



21<sup>st</sup> January, 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you are all well at this time.

**Remote Learning:** Firstly, I wish to thank and say a big well done to all staff, pupils and parents for your incredible efforts in regard to online teaching and learning. Remote learning is not easy for anyone. It undoubtedly puts additional pressure on all involved. But regular and consistent engagement is key and will ensure that your daughter continues to learn as much as possible at this time. As previously outlined it is important to find space and time for learning every day. If there are barriers that prevent your daughter(s) from engaging in remote learning, please make contact with class teachers. We will help in every way we can.

**In-School Learning:** It has been a rollercoaster week for primary school staff and for families of pupils with additional needs. While the school had been preparing provisional plans to re-open this week for pupils with significant additional needs, the announcement of Minister Norma Foley on Tuesday evening means that these plans will no longer come to fruition at this time. We are very fortunate to have such committed and hardworking special education staff. Our SNAs and Special Education teachers continue to work remotely to support all pupils with additional needs. Please do reach out if you require additional support, advice or a listening ear at this time.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:** Many thanks to all families who have booked their Parent/Teacher meeting(s) using the Aladdin Connect system. The following are a few points to note regarding Parent/Teacher meetings:

- The aim of Parent/Teacher meetings is to let parents/guardians know how children are progressing, to inform teachers on how children are coping with remote learning, to help teachers get to know children better as individuals and to help children realise that home and school are working together for their benefit.
- Parent/Teacher meetings will be conducted by phone on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, during the hours of 12.30-3.30pm.
- Teacher will not be in a position to answer email queries or offer feedback on work submitted during the hours of 12.30- 3.30pm on both Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Meetings will be 10 minutes in duration. In the interest of fairness to all strict adherence to this time limit will be necessary.
- Parents should be ready to take the call at least 5 minutes before their allotted Parent/Teacher meeting time.
- Calls will be made from a blocked number.
- Parent/Teacher meetings are for parents/guardians only. Pupils should not be permitted to listen in on calls. Phones should not be put on loudspeaker.
- Calls should be taken, as much as possible, in a quiet room.
- If any parent is having difficulty booking using the Aladdin system please contact [office@stmarysnscobh.com](mailto:office@stmarysnscobh.com) and an appointment time can be arranged for you.
- All appointments should be made via Aladdin Connect by 1pm on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

It has been a busy week for everyone. Thanks again to all our hard working pupils, parents/guardians and staff.

Le gach dea-ghuí, Fiona O'Callaghan