



22/03/2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. There is no doubt that this is a challenging time for us all and especially for you as parents, some of you may be struggling with childcare as you continue to work or those of you who are working from home. These are challenging times for everyone and I know you are doing your best.

When the news broke, on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>, the teachers sent home some work for the children to complete for the following 10 days. As I write this letter, I do not have any information about when we will reopen so in order to facilitate some contact between the teachers and the children, going forward, the school have purchased Aladdin Connect. There is a letter on the school website explaining Aladdin Connect, please read this and I will send you a link on Tuesday via text or email so you can download the app. This app will allow each teacher to email the parents of the children in their class and open up communication between the school and the home. If you have not sent your email, can you please email me [principal@schullns.com](mailto:principal@schullns.com)

I would like to thank you for the manner in which you are supporting your child's learning opportunities and adding to their positive experiences during this time. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have been filled with resources for parents to use to teach their children at home. I am sure, like me, you may have found this very overwhelming at times last week, but it is there as a guide for you if you need it. Remember you know your child best. The staff and I have put together a few more ideas/suggestions that perhaps you might to use with your child, but I would like to stress that I acknowledge and know this is a challenging time for you and these are only suggestions from us to compliment the work we sent home. Our aim is to help and not to hinder you or your family in any way. The class teachers will be in touch later during the week to assign more work for their classes. Please feel free to do as little or as much as your situation allows.

- As teachers, we tend to use **visual schedules** or **timetables**, this could be in the form of an A4 piece of paper and just writing out the plan for the day. Some children thrive with routine and will find this very useful
- **Joe Wicks** is hosting live PE lessons on youtube every morning @ 9am
- RTE are hosting "**School on TV**" starting tomorrow Monday March 23rd @ 11am on RTÉ 2.
- **Reading**, even a little every day is crucial. It is proven to benefit imagination, vocabulary, grammar and spelling, while also exposing children to some of the greatest and most imaginative characters and to the most weird and wonderful settings. The following website





- has free books for children <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> <https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/#/>
- Encouraging your child to **write a diary** during this time will be a lovely piece of history in years to come, I would also love to read these if you would like them to email them to me.
  - **Maths** week Ireland have lots of free resources on their website. <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2019/>
  - **Cosmic Kids Yoga** which I know is very popular already with the children in Ms O' Donovans class [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=cosmic+kids+yoga](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cosmic+kids+yoga)
  - **SESE** [www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/)
  - **Blackrock Castle Observatory** are posting a daily astro challenge on their facebook page
  - The **Glucksman Art Gallery** is also posting creative and art activities on their facebook page

I am sure, as the primary educators of your children, you are all doing a great job. Please stay positive and calm, it can be very hard at times. If you think that I can help in anyway, please feel free to email me at [principal@schullns.com](mailto:principal@schullns.com) and I will do whatever I can to support you. I know a number of children were absent on the last day of school and therefore do not have access to books. I will be discussing with the staff this week how to overcome this and perhaps the need to send more books home. We will be in touch with you later in the week when arrangements have been made.

Please tell your children that I said “hello” and I am thinking of them and I am looking forward to opening the door and giving them a warm welcome back to their school as they did for me when I started in Scoil Mhuire only a few short months ago. I am looking forward to hearing about all their wonderful adventures at home with their families during this time. I am also looking forward to hearing them play in the yard with their friends and chatting in the classrooms and filling the corridors of school once again with their laughter and song.

Like you, this is new for myself and all the staff and we are learning too. We will continue to support you as best we can. The addition of Aladdin Connect will improve communication and support for your child.

My thoughts are with every family of Scoil Mhuire NS and the wider community of Schull, especially those who have loved ones working on the front line services.

Kind Regards,  
Mairéad and all the staff in Scoil Mhuire NS

