may not be able to respond to your email immediately. The teachers will assign tasks this week and next week but there will be no tasks assigned over the Easter holidays. They will then assign further tasks for the final two weeks of April. The current work packs should be completed by the end of April when the next packs will be distributed. If circumstances change and we are not able to give out the packs we will provide further learning activities through our school website.

If your child is in Primary 6 and would like to receive a transfer pack to supplement their next work pack you must email Mr Mc Cusker (rmccusker298@c2kni.net) by Monday 6th April. The extra pack will include 10 short Literacy and Numeracy transfer assessments with answers. Please only request the pack if you are certain that your child will complete the work as there is quite a bit of photocopying in the transfer packs. There will also be a summer transfer pack as normal.

Finally, could I ask you to email any photographs of your children completing their school work or another activity at home to ensure we continue to remain connected as a school community. Please email the photographs (maximum of two, thanks) to Mrs Mc Cloy: amccloy737@c2kni.net.

If you have any queries, suggestions or concerns please email me: tmckee362@c2kni.net.

Please stay at home and stay safe.

Take care and all the best,

Tomás Mc Kee

Tomás Mc Kee
Principal