

Edmondstown National School
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27th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As you have no doubt heard by now, schools will remain closed until 19th April at the earliest. We are delighted with the response from parents and children to our *Emergency Closure* section of the website. I hope you are finding the content useful as you navigate these extraordinary times. Our main focus is on the wellbeing of the children and on giving them a sense of security. The activities we are suggesting are purely voluntary as we understand that every family has different commitments. The activities are based on revision and consolidation of knowledge, skills and attitudes already acquired in school. Rest assured that children are resilient and we are confident that they will bounce back when we return. Please do not feel under pressure to complete all the work assigned. Some families have several children and it simply would not be feasible for you to try to do everything, especially when many of you are working from home yourselves.

We are mindful that some children will benefit from feedback and encouragement from their teachers and in this regard we are considering implementing Google Classroom whereby children would upload certain assignments and the teachers would correct it/comment on it. We will also look at forums such as Zoom where the children could communicate with their class and teacher via a phone link. However, for the moment, we do not want to overwhelm anyone. We will continue as we are for next week. The content will then stop during the normal two week Easter break as this will give everyone a chance to simply “live” as Pollyanna would say! I will be in touch with everyone after that with details on how we will implement these new measures.

Please continue to send your photos for the Sharing Gallery to the school email at edmondstownns@hotmail.com. I think these lovely, happy photos are giving us all a lift! There are lots of resources being added daily to the “Useful Information and Resources” section of the Emergency Closure tab, as well as various competitions. Please check these out on a regular basis so that you don’t miss anything interesting.

May God bless you all and your families and keep you safe until we meet again.

Yours sincerely,

Philomena Cleary

Principal