

*Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Mhuígh Éo
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. It is a strange and worrying time for all of us and daily life has changed dramatically for everyone. I know that a lot of you are trying to juggle many, many things at the moment...looking after young families and perhaps elderly parents, working from home and all in relative isolation. While it is stressful and difficult for all of us working at home, this is nothing compared to what all of our wonderful people at the front line are going through as they battle daily to beat this virus. A big thank you to all of our parents (and everyone else) who go out to work daily, in whatever capacity, to keep us safe, well...and fed! We will be forever grateful.

This can be a stressful time for children also. It is vitally important that all children are reminded of the absolute need to practice social and physical distancing, minimize physical contact with each other and in all circumstances to adhere to HSE guidelines to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. It is also important that they don't become overly anxious or worried. They may be missing their friends and even school (though most won't want to admit this!).

Parents, please do not stress about school or school work. Learning takes many forms and children are learning a lot just by being at home and taking part in the normal everyday activities of daily living. This pandemic will not have a detrimental effect on your child's education. Your child will not fall behind. Our main priority is to keep safe and well.

The staff in our school are in contact with each other to see how we can support our children's learning at this time. After the Easter Break each class teacher will have a document on the school website. This document will have a list of work for children to engage with. This will be revision work that shouldn't contain new concepts that would need specific teaching. This will be like a menu of work. There will be no pressure or deadlines to get the work completed. This "menu" will be updated fortnightly until we are told that it is safe to return to school.

Please remember that in every classroom, children have a wide range of abilities and learn at different paces. It is not possible for teachers to differentiate work at the moment for all the different groupings. That means that you, as parents, will have to do it. You will decide what your child is able for. You can decide the amount of work that is practical and achievable. And remember that valuable learning also takes place in the ordinary, everyday tasks around the house.... tidying up, baking, personal care, gardening, looking at nature. Important learning also takes place in play...Lego, card games, board games, using your imagination...to name but a few.

Our main priority now is to keep safe and well and sane! If we achieve this then we have done a good job. Your children are in good hands in good homes. Do not worry about their education. We will make up this lost time when we return.

Working together we can come through this.

Take care of yourselves and your families and hopefully we will soon be back at school.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Miriam Quinn
Principal