



Thursday, 7th January, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all managed to enjoy a peaceful Christmas and are all well and staying safe at this time.

As you all heard yesterday, schools are scheduled to remain closed for the month of January and all mainstream schools will move to remote teaching and learning from Monday, 11th January.

It is very disappointing that we find ourselves in this position. While there is no denying that the children had settled back into school life so well and were benefitting from the consistency, structure and routine that school provides, I have absolute faith in the resilience of our pupils and I know that they will do their utmost to adapt to learning in new ways from home. Please be assured that we, as a staff, will do our best to support all families at this time. While the school is closed I will be available to answer queries via email (office@stmarysnscobh.com) and teachers are also contactable during school hours via their school email addresses.

Remote Learning has evolved since last March and the following is a brief outline of how remote learning will operate commencing Monday, 11th January.

When?	Teachers will post lessons and suggested activities for children to complete daily .
Where?	All posts will be on Seesaw . If you have misplaced your daughter's home learning code please email your daughter's teacher directly. Seesaw can be accessed from a phone, tablet, PC or laptop. Communications with parents will be via Aladdin Connect. Please check for notifications regularly.
Who?	All Class teachers will provide learning programmes. If your daughter attends with a Special Education Teacher, you will also hear from the Special Education Teacher.
What?	Teachers will prioritise key learning objectives for this time. Assignments will include a mixture of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of textbook material • Project based learning activities • On-line based activities • Alternative off-line activities (eg. baking, art activities etc) • Inquiry based activities • Play based activities • Reading activities



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing activities <p>Assignments should be uploaded to Seesaw. Teachers will provide feedback on assignments uploaded.</p>
How much should we do?	Every family's circumstances are different. Parents and pupils should engage with as much as they can. Our aim is not to overwhelm parents but to support, offer structure and guide home based learning.
What is expected of pupils?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check assigned work daily. • Communication may only take place during normal school hours • The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Code of Behaviour ➤ Anti- Bullying Policy ➤ Acceptable Use Policy • Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible in this evolving and unprecedented situation
What can parents do?	<p>It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that pupils are supervised while they work online. • Follow advice for Parents on Managing Online Safety in the Home- available to view on our school website and is contained within the school's Acceptable Use Policy. • Check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate. • Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils. • Ensure protocols for pupils are adhered to • Check-in on your child's school work on a daily basis and talk to your child about the work being assigned • The health and wellbeing of all is paramount. Circumstances may change for any of us unexpectedly, teachers or parents, so please keep schooling in perspective and do not allow anything school related to impinge on your child negatively. You are the primary educator of your child and you make those calls. We provide work and guidance and ask parents and pupils to do their best and that is all.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be patient with the school- as always, we do our best. When emailing please allow time for staff to respond. Please be mindful that staff are committed to supporting you and your daughter at this time but they too are coming from and dealing with the same myriad of contexts you are. Your patience and understanding is, as always, very much appreciated.
What if I have a problem?	If problems arise, you are welcome to email your daughter's class teacher or the office on office@stmarysnscobh.com . As always, we will endeavour to do our best to support you.
Will things change in the future?	Like every school, we are always looking at how we do things with a view to improvement. We will monitor how things are progressing with regard to our provision of Remote Learning. If, in time, tweaks need to be made we will endeavour to do so.

Wishing all our families and especially our 303 wonderful girls a safe and happy week.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan

Principal