



8th January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe during this challenging time. The Department of Education has announced a move towards remote learning for all classes starting next week until the 31st January. The purpose of this note will be to communicate to you our school's plan for the weeks ahead.

Book Collection Tuesday 12th January

In preparation for remote learning starting next week, we are arranging a book collection next Tuesday the 12th January.

As community transmission is very high, we need to do this in a *very controlled manner*. We will stagger the collection into 7 slots according to family surname.

9:30-10:30 Children with surnames starting with A, B, C

10:30-11:30 Children with surnames starting with D, E, F

11:30 – 12:30 Children with surnames starting with G, H, I, J, K, L

12:30 – 1:30 Children with surnames starting with M

1:30 – 2:30 Children with surnames starting with N, O, P, Q

2.30 – 3.30 Children with surnames starting with R, S

3.30 – 4.30 Children with surnames starting with T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

Someone else may collect for you if need be, please park outside the school, stay in your car and open your boot from within the car if possible. Your daughter's books will be placed in the boot.

It would be very helpful if you could put your daughter's name (first name and surname) along with the class teacher on your front windscreen so that the process will be more time efficient and safe.

Remote Learning

Our school has been busy planning since the Department announcement on Wednesday. Teachers have been in school today and Monday to organise your daughter's books/teaching aids that can be collected next Tuesday.

Your daughter's teacher will be in touch with you and your daughter on Monday using the online learning platform (Google Classroom/Seesaw) that they have been using with their class since September. In this message, he/she will outline what distance learning will look like in the weeks ahead. On Monday there will be no work assigned for your daughter to complete. On Tuesday, work will start to be assigned.

Teachers will be using Monday to arrange for the collection of books and to plan for this unexpected move to remote learning. I would encourage you and your daughter to familiarise yourself with SeeSaw/Google Classroom on Monday. If you are encountering any issues logging in, please email your daughter's teacher or duleekgirls2009@gmail.com on Monday.

Our school has made very significant investments in IT since September and the majority of pupils have already had experience using these learning platforms (Seesaw/Google Classroom) in class.

The school approach towards remote learning has been agreed at a whole school level and is reflective of Department Guidance that has been sent to schools for this type of closure. The school's Remote Learning Policy is also available to view at www.duleekgns.ie.

Here is a general overview of what remote learning will look like (depending upon class level)

- Pupils will receive a mixture of different types of direct teaching content (e.g. pre-recorded audio, video, written material)
- Pupils will receive different types of subject specific tasks to complete on a daily basis.
- Pupils will be encouraged to send their work back via Google Classroom/Seesaw for teacher feedback



- Any work samples that you would like to see published on our school website www.duleekgns.ie can be sent to our school email address duleekgirls2009@gmail.com.
- Teachers will be communicating on a daily basis via Seesaw/Google Classroom.
- A sample timetable will also be sent to your daughter to follow if you wish during Week One.
- A Zoom will also be arranged with your daughter's class and teacher during Week One. The purpose of this will be for pupils to reconnect and to stay in contact with their teacher and classmates. The Zoom login details will be sent via Google Classroom/SeeSaw by your daughter's class teacher next week. Please do not share a meeting ID and pin with anybody else.

Finally, we completely understand and empathise with the unfortunate position that parents and pupils are facing at this time. Having to combine working from home, family life, dealing with the effects of this pandemic and helping to structure your daughter's online learning is very problematic and difficult. Many of our staff are facing similar situations and I know that this is a tough time for the whole school community.

Unlike second and third level education, we are aware that pupil attention spans are shorter and that they cannot be left unattended with digital devices for extended periods of time. The nature of primary school learning activities and teaching methodologies are not conducive for a full-time time distance learning scenario. We will be encouraging your daughter to engage in hands on tasks at home and complete various types of physical exercise too.

It is extremely difficult to strike a balance and I am sure that you understand our desire to do the best for your daughter's education in these challenging circumstances.

Many thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

Mr McGovern.

