



A Chairde,

Today would have been the start of our Easter holidays and we would all be looking forward to a break. At the beginning of this term, we could never in our wildest dreams have imagined what was to come.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our parents/carers for your wonderful support and encouragement over the past three weeks as we come to terms with a new normal.

We are very aware that every family has different needs, challenges and resources in terms of time, digital access, children who may be preparing for exams, babies at home, work commitments, etc. Depending on year groups, and with this in mind, we have tried not to overload the children with too much text work. As per Department of Education guidelines, the work sent home is purposeful, manageable and can be carried out independently. While engaging in less textbook work, our children are learning in so many different ways that will stand to them in becoming lifelong learners. I have seen examples of wonderful pictures, cards for grandparents, fabulous practical activities etc. Perhaps most important of all, our children are becoming more resourceful, as they have so much more free time on their hands.

Keep up the wonderful work and send your teacher a photo of a lovely picture you've drawn or something you've made or built. Hopefully they are learning to just relax and slowdown from the busy lives our 21st century kids seems to have!

They and their teachers will be more than ready to pick up any missed work on their return. All gaps will be filled, at whatever stage we return to school.

If possible, enjoy Easter, take a break from schoolwork now, for the next two weeks, and enjoy time with your families. In years to come, when your children look back on this unprecedented time in history, they will have lovely happy memories of all that time you are spending with them!

Thanks to the boys and girls for your energy, for giving this new way of schooling a go, and indeed for your wonderful resilience!

I would like to pay tribute to our teachers, classrooms assistants and Eimear for all of the work that you are doing keeping it going from home and to Pól for keeping an eye on things at school. We wish all of them and Theresa and all the other support workers who come into our school to support us and the children or to take after school clubs a very peaceful Easter.

To our many parents involved in front-line services, a very special thank you. We keep you in our thoughts and our prayers, and are very proud of you!

Father Farren is offering a mass for all school communities this morning at 10.00am. This would be good way to begin Easter as we remember all of our parents/carers, past pupils and other members of our school community who may be working on the front line.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Easter. It will be different, but one we will all remember!

Tabharaigí aire dá chéile agus fanaigí sláintiúil agus sábhailte. Take care of each other and keep healthy and safe. Keep following the guidelines.

Máire Mhic Lochlainn

