



15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

I hope you are all well at this time.

Sincere thanks to all families for rowing in with all health and safety measures in place. We thank you all for erring on the side of caution - keeping children home who are unwell, getting GP advice when they present with symptoms that may be consistent with Covid-19 and observing all the guidelines around isolation etc. The actions of each member of our school community have an impact on the entire school community. By each of us following health and safety advice and guidelines we are working together to keep each other as safe as possible at this time. Thank you.

**Seesaw:** Class teachers have commenced sending Home Learning Codes home. Home Learning Codes allow children to sign in to the Seesaw class app from home. These codes are unique to each pupil. Pupils can add posts, respond to activities, view announcements, and leave comments on their own work. All parents are advised to take a photo of the home learning codes in case it gets misplaced.

Seesaw can be downloaded onto a device such as a phone or tablet or alternatively you can login online on a laptop or computer for example.

Please sign in with your Home Learning code following the steps below:

1. Go to <https://web.seesaw.me> on a computer. Or install the Seesaw Class iOS or Android app.
2. Tap "I'm a Student".
3. Scan or type in your Home Learning code.
4. Post to your journal, respond to activities, and view class announcements.
5. Remember, this code is like a password. Keep it safe!

Below you will find helpful links to support you and your daughter(s) while engaging with Seesaw.

- Getting Started on Seesaw with Home Learning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRQrR21ZEuM&feature=youtu.be>
- Uploading My Child's Work to Seesaw [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19G\\_78aEADQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19G_78aEADQ)
- How to Use the Seesaw Creative Tools <https://web.seesaw.me/creative-tools>
- Editing Documents on Seesaw <https://youtu.be/syQbC3AqxQM>
- How to Sign Out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MboVELujz-Y>

Children are being provided with opportunities to explore seesaw in school. After midterm break we will commence using Seesaw as a means of submitting some homework tasks. Our aim is to build all our experience of using the app should we be required to use it in a remote learning context if needed in the future. Please use this time to familiarise yourselves with the app before we begin to assign homework after midterm. Please do not hesitate to email your daughter's class teacher if you have any questions or queries.

**Parent Questionnaire:** In the coming days you will receive an email from the school requesting you to complete a questionnaire regarding your families access to digital devices and the internet. This again is being sent as part of our Distance Learning Planning. The questionnaire will be in the format of a Google Form and will be very simple to



complete. All parents are asked to please submit, online, a separate form per child they have in the school. Questionnaires should be submitted on/before Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Author's virtual visit:** On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, Judi Curtin visited our five most senior classes virtually via Zoom. It was a fabulous experience for all involved. The children got to hear first-hand details of the life and work of a children's author. Judi outlined the inspiration for her books, the research required for her two latest novels and she also read a passage from her newest novel. The children were captivated for the entire talk and relished the opportunity to ask questions. As always, our pupils were wonderful! The entire experience was inspiring and a real success.

**Halloween Dress-Up Day:** On Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, all children will be permitted, if they wish, to wear their Halloween costumes coming to school. This year, dress up day will not be used as a fundraiser but instead an opportunity for the children to enjoy wearing their costumes and to simply have fun. We ask that, for health and safety reasons, children do not wear Halloween masks. Face paint and wigs are, of course, permitted!

**Parents' Association Fundraiser:** The time is drawing near for our annual fundraiser where the children design their own Christmas Cards which are then professionally printed and can, later, be ordered by you. Due to GDPR Regulations the PA need your consent to allow your child's name to be sent to; Christmas Cards for Schools, 28 Lower Church St, Listowel, Co.Kerry. Once permission is received they can then send your daughter's name off and order their cards once they have been designed. The final date for submission of permission is Friday, 16th October. Permission can be submitted via Aladdin Connect.

Wishing you all a good week.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan

Principal