



St Mary's Convent Primary School

Bunscóil Clochar Mhuire
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Imlitir 26

30th March 2020

A Chairde

I hope this finds everyone safe and well. This is an important time to focus on our **wellbeing** and that of our families and please bear this in mind in relation to any school contact. Please note that whatever we are sending is optional. We appreciate that peoples' circumstances and priorities are different and we respect that. Look on the work sent home as a menu and choose accordingly. We have included We will not be sending work home for the Easter Holidays.

Here is a Wellbeing suggestion for the kids:

Fitness and Mindfulness:

<http://www.gonoodle.com>

This site has short and longer videos of all kinds of fitness and mindfulness activities. They run from a few minutes to about 15 minutes. The children find the activities quite motivating as they can choose an avator which changes (transmogridies) as it levels up when children complete 10 activities.

...and one for the parents/guardians:

<https://www.alustforlife.com/tools/staying-calm-during-covid19>

You might have noticed from the heading that we are returning to *Imlitir* and our aim is to send one out each Monday, as we did when in the school building. We also aim to have an assembly on Fridays @ 9.30, as is usual. I was hoping to do one last Friday but ran into some technology difficulties. The staff meet every day and use Hangouts Meet but this only facilitates 100 users. I then looked into both Zoom and 3CX but there were issues over microphones for up to 500 people. I also considered Facebook Live. but then not everyone is on Facebook and there is an age limit of 13 years. I have registered with Youtube and hope to live stream this Friday @ 9.30. It won't have interaction with the pupils but we may be able to do that at class level with Hangouts Meet.

Scratch: As you are aware the school uses this programme to teach coding to the pupils. The Infant teachers have included Junior Scratch activities in their work allocation, being aware that it will only run on a limited selection of devices. Miss Debby will be teaching Scratch lessons to:

Rang 1&2: Tuesday (tomorrow) @ 10.00 a.m.

Rang 3&4: Wednesday @ 10.00 a.m.

Rang 5&6: Thursday @ 10.00 a.m.

Last week a survey was sent for **permission to use Google Suite for Education**, which includes Hangouts Meet. If you are agreeable to give permission, please click the appropriate box on the form. If your preference is not to, please click that box, to make us aware of your preference. All work/tasks will still be sent by email.

Some First Class parents have enquired about **enrolments for St Michael's** next year. They have asked me to let you know that they will be contacting you after Easter. Taking GDPR into account, we will send you their communication and you can choose to reply directly to them. No need to worry. They will be in touch.

Second Class parents have been in touch regarding the **First Holy Communion**. I have spoken to Fr Paul and he says that it is too soon to make a decision yet. He is awaiting instruction from Bishop Deenihan and will let us know, as soon as that arrives.

We are **reviewing our enrolment policy** in line with a recent circular (007/2020) from the Department of Education and Science (DES). We will send you a copy of this circular and our current enrolment policy tomorrow and welcome any feedback that you can give us, specifically in relation to compliance with the circular. Do not feel under any pressure to complete the questionnaire, we perfectly understand, given the current circumstances. The staff will also be asked for feedback and it will be on the agenda for our next Board of Management meeting on April 24th.

Green News

Hello to everyone! Hope you are all keeping safe and well. Staying home and staying green! This time is very strange for us all but has brought about so many benefits to the environment as you may have read or heard.

In Venice the clarity of the water has improved dramatically. Cormorants have returned to dive for fish they can now see. There has been a massive drop in air pollution and carbon emissions worldwide which will have an impact on all of our lives.

Pope Francis had said 'we have all gone ahead "at breakneck speed", ignoring the wars, injustice, and cries of the poor and our ailing planet. "We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick."

Now we have been given 'a time to choose what matters, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not'..... 'The world is our common home' has never been as true as it feels right now.

We got some updated information about our adopted seal, Cherry Blossom. The Seal Rescue company had to release her as the beaches were going into lock down. Here is the video of her release. Please share with your children.

https://drive.google.com/a/sealrescueireland.org/file/d/1LL5uLWY9VHivSupdGCWEp3lcMK0glUZ1/view?usp=drive_web

Finally if I could ask the pupils of 3rd and 4th classes to complete a Sea Keepers survey, it would be most helpful. A few months ago, as part of our Green Theme, Global Citizenship - Marine, we did an initial survey and this is just a follow up. It is not a test, just a little questionnaire with some very cute pictures! Thank you in advance from the Sea Keepers in An Taisce. Here is the survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/seakeepers2020>

Stay home, stay green and stay hopeful and we will all get back together in time.

Mrs Nally

Finally, for those who like a little bit of a hymn with a message that applies to these difficult times, with thanks to St Theresa of Avila and John Michael Talbot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVdGEPA-Nxc>

Dóchas Linn

Cóilín Ó Coigligh P.O.