



Sunday 22nd March, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I sit here on this beautiful March morning, I am thinking of all of you and your families. I hope that you are safe and well. I'd like to give a special mention to all the members of our school community who continue to work in the public sector during this difficult time and in particular to the parents who are 'frontline staff' working to keep everyone healthy.

Like you, I am in the process of trying to adapt to our new way of daily life and the changes that have happened for all of us. As Principal, I am working to maintain contact with our school community and to support the teachers as they navigate new ways of continuing with teaching and learning. As a parent, I am trying to keep some sense of a routine going at home for my own children while reassuring them that normality will return and reinforcing the really important job we all have to play in terms of social distancing. Like many of you I am juggling 'working from home' with 'home learning' and believe me I feel your pain!! It's really difficult!

The teachers and myself have been planning some further options in the event that school does not reopen on the 30th March. We are all hoping that this is not the case but it's better to be prepared. Moving forward we intend to begin to use the Seesaw app to communicate with the children. This app can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone and is very user friendly. It will allow the teachers to send work directly to the children and more importantly the children can also communicate with their teachers. Some of you may already be familiar with the app as various children in the school already use it.

We are in the process of developing some 'how to' videos that will be posted on our school Facebook page and website that will show everyone how to use Seesaw. If further school closures are confirmed, we will text a 'code' to every parent. Each child will have their own code and this is how the pupils will access Seesaw. If you have more than one child in our school you will receive a separate code for each child. Instructions about how to login to the app will also be issued at that stage.

Please remember that all activities provided are suggestions. Distance learning with primary school aged children is really hard. Any activities provided by teachers will be revision of concepts that they have already learned. When the children return to school, everyone will be in the same position. Everyone will have lost some time. It is my job, to lead and support the teachers, to plan for their return and to make sure that learning continues. Every family is different, the situation of each family is different and children learn in so many different ways. Please choose the options that you feel are best for your family. Please remember that you can contact me using info@letterkennyetns.ie as necessary.

There is no 'prize' for completing the most amount of work. The only 'prize' is our health and the health of those around us.

Take care,

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