



January 21st 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well, and settling into a home-schooling routine that suits your household. We would like to acknowledge and thank you for the fantastic engagement with the school work throughout the school last week and this week. We know that this would not be possible without your support at home, and we very much appreciate it. Lots of you are working from home, or going out to work, and are juggling this with home-schooling. This is no easy task. We fully understand what households are like right now, and we know the efforts you are going to so that your children engage with their teachers and continue with their teaching and learning.

The teachers have been doing their parent-teacher meetings last week and this week, and your feedback is much appreciated. We are happy to learn that the recorded lessons are beneficial, and that the children (particularly the little ones) are enjoying seeing their teachers. The fact that some of the infants are waving at their much-loved teachers on the recorded lessons is just what we want to hear right now to make us smile! The teachers have also enjoyed meeting dogs, cats and even rabbits during live video calls. We have come a long way since last March in terms of preparedness for remote teaching and learning. As with every organisation, we have a spectrum of familiarity, comfort and proficiency among the staff when it comes to digital technology. I am very proud of every member of staff for stepping up to the mark and throwing themselves into this new reality. You too have had to master the platforms we are using, and have done so admirably. We have even heard of grannies who are childminding and learning about Google Classroom and DoJo from the children. Welcome to 2021!

Home-schooling is not the same as being in school every day. We do not expect any of the children, even the older children, to engage in schoolwork for the full school day. Our aim during this remote learning is to focus on the areas where children can quickly regress, namely Maths, English and Gaeilge. All teachers expect every child to complete these lessons every day. Teachers are also providing some lessons in other subjects, and there are links to lots of extra work for those that want more. Class teachers are in daily contact with the children and / or parents. They are giving clear instructions on what their expectations are in relation to work, and in relation to what needs to be submitted. If you are struggling to engage with the work for any reason, it is really important that you contact the teacher to discuss. We need to account for all children during the school closure. Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

School rules, and our [Acceptable Usage Policy](#) (see addendum for reference to remote teaching and learning) apply to all live video calls. Respectful communication is expected from all participants, and while the children should preferably be in a quiet location (if such exists anymore in houses!), parent should of course feel free to come and go in the background if it makes the child feel more comfortable. All recorded lessons are for the intended use only, i.e. to progress your child's teaching

and learning, and should not be shared. These reminders are to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students and staff and we appreciate your support and cooperation.

For any parents that work in Intel, we are part of the Benevity scheme. This means you can log all of the hours you spend supporting your child with home-schooling through Benevity. We are delighted to be part of this initiative, which will benefit the school. Thanks to Intel, and all our Intel parents, for your support. If you have any issues logging these hours, please email us at info@scoilmochara.com.

Please stay in touch with us, and stay positive. This will pass. In the meantime, we will continue to support your children in every way we can.

Kind Regards,

Catherine Carragher, Principal