



St Mary's Convent Primary School

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Imlitir 28

April 27th 2020

A Chairde,

It was great to see so many teddies and familiar faces at assembly on Friday last. My main message to the pupils was that we miss being able to meet them and to see their happy smiling faces. We hope that it will not be too long until we can all be back at school again.

I reminded the parents/guardians to return the **permissions for G-Suite for Education**, whether it is “yes” or “no”. We are hoping to increase the use of digital platforms to cater for the lack of textbooks, printers or printer ink, in many homes. Permissions are needed for this. We will let you know what platforms we will be using by the end of this week. Many of the staff are using Google Classroom, Class Dojo and Seesaw and these are the main platforms we are looking at. We have used “Hangouts Meet” to check in with many of the pupils and that may be used for lesson delivery, in the future, but we have not decided yet. Ms Debby is currently doing weekly Scratch lessons through webinars and these will continue. For the moment, we are not permitted to distribute books from school, but we can send scans of books, images and videos through those three platforms. Whatever platforms we use, an email with work will still be sent each week.

Before school closed we sold daffodils for **The Irish Cancer Society**. We raised €1063, which was a fantastic amount of money. Well done everybody and thank you all for your generosity. Thanks to Mrs Nally for organising.

I want to remind everybody, for web meetings, please do not come to them in your pyjamas. Please do not say or write anything in the chat section that is not nice and that could hurt someone. For extra security, next week, we will be locking the assembly at 9.35. After that time, no one will be admitted. You can still catch it on our Facebook page and on our website (Covid 19 Assemblies) afterwards. Our three previous assemblies can be found there.

Digital Technology: As mentioned above, Ms Debby is delivering Scratch lessons through Hangouts Meet. Her timetable for this week is:

Wednesday 1st and 2nd Classes 10:30 - 11:30; 3rd and 4th Classes Thursday same time; 5th and 6th Classes Friday same time

This will change from next week - each Class group will be done independently e.g. 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday etc.

We plan on expanding to Tinkercad with some of the older classes from next week. Our thanks to Ms Debby for facilitating these classes and to you the parents/guardians for the annual computer contribution which enables us to employ Ms Debby for computer lessons and technical support.

National Poetry Day 2020 will take place this Thursday (April 30th). This year's theme is "There will be time...". Poetry is a fantastic way of expressing our thoughts and feelings. Poetry Ireland is calling on young and old to take part in their initiatives - here is the link <https://www.poetryireland.ie/poetry-day/education-schools/>

Mr Galligan

Contacting staff by email: Please do not expect an instant response. I have asked teachers, for their own wellbeing, not to access their school email accounts after school hours and to respond during school hours on one of the following days.

Active Home Week: This week is Active Home week. I hope that everybody will try at least one activity each day. You can bring a photo to the assembly on Friday like you brought your teddies, last week. Here are some useful websites, with thanks to Ms Mallon for her assistance:

<https://activeschoolflag.ie/index.php/active-home-week-2020/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/healthy-ireland/> -Healthy Ireland

<https://www schooldays.ie/articles/Ideas-to-keep-the-kids-physically-active-at-home> (This has great activities like active bingo)

<https://www.fooddudes.ie> - Healthy Eating

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/keeping-the-learning-going-at-home-how-to-keep-children-happy-healthy-and-learning-movement-skills-while-schools-are-closed-39141057.html> - Independent article on how to keep moving and it has age category movement ideas

<https://family.gonoodle.com-> the children will be familiar with this from school

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybn_SO990go - Joe Wicks PE on youtube

<https://www.730sagestreet.com/spell-your-name-workout/> - Spell Your Name workout

First Communion: A huge congratulations to the pupils from our school who pre recorded prayers and a reflection for the special Do This in Memory Mass yesterday morning which was broadcast on the Parish Radio Station. 107.7 FM. It was really lovely to hear their little

voices again. Well done girls, parents, Fr Paul and Fr Warren and Mrs O'Brien for coordinating it all.

Fr Paul read out a message from Bishop Tom Deenihan saying that for now the First Communion is postponed and when restrictions are lifted, teachers and parents will be

consulted. Frs Paul and Warren have written a letter to the First Communion children and this is available on the following website www.trimparish.com

Remember that morning Mass is available on the Parish Radio station at 107.7 FM at 9 am. and on Sunday at 9 am and 11 am. Next week's theme focuses on the health care and frontline workers. Blessings on them all.

I hope that everyone remains safe and well.

Dóchas Linn

Cóilín Ó Coigligh P.O.

Green News

Hoping everyone is keeping well and staying home for another while. Remember we have a beautiful town to enjoy within our 2 km radius. Many of us will have noticed the simple beauty of nature around us since we slowed down and we have a new appreciation for those things we once took for granted. There are many Whatsapp videos about nature coming alive while the streets of towns and cities have quietened down. Here is a lovely poem to remind us of our place in the grand scale of things:

We fell asleep in one world, and woke up in another.

Suddenly Disney is out of magic,

Paris is no longer romantic,

New York doesn't stand up anymore,

the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and Mecca is empty.

Hugs & kisses suddenly become weapons, and not visiting parents & friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realise that power, beauty & money are worthless, and can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for.

The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think it's sending us a message:

"You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember that you are my guests. Not my masters."

Hopefully when we get back, we will have a heightened respect and appreciation for the world and its natural resources.

Stay safe, Stay home and stay Green!

Mrs Nally