

Telephone 071 9637003
dangankilmore48@gmail.com
Uimhir Rolla: 175710
www.danganns.ie

St. Brigid's
Dangan NS
Kilmore
Carrick-On-Shannon
Co. Roscommon

Remote Learning January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you are all safe and well and were able to have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Since our return to school in September it has been great to have been able to have pupils back in their classrooms and to be able to continue with school life as close to normal as possible. Unfortunately, the changing circumstances over the Christmas period has meant that schools must postpone reopening at the current time and we will now be required to return to remote learning for the coming three weeks.

We are aware that this is far from ideal and will present a number of challenges for many families just as it did in March of last year. We are hoping that through the implementation of our school's Remote Learning Plan we will be able to support home learning over the coming period while limiting any additional stress or burden during this time.

General Principles

The main message in relation to any of the home learning tasks and activities assigned over the coming weeks remains: "do what you can." We understand and are aware that every families' circumstances are different and each will have different ways of approaching any activities and assignments. While facilitating the continuation of children's learning is important, we would also encourage the prioritisation of pupils' health and well-being during the upcoming closure period. Please do not feel in any way pressured to complete each and every task that may be assigned. Similarly, if you or your child encounter a topic or activity they are finding particularly challenging or difficult feel free to move on. You may wish to make a note of it so that it can be looked at with them again when we return to the classroom.

Remote Learning Plan

Prior to the beginning of each week teachers will prepare a short outline of activities which pupils can work on across the days that follow. In so far as possible these tasks and activities will be set at a level which means that they can be completed independently by pupils themselves. While the activities will be lined out in a weekly timetable format this is merely a suggestion and there is no obligation to complete activities on set days. Families are also free to pick and choose activities to complete depending on their child's progress and their own particular arrangements and circumstances.

Photos of completed activities can then be uploaded to the children's Seesaw digital portfolios for correction, review and feedback from their class teachers. It is not necessary to upload every piece of completed work. Pupils instead could select some pieces that they are particularly happy with. They may also choose to upload a photo showing a task or activity which they are finding challenging and with which they would like some additional guidance or support.

Teachers may not respond to every piece of work uploaded but will correct/provide feedback on at least one sample of work submitted to Seesaw by each pupil each day. In some cases pupils will be asked to self-correct tasks/activities and will be provided with the materials necessary to do so by the teacher.

Seesaw App

The "Seesaw Class" app for uploading pieces of work can be downloaded on smartphones or tablets. Login sheets for each pupils' individual Seesaw account were sent home in November however if anyone requires another copy of their child's login sheet please contact your child's class teacher or the school email address and we will have a new copy forwarded to you.

Each class teacher will have a dedicated email address through which they will be available to be contacted by parents/pupils for the closure period. Each family will receive an email from their children's class teachers containing this dedicated email address over the coming days. This address can also be used to share/submit images of pupil's completed work if this is more convenient for any families.

Teachers will be in general contact with the parents of the pupils in their class at least once a week. They will also be available to answer any questions and queries which may arise and regularly seek feedback on the tasks and activities which have been assigned. This will be supplemented by communication and feedback provided on completed tasks and activities uploaded to the Seesaw app/shared via email.

Textbooks

As a precautionary measure some of the class textbooks were already sent home with pupils prior to the beginning of the Christmas holidays. If any pupils were not in attendance when these books were sent home (or there are any books your child is missing) please contact your child's class teacher and arrangements can be made to have these books made available. Similarly, if there are any books remaining in school which your child will need for use at home their class teacher will be in contact with you in relation to this.

The textbooks will form the basis of the majority of the activities pupils undertake over the coming days but they will occasionally be supplemented by additional resources or materials. These will be provided via email or will be uploaded to children's Seesaw accounts. Some of these materials/activity sheets may sometimes need to be printed off but if any family does not have the facility to do this just get in contact and other arrangements can be made.

Upcoming Week

Activities assigned to pupils for next week will be sent out in the coming days but will not begin fully until Tuesday the 12th of January to allow families and pupils to familiarise themselves with the layout of the activities etc. The activities for Monday will consist of some very short reading and written activities with which to get started.

Once again, we understand that this will be a challenging time for everyone. However, we hope that the plan outlined above, while not suiting perfectly for every family and pupil, will enable children generally to receive guidance and support during this remote learning period.

As always if you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to get in contact via the school email or through the email provided by your child's teacher. We will also keep you updated on any additional information and guidance we receive as it becomes available.

We hope that you all stay safe and healthy during this time and we look forward to hopefully being able to welcome pupils back to school once again at the end of the month.

Mise le meas,



Derek Gannon (Acting Principal) & Staff