



Monastery NS ~ Cinnlínte 168 ~ Spring 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know Monastery NS classes reverted to remote teaching and learning on Monday 11th for the month of January. This is so disappointing for us all and not what we were hoping for at the start of a new year. However, we are hopeful that with the roll out of the vaccine we will in time return to more normal day to day living. For information on remote learning see our school website at www.monasterynsardee.ie

We are aware of the difficulties faced by our families during this pandemic and we know that on-line education is a challenge. We wanted to remind you that we have no expectation that during this time you become your child's substitute teacher. We also do not expect you to be doing hours of tutoring with your child every day. We encourage you to be realistic about your child's needs and your own needs.

In the meantime we will provide enhanced support of your son with school at home. And it is significantly different this time. Our teachers, parents and pupils are familiar with our VLEs, *MNS Seesaw* and *MNS Google Classroom*, and have been using them once a week since our return to school. We also intend to support your son through **Google Meets** video conferencing at home where possible.

When trying to think about how we can support ourselves, our families, our communities and our country in the coming weeks, it can be helpful to remind ourselves of these three key messages:

- *Stay Responsible & Informed*
- *Stay Active & Connected*
- *Stay Positive & Calm*

On the following page, we have created links to a range of resources which you may find helpful. Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns, by email at officeardeemns@gmail.com or by telephone at 041-6853641 (*leave a message as voicemail is monitored*).

We all want to get back to school as soon as possible and as soon as it is safe for everyone to do so. In order to do this we need to get the rates of Covid infection in our community significantly reduced. And the only way to do this is to follow public health advice and stay at home.

Ní neart go cur le chéile - There is no strength without unity - Nie ma siły bez jedności - Без единства нет силы

Stay Safe.

Kind regards,

Jim McSee, Principal.

Contact with our School

Please don't use our school VLEs, MNS Seesaw and MNS Google Classroom to communicate personal messages with teacher. They are exclusively for teaching and learning. **For all contact email** officeardeemns@gmail.com or call the school office on **041-6853641** (*leave a voicemail on our routinely monitored answering service*). **When contacting us please state your full name, your child's name and his class teacher's name.**

HELP OUR SCHOOL TO REOPEN – REDUCE COVID INFECTION RATES IN OUR COMMUNITY BY STAYING AT HOME

gov.ie

Departments Consultations Publications Policies Languages

Publication

Wellbeing advice and resources during COVID-19

From Department of Education
Published on 27 August 2020
Last updated on 04 January 2021

1. Parents - Primary Schools
2. Parents - Post primary Schools
3. Students
4. School Staff - Primary Schools
5. School Staff - Post primary Schools

Part of

- Compass
- Back to School
- Phases

Share:

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wellbeing in education

The Department of Education NEPS psychologists have developed this wellbeing advice and resources for parents, students and school staff to support them during school closure due to COVID-19.

The Department of Education National Educational Psychology Service (NEPS) has many resources that you may find useful while the school is closed. These resources can be found on the Department website [here](#)



Plan for a Day

A plan for the day template is available [here](#) to help you and your child put a structure on the day. It suggests trying to have a schedule, creating time for fun activities, time for learning, break times and time for physical activity.



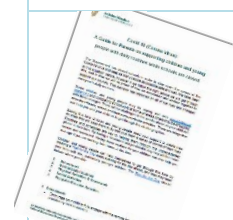
Advice for Young People

NEPS has published *Advice for Young People while Schools are Closed* which is available [here](#)

Relaxation Techniques Podcast



[This link](#) will take you to a podcast from NEPS to help parents and pupils practise relaxation techniques.



Advice for Parents

NEPS has also published *A Guide for Parents on Supporting Children and Young People with Daily Routines while Schools are Closed* which is available [here](#)

HELP OUR SCHOOL TO REOPEN – REDUCE COVID INFECTION RATES IN OUR COMMUNITY BY STAYING AT HOME

School at Home

Our virtual learning environments, MNS Seesaw and Google Classroom have a 98 per cent active uptake by our pupils. **Our focus for School at Home will be Numeracy, Literacy, Physical Exercise and Pupil Wellbeing and we hope to assign no more than 2 hours work per day.** The pupil's assignments will be scheduled each morning at 6am for the school day ahead. Routine is vitally important and pupils should be ready to start school each day at 9.30am if possible. Our senior pupils (3rd to 6th) are well used to logging in and working independently and should only need occasional guidance. Younger pupils and pupils with additional needs may need more assistance when parents are available. We will also be enhancing our support of your son through the interactive use of Google Meets video conferencing if possible. Video conferencing guidelines have been recently issued to you.

School Books

We have sent home key school books that may be used at home with your son. **Please don't write on Book Rental Books and look after them while they are in your home.** Then return all books when school reopens.

Free Online Access to School Books & Resources

Folens are providing free access to Parents not only to school books but also to digital activities, eBooks, printouts and many more resources available to go along with the Folens books you already have. For parents to get access, they can simply register as a teacher from our school, using our school roll number 17124M. Click on this link to register - www.folensonline.ie/registration/

CJ Fallons are also providing free access to parents to school books and resources at www.cjfallon.ie/

Veritas are providing free access for parents to our Religion programme **Grow in Love**. Simply go to www.growinlove.ie Click on Login. The email address required is trial@growinlove.ie and the password is *growinlove*

Literacy – check out the tips for developing oral language with your child at www.monasterynsardee.ie/literacy.html

Numeracy - check out the tips for developing maths problem solving with your child at www.monasterynsardee.ie/numeracy.html

Special Education Enhanced Support of Pupils

Special Education Teachers (SETs) and SNAs are now working closely via our VLEs and via Google Meets video conferencing, with individual and small groups of pupils with additional needs, to provide an enhanced level of support. The Department of Education and Skills is currently consulting with all education partners to plan for the resumption of in-school support by SETs and SNAs of our pupils. A significant percentage of our parents have previously expressed their concerns about sending their son back to school in the current Covid landscape. We await further developments before we contact parents again.

New Technology in our School

As part of our continued investment in the latest technology we purchased new high definition webcams for all our classrooms. These cameras coupled with our new PCs and high definition Interactive Panels have enabled us to do virtual assemblies and Christmas Greetings with our school community. We are also purchasing four new high definition interactive classroom panels to replace our old interactive whiteboards.

Internet Safety in the home

Please talk to your child about the need to balance online activities with other ways of learning and with exercise and creative play. Online activity needs to be monitored and now is a good time to have that chat with your child.

- *Agree some simple rules around devices, where and how long your child can be on devices, device-free mealtimes, games they can play etc.*

- *Talk about the fun stuff as well as the potential bad stuff they may encounter online. Talk about the fact that people may not always be who they say they are online. Talk about being kind online.*
- *Keep informed about the apps and games your children use and how to set privacy settings and parental controls. Check out <https://www.webwise.ie/>, [cybersafeireland.org](https://www.cybersafeireland.org) and [commonsensemedia.org](https://www.common sense media.org) to learn more.*
- *Visit <https://sites.google.com/cybersafeireland.org/csi-stuck-at-home/home> which has a hub of recommended educational apps, games and resources.*
- *The most important thing is to let your children know they can come to you about online content that makes them uncomfortable or that they're not sure about. If they think this may result in them losing their device this will lessen the chances of them coming to you....it's best to talk over the problem calmly and to help your child learn how to prevent it happening again.*

Parent-Teacher Meetings

We will be hosting Parent / Teacher meetings after mid-term break at a time to be decided. Teacher will review your son's progress since his return to school from August to December and also his remote work at home since January 2021. An information letter will issue to all parents in due course.

Free Pop-Up Online Singing Sessions for Parents, Pupils and Teachers

Music Generation Louth are offering free pop-up singing sessions which are sure to be fun and engaging for all our boys. Sessions are crafted to suit different age groups as follows; Senior Infants and 1st; 2nd & 3rd and 4th to 6th. All you have to do is click here to register;

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=poOQkdzckUO2gg05kLcInBUPfiHcfeBntJyf9NwUXCRURVE5MkRVMDVGNVVWVTICV4xSUxYUjRFUS4u>

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2021 will be celebrated in Monastery NS from Sunday 24th of January to Sunday the 31st of January 2021 on the theme '**Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience**'. As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?' and 'Where is God in all of this?' In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus. This year we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week virtually via our VLEs and we invite you and your family to join us in this celebration.

Saint Brigid's Day Cross at home

In the run-up to St. Brigid's Day (February 1st) Louth County Museum has put up a simple guide to help children make their own St. Brigid's Cross at home on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/countymuseumdundalk/photos/pcb.10151399252984964/10151399251774964) **Make a St. Brigid's Day Cross and submit a photograph to your teacher on your son's school VLE.** We will then publish them on our school website.

Father Tommy McGeough R.I.P.

It is with deep sadness that we heard of the passing of our former school Chaplain Father Tommy McGeough on Monday January 25th. He was fondly regarded by staff and pupils during his numerous visits to classes over the years. He was always very supportive of our boys in their preparation for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam uasal.