

March 24th 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents & Guardians,

I sincerely hope that this quick message finds you and yours healthy and well.

As you are probably aware, the government has postponed our return to school until after **Sunday April 19th 2020**. We will not be returning to school on Monday March 29th next as was originally scheduled.

As primary educators we are truly in uncharted territory, and unfortunately its impossible for us to achieve the same learning outcomes for our pupils as we would in normal circumstances. Be assured however that there will be a strong cohesive effort made to recover some of the lost time when we are back in session, particularly in the core subject areas of English, Irish and Maths.

School Work

Class teachers will be in contact with their respective classes again over the coming days with some more formal and informal learning suggestions for their pupils. It is important to point out that we do not wish to cause any sense of panic or tension in any household around the completion of assigned tasks. Normal teaching practices cannot be sustained at the moment. Teachers normally teach in the structured environment of a classroom and in a school setting. Your home is your home and is not a school. You have to balance the reality of home life in the current crisis with trying to create an environment where a child can learn and be actively engaged in the learning process. We completely understand that this is not always possible.

Communication

Our teachers will use this platform (Aladdin Connect) to communicate with you in the coming days. Some teachers may also set up a temporary email address which they may deem a more suitable medium of monitoring progress in so far as possible.

Providing content is only one aspect of trying to enable your child to continue with their learning. It is important at times like this to think of the children's wellbeing. Children will be well aware of the fears and anxieties created by social distancing and the ongoing Covid-19 updates. All you can do is reassure them as best you can. None of us have any prior experience of an emergency situation brought about by a global pandemic.

I believe that what your children will learn from you their parents/ guardians during this time, about how to be positive, how to be resilient and how to keep going in adversity will be the best learning experience they will ever engage in.

To all our parents who are frontline staff - in healthcare, justice, retail, transport, delivery, and in every other context - we salute you!

Stay healthy and well.

Warmest Regards,

Barry