



St Mary's Junior School

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Dear Parents,

I extend a virtual welcome to all, between staff, children, and parents as we embark on our second term. We certainly were not expecting to return as we are but rest assured, we will work together as we did last year and I am confident, that with the same support and co-operation, we will succeed until our doors open again. The main focus recommended by the Department of Education & Skills once again revolves around well-being and mental health and this will remain our primary aim for all members of the school community.

Staff have collaborated and consulted during our first term and indeed since Wednesday, January 6th and we are both confident and hopeful regarding the days and weeks ahead. This letter highlights our plan for remote learning.

Teachers will be in contact with parents, giving a detailed account of the strategies they will use for teaching and learning. We have made significant developments on remote learning and many classes have already engaged at some level with this concept during the first term.

We are placing a larger emphasis on monitoring of work, correction, and feedback this time. It is so important for your child, that we continue, as best we can to proceed with planned academic work in the areas of literacy and numeracy in particular. Home support and encouragement is very important to enable children to upload work to their class teacher as required. We appreciate your support with this and once again welcome working in partnership with you to support your child's learning.

Parents can expect daily work and independent learning tasks for your child. Our aim is that children are not totally dependent on you to complete activities and we will provide a variety of both independent and support led assignments for your child. If there is pressure in the home around electronic devices (especially where you have more than one child), please contact your child's teacher for prepared individualised work. We understand the challenges you may be faced with and are here to support you.

In parting, I wish you all well during the weeks ahead. We have many reasons to be positive- we have experience of working remotely and we have progressed in our methods since March. We envisage that this lockdown will not be as long as our last and above all we know we will avail of a vaccine in the coming months. I firmly believe we have good reason to be hopeful in 2021.

Stay safe and hopefully we are back to school soon.

Maura O'Shea

Mairead Byrne