

St. Mary's N.S Remote Learning Guidance

January School Closures 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents & Guardians,

As you are aware, and as announced by Government on 6th January, all primary schools will be closed until January 31st 2021, due to the high cases of Covid-19 nationwide.

Thankfully, all teaching and learning will continue safely through remote/distance learning. St. Mary's Management and staff have been busy since September ensuring that all pupils and parent/guardians are prepared for 'Remote Learning' should the need arise again.

The school has adopted a digital learning platform called Seesaw and most of our pupils are familiar with it by this stage. Children have learned over the first term (Sept-Dec 2020), how to access the platform with their own personal login QR code on the 'Seesaw Class' app and how to post completed work or find teacher's assigned activities. Many pupils have been submitting homework/projects through this format during Term 1 and have become familiar with how it works. Parents have also been invited to access/supervise their own child's work or engage with the class teacher through the 'Seesaw Family' app with the family invitation QR code.

***NB - As previously communicated through the Christmas Newsletter 2020 - it is NOT permitted to share Seesaw content on any other online platform or on social media.

Very Important Information below:

As your child will be continuing to follow the school curriculum, it is very important that they have access to their school textbooks and the school staff have arranged to gather children's books and

facilitate the collection of books from your child's school yard on Monday 11th January between hours of 11am - 2pm. Parents must not enter the school building and must follow social distancing/mask wearing procedures. A number of pupils were absent in the run up to Christmas and collection of books can only be facilitated on this day Monday January 11th as teachers will be working remotely after that date and engaging with the online learning and teaching.

Remote learning will begin for your child on Monday 11th January.

Teachers will upload a timetable of work to be completed and submitted on that day - this work will be independently led work as teachers will be on site distributing books. (eg Mental Maths, Sentences, Times Tables etc)

From Tuesday 12th January, your child can look forward to engaging with their class teacher through pre-recorded lessons/videos/voice recordings on the Seesaw app. Suggested tasks can then be completed by your child in their copy and submitted by photo upload for correction and feedback. Your child's work will always be seen by their class teacher yet it may be corrected by class teacher or by a support SEN teacher as we are expecting lots of good work to be uploaded daily.

Teachers will work in line with the regular school day 9.20am - 3pm and will be available to deal with child or parent queries during this time. It would be wonderful for your child's routine and progress if they could stick to the regular school hours each day also. Work can be submitted after these hours but may not be seen until the next working day. Any queries from parents after these working hours may be dealt with the next working day also.

We understand that children/siblings from families may be sharing a device (laptop/Tablet/phone) - some of the work assigned to your child will require a device for a period of time (eg specific Maths/English/SESE lessons) and more of the daily work will not require a

device once the daily timetable has been seen each day by the child/parent/guardian (eg page of handwriting, spellings from CJ Fallon, Mental Maths Page, Irish sentences). It is up to each family then to decide how best to facilitate this sharing of devices - Don't worry, lessons are not live and pre-recorded work can be viewed/accessed right throughout each day.

Teachers understand the importance of friendships in school and would love to host a short 'Zoom Meeting' once each week to allow the pupils to see each other and their teacher. You will need to ensure that you have the zoom app on a device or access to zoom to facilitate this, should your child wish to participate.

We understand that this is a lot of information to take in yet please be assured that we are all on this learning curve together. Our children have experienced lockdown learning last year and have been prepared for remote digital learning this term and we expect that it will all fall into place once the children start their work on Seesaw on Monday 11th January.

We look forward to working online with you and your child for the next number of weeks and we hope you all stay safe in these difficult times.