



School eNewsletter - eCinnlínte 165

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Sun, Apr 19, 2020 at 2:33 PM

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A Message from Mr McGee

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter via email to all our parents/guardians. We hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and that you are all in good health. We are beginning our third and last term of the year in such unexpected circumstances. Many plans were made for this term and there were lots of wonderful occasions that we were looking forward to. I think especially of Ms McCreanor's 2nd Class, our Holy Communicants, who were preparing so well for their big day and of course Master McAdam's 6th Class who were making plans for Confirmation and exiting primary education. The big consolation is that we still have all this to enjoy in the future!

Our teachers will continue to support the teaching and learning of our pupils this term. At the moment we are doing this via email and our school website but plans are afoot to move our classes onto a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) to allow for a more interactive approach for teaching and learning. Our Support teachers (SETs) are also making plans to enhance the support provided for their individual pupils. Today our teachers made contact by email with their classes and sent them a schedule of work for the week. This is also available in the *Pupils' Learning Zone* on our school website.

We now have contact email addresses for our pupils and we also have contact email addresses for our parents/guardians. **If you have not yet subscribed to either please visit the front page of our website and connect your son with his teacher and/or connect yourself to our school.**

Please remember that these endeavours are not to complicate life, nor to put extra pressure on any family. We are very aware of the changing and different circumstances in all households, including our own, and stress that this work should be a help and not a hindrance.

It is a time when we should feel very proud of our nation in how we have, with Irish resilience, tackled a serious threat to our well being. We must continue to protect each other with the same fervour. Please continue to practice social distancing, continue to frequently wash hands and remember cough etiquette, these simple measures can save lives.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all of my hard working and professional staff who have done an incredible amount of IT upskilling in a short period of time. In particular they have demonstrated an absolute commitment to supporting our boys into the future. They have eagerly participated in regular online meetings and collaborative

planning in our new virtual staff room in the Cloud! So please don't worry about your son's education into the future as we are already planning ahead to engage more with him at home and to address his needs when we return to school.

Also grateful thanks to you as parents for the wonderful support you have given us as we navigate these uncharted waters! Your emails of support are greatly appreciated by all staff and give us all a great boost!

I wish you all happiness and health and a great third term together.

Is muidine le meas, J.McGee and all the staff of Monastery NS.

[A Message from the Priests of our Parish](#)

Dear Parents

We, the Priests of your Parish are very much thinking of you and your young people who were due to make their First Holy Communion and their Confirmation shortly. Please know that we are praying for these wonderful boys and girls, your sons and daughters, for your yourselves and your whole family. Please God these happy celebrations will take place at a future date. May God bless and protect all of us during these difficult times. Continue to pray with your families for us as we continue to pray for all of you.

Keep well and keep safe and Easter Blessings on you all. *Canon Murphy, Fr O'Leary & Fr Slater.*

[Website Updates and Highlights](#)

Our website has been updated significantly at www.monasterynsardee.ie/. It was a joy and very uplifting to see so many wonderful photographs of our boys' **School at Home** during the month of March. Please continue to send photographs to teacher of your son's school at home and of his life with his family at home.

We also had wonderful photograph entries to our Easter Competition. Check out the competition winners and our *Student of the Year* monthly nominations on the **Easter '20** web page.

Check out the **Learning Zone for Pupils** that includes his work schedule for the week. We have also updated the **Learning Zone for Parents** that includes advice for *online use at home, guidance on appropriate use of your son's email address and how to access Publishers' School Books online* etc.

Check out the link on our website to our new **Monastery NS YouTube Channel**. In particular view our different Playlists as follows with your son;

1. **Nature Playlist** including the *Garden Birds of Ireland* and their songs (how many can you recognise?). *The World's strangest Parrot* and *Disco the talking Budgie*. And don't miss videos of the incredible *Lyre Bird* who is the Bird World's best mimic.
2. **Sport Playlist** with a video of the All Ireland GAA football final of 1957. We also have a video of the FAI Schools 5s Soccer Final 2014 in the Aviva Stadium. Look out for some of our past pupils who played on the day for Monastery NS in the finals!

Also please keep an eye on the *Messages* page in the **Parents' section** of our website.

[Parent Survey](#)

We hope to send you a link to a short online survey this week. We are trying to understand the IT facilities you have or don't have at home and the challenges you are facing trying to engage with *School at Home*. We would also like to know how we as a school are doing in meeting this challenge and supporting your son. More information will follow.

[Contact](#)

If you need to contact your teacher for support please email him/her at the email address provided on our website at <http://www.monasterynsardee.ie/support.html>

If you have a matter of concern and need to contact Mr McGee please email officeardeemns@gmail.com I will reply in confidence in a timely manner. If you need a call back please provide the best contact number to get you on.