



SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMÁL

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I truly hope that you and your family are keeping well!

FIRSTLY, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!

After Easter, our staff will be in regular contact and will be available to you to support and guide you through the new reality of Home Learning.

I need to emphasise the following:

- We are aware that many of our families are dealing with a lot of challenges at the moment, such as sickness, worry about family members in other countries, job losses and fear of the unknown.
- Some of you are working from home and do not have the time to also guide your children through Home Learning.
- Please do not allow any communication you receive from us about school work to become a cause of stress or anxiety. *As I've previously said, the health and wellbeing of you and your family is your first priority. Academic work comes second to that.*
- ***Do what you can, when you can.***

The following is a brief update on what has been happening on our side:

- Staff groups have held video conferencing this week via Zoom.
- Following those meetings, a member of the support team has been assigned to each class level to link in with you. They will help with any queries, concerns or worries you may have in relation to your daughter's Home Learning. Those teachers will be in contact with you through Aladdin Connect after the Easter holidays.
- Class teachers have been planning work which will be forwarded on Friday evenings for the following week, again through Aladdin Connect. Though the format of this work may evolve over the weeks, our aim will be to keep it in line with the Department's guidelines: that assignments should be "purposeful, manageable and can be carried out independently".
- Our Special Education Teachers will also be in contact with their students to provide them with extra support and guidance.

Some recommendations:

- Please limit your daughter's exposure to media coverage of Covid-19.
- Encourage your daughter to have a daily routine when she starts back with Home Learning after Easter.
- If you can only manage one thing, then read with your daughter.
- Always choose calm over conflict! Don't allow Home Learning to become a battleground.

Please be assured that we are here to help and to journey with you as you engage with Home Learning.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

Bishop Dennis was in contact with all schools yesterday to clarify the situation at this point in time. He said:

"As soon as the HSE tells me that restrictions are lifted, we will immediately resume planning for these celebrations".

Be assured that I will be in contact with you as soon as I receive further word.

Finally, I'd like to remember Ann Bolger who died last week. Ann adored her three girls, Ally (2nd Year), Chloe (6th) and Ava (4th)! She was at every concert, prayer service and performance her beloved girls were involved in.....and never failed to secure a front- row seat! Ann became an active, hard-working and much-valued member of our Parents' Council and involved herself in all aspects of school life. She was one of a dedicated cohort of parents always on hand to assemble hampers, organise raffles and help with hospitality. Although she became sick last autumn, she was still with us on the morning of our mega Christmas raffle. Most recently, she was with us in January for Grandparents' Day, accompanying her mother. Needless to say, she was on hand to help with teas and coffees that day too! We are heart-broken for her girls and her husband, John.

We also extend our sympathies to Ms. Kirwan on the death of her father-in-law, to our Chairperson of the Board of Management, Walter Lacey, and to Mrs. Webb on the death of their father and to Ms. Lacey on the death of her grandfather.

May their souls Rest In Peace.

Keep your loved ones near. Mind yourself so you can take care of those who need you.

All in Scoil Mhuire wish you and your family good health and happiness this Easter season....and please tell your daughter that we miss her and are asking for her.

Kind regards,

Bernie Murphy
Principal