
Scoil Mhuire, Barntown



March 2020

Covid-19

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I am using this newsletter to collate some of the key Aladdin notices that have been sent out to the whole school community during the school closure. This is an unprecedented time for all of us and we the staff of Barntown NS hope to support your children's learning at this difficult time. We wish every member of the school community continued good health. Keep safe everyone.

School Closure - Thursday, 12th of March

As some of you may have heard, it has just been announced that all schools are to close from tomorrow and re-open on Monday the 30th of March. We will use Aladdin to send further messages to you later today.

The class teachers will be sending home an Aladdin message later today in relation to topics that were due to be covered over the next two weeks. In the meantime you can access resources on a website called Twinkl for free for one month. Set up an account by going to www.twinkl.ie/offer and enter the code **IRLTWINKLHELPS**

Mr Walsh – Thursday, 12th March 2020

With today's unexpected closure we are saying goodbye to Mr Dean Walsh who has taught Senior Infants while Ms Gorey has been on maternity leave. I wish to thank Mr Walsh for the great work he did in the Senior Infant classroom, for supporting our school's Rackard League team, for helping out with Hurling 365 every Friday and for the many other unseen tasks that he did.

Mr Walsh was always full of good cheer and will be missed by staff and students alike. Wishing Mr Walsh continued success in his teaching career.

A few suggestions - Wednesday, 18th March 2020

Good morning parents/guardians,

I hope you and all your family are keeping well.

A few suggestions in relation to the current situation that we find ourselves in;

- Keeping to a **set routine and structure** is important for all our children, all our pupils are well used to their daily timetables when in school.
- In school we teach the **core subjects** of English, Gaeilge and Maths in the morning when children are fresh and generally more alert.
- The **amount of time** that your child can spend on an activity is dependent on a number of factors, younger children need more attention, support, feedback etc. This is difficult if you are working from home and have other younger children in the household. Older children (from 2nd class upwards) should be able to engage in longer periods of independent work (from 20 minutes – 45 minutes per activity)

- Using a **timer** can motivate children
- Older children ideally should have **two learning sessions** each day.
- In the morning spend an hour on the **tasks assigned by their teachers**; Maths Challenge, Handwriting, Litrigh é Linn, spellings- either from core words or books along with Book Club reading – these are non-screen activities.
- After a break which should include **some kind of movement and a snack**, the children can engage in project-based work, research which could involve the use of screens- laptop, tablet or PC. I suggest that this screen time take place where you can supervise.
- Do not underestimate the **power of reading**, research and studies show over and over again that reading is a big indicator of how children will succeed academically, read every day.
- **Everyday maths** such as counting coins, following recipes, looking at patterns and shapes around our homes, wearing a watch and keeping track of time, TV timetables are all good ways of promoting your children's maths skills – more ideas can be found at www.haveyougotmathseyes.com
- **Keep a daily journal** – the Student Council had planned another Newsletter at Easter time – we could share our experiences in this.
- Dust off the **board games** and jigsaw puzzles, Scrabble is my favourite!

Helpful resources; thanks to Mr Barron who has done Trojan work to get our website back up and running – www.bartownns.ie Type in www.bartownns.ie/useful-websites.html to access links to lots of useful websites and apps.

The following websites may be of particular use to you;

- Scoilnet.ie (new resources being added to constantly)
- Twinkl.ie (use code IRLTWINKLHELPS) free for a month so download as much as you can!
- Topmarks.co.uk
- Go Noodle / Ten@ten (RTEjr) – activity based, good for rainy days
- Cúpla Focal – sent out via Aladdin on the 10/03/2020
- Borrowbox – set up an account for eBooks and audiobooks

There are more resources online and being shared through social media, I am retweeting many of them through the school twitter account **@BartownNS**

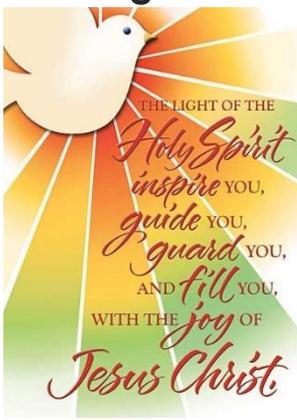
Importantly for the wellbeing of all children and ourselves; keep the following in mind

- limit the amount of news that we are hear each day
- get updates and information from trusted sources
- spend time outside each day but remember the guidance in relation to social distancing
- Connect with friends and families – writing letters to grandparents and classmates which can be emailed or shared via WhatsApp, use skype, facetime etc.

On a personal note, my own children are missing their friends and teachers, however they are being kept occupied with plenty of Chores!

I sincerely hope you all keep safe and well and that we get back to 'normality' as soon as possible.

A message to Rang a Sé - Saturday, 21st March 2020



Saturday the 21st of March was to be an important date in our school and parish calendar. Mr Cadogan, Ms Byrne and I, along with many other staff members were looking forward to joining with you all in watching your children take this important step in their faith journey.

I am thinking of all your children this morning, please pass on my regards to and best wishes to them. I look forward to your Confirmation Day, whenever it will happen and will endeavour to make sure that it is a special celebration for you and your families.

Kind regards, Keep safe and well, Mrs Nicola Roche

Monday, 23rd March 2020

Good morning all, I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the fine weather.

In the past week many schools and teachers have been suggesting activities for parents/guardians to give to their children at home. Please find attached below a list of activities that children can choose from to work on in their own time and at their own pace. Many of these activities do not involve the use of computers or laptops. We are mindful of the many other demands that are on households at this time, so these are suggestions and are not required learning.

Please note that Twinkl is also adding School Closure Packs for each class level to their growing list of resources. For those of you who are feeling energetic Joe Wicks - The Body Coach has a PE class starting at 9am on his YouTube channel! Wishing you all continued health. Mrs Nicola Roche

Coronavirus COVID-19
Public Health Advice

What Should I Do?

I've been to an affected region in the last 14 days and

I HAVE symptoms

1. Stay away from other people
2. Phone your GP without delay
3. If you do not have a GP phone 112 or 999

I DO NOT HAVE symptoms

For advice visit www.hse.ie

I've been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in the last 14 days and

I HAVE symptoms

1. Stay away from other people
2. Phone your GP without delay
3. If you do not have a GP phone 112 or 999

I DO NOT HAVE symptoms

For advice visit www.hse.ie

Affected Regions

Check the list of affected regions on www.hse.ie

Symptoms

> A Cough > Shortness of Breath > Breathing Difficulties > Fever (High Temperature)

How to Prevent

- Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

Ireland is operating a containment strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice

Coronavirus COVID-19
Public Health Advice

If you have fever and/or cough you should stay at home regardless of your travel or contact history.

If you have returned from an area that is subject to travel restrictions due to COVID-19 you should restrict your movements for 14 days. Check the list of affected areas on www.hse.ie

How to Prevent

- Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stop** shaking hands, hugging others, using public transport, greeting others, especially those who might be sick
- Distance** avoid at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other people

All people are advised to:

- > Reduce social interactions
- > **Keep a distance** of 2m between you and other people
- > **Do not** shake hands or make close contact where possible

If you have symptoms visit www.hse.ie OR phone HSE Line 1850 24 1850

Symptoms

> Fever (High Temperature) > A Cough > Shortness of Breath > Breathing Difficulties

For daily updates visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

Ireland is operating a containment strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice

Distance
Public Health Advice

Keep a safe distance

2m / 6ft