

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



24th April, 2020

Reference: Home Schooling (2)

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you regarding the second work packs which will be sent home on Thursday 30th April and the continuation of online learning activities for all P1-P7 children.

First of all, I hope you are all keeping well although I am aware that some members of our school community have lost loved ones over the past few weeks and on behalf of our whole school community I would like to offer our deepest sympathies. Hopefully we will emerge from this pandemic and experience better times in the future.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work that you are doing with your children at home. As a parent who is also home schooling I realise the pressures of trying to keep a routine after the Easter holidays and finding a balance between the children's learning and enjoying the wonderful weather we are experiencing. We can only try our best and as long as the children are completing some Numeracy and Literacy tasks, particularly reading and revising over the main Number facts this will definitely help. Reading with your child(ren), maybe at bedtime, is hugely beneficial and very comforting for them.

I would also like to thank the staff, particularly our teachers who have put a lot of effort into the children's work packs and are available to assist you with any queries via email. They have also set up some excellent activities online and are regularly assigning and monitoring work for the children on Mathletics (Congratulations to all of the children who have achieved Bronze and especially Silver awards! Keep up the Great Work!). Mrs Hegarty and Mrs Dillon are regularly communicating with their classes via the Seesaw app and Mrs Mc Cloy has organised Nessy for all P2-P5 children. Details for this are available on our school website where we have been regularly posting new information and activities. I am sure you are aware that there are many online activities. BBC Bitesize have a range of activities for children of all ages and you can access free online reading books via Libraries NI and we have a link to Big Cat reading books on our website.

There are lots of activities to support you with home schooling but sometimes you can have too much choice and feel overwhelmed. If this is the case just stick with the work that has been included in the work packs from the school and try to help your child(ren) complete as much of it as possible.

The second packs will be ready for collection on Thursday 30th April. These packs will cover a six week period this time as we are unsure at this stage when schools will reopen. If schools do not reopen prior to the end of this school year and you don't get this work completed by the end of June it would be beneficial to complete some work with your child(ren) over the summer holidays.

Please read the following information regarding the collection of the second packs:

-  You do not need to return the first packs to school however the reading and library books provided must be returned to school on Thursday. Please put these in a plastic bag with your child's name and class on them. All of the class teachers have a list of the books which were sent home with each child and will check the books when they are returned. It is vitally important that these books are returned as they will

be used to support children with their reading next year. If a book is not returned the school will have to be reimbursed. There will be new books included in the second work packs which can be returned in June.

- 📁 Primary 3 parents should hold on to the GINN Skills and Language workbooks which were in the first pack as these will be needed to consolidate the reading included in the second pack.
- 📁 Supplementary Transfer Packs that were requested have been prepared for Primary 6 children. Guidance for the tests and answers have been included.
- 📁 Primary 7 children who have completed their Rainforest projects and have not emailed them to Mrs Maxwell may return them to school on Thursday.
- 📁 Due to the current social distancing regulations we will have to be very careful about how we manage the collection of the second packs. The packs will be organised into family groups, with collection from the class your eldest child is in. Designated time for collection will therefore be as per your eldest child's class. If it is dry we will have the packs outside and if not they will be in the hall. We would ask you to be mindful of social distancing when arriving to collect the packs from school and please come on your own. The times for collection are as follows: **P1 & P2: 9-10 am; P3 & P4: 10-11 am and P5-P7: 11am-1pm**. If these times are not suitable please call the school on Thursday morning to make alternative arrangements.
- 📁 The packs will run from Monday 4th May until the middle of June. Arrangements will then be agreed for the return of reading books and collection of pupil reports.

Hopefully school does reopen, and we are able to bid a final farewell to our Primary 7 children before the summer. If this is not possible we will arrange a special celebration for them in autumn. Confirmation and Holy Communion have been cancelled with no future arrangements agreed. Transition to post primary schools will continue with notification from the post primary schools scheduled to be received on 30th May. The Transfer Assessment for those children in Primary 6 who wish to sit it is also scheduled to take place as normal in November and we have sent out letters to our new Reception and Primary One children for 2020/21.

I realise that we are in the final stretch of the school year but please try to ensure that your child(ren) continue to complete as much work as possible and to a good standard. It is also very important that they engage in the online learning activities as they are being monitored by the teachers who will contact parents if children are not completing the assigned tasks to ascertain why they are not able to complete the work. We realise that not every child will have access to a digital device or perhaps older siblings need the devices to supplement their learning this is why we have ensured that all P1-P7 children have been facilitated with paper packs.

Finally, could I ask you to continue to email any photographs of your children completing their school work or having fun over Easter in the good weather to ensure we continue to remain connected as a school community. It was great to see the children and some of our staff members in the last gallery. If any of our past pupils would like to share a photograph of themselves doing something fun or completing their work that would be excellent. If any of our school community, past pupils, parents who are currently working on the front line as care workers, volunteers, shop assistants etc. could send a photo of themselves, we could use these to show our appreciation for the inspirational work they are doing. Please email the photographs (maximum of two, thanks) to Mrs McCloy: amccloy737@c2kni.net and the next gallery will be posted at the end of April.

I hope to see you on Thursday; if you have any queries, suggestions or concerns please email me: tmckee362@c2kni.net. Thank you.

Please stay at home and stay safe.

Take care and all the best,

Tomás Mc Kee

Tomás Mc Kee

Principal