



30/03/20

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Tá súil agam go bhfuil sibh go léir ar bhar bhur sláinte agus go bhfuil sibh ag fáil deis rudaí éagsúla a thriall. Tuigimid go bhfuil sé deacair ar gach duine agus tá fíor bhród orm ar an obair eisceachtúil atá á dhéanamh ag gach duine. Sibhse na tuismitheoirí, na múinteoirí agus na daltaí ar fad atá gníomhach ar líne linn. Maith sibh uile.

I hope you and your family are keeping safe. As you know, these are unprecedented times and we are committed to working to maintain and support all in our school community until we are at a point when we can return to school.

I am very proud of all the hard work both our teachers and students are doing and how they are working and collaborating together in this difficult time. We are constantly learning and developing ourselves and we understand the difficulties many families have at this time. We urge you to keep us informed of difficulties that your family may be facing so that we can support your son/daughter in their education. We are in this together.

We also realise the variances of IT accessibility across students, teachers and their families. We need to move forward with care and with equity.

Our starting common position is contact through Microsoft Teams and Office 365. Every student has access to their teachers for every subject here via Teams.

As our strategies evolve through the closure phase please support your son(s)/daughter(s) in their engagement with their teachers by active supervision and support. Teachers are putting reports up on VShare. If there are difficulties please contact us by email or through the office oifig@osrai.ie or by phone.

School Meals Support

As part of our school meals programme that we run here in the school. We are in a position to offer some food parcels once a week for those that need or want to avail of it. Please contact us in total confidence if this might be of benefit to you. Please email food@osrai.ie with any queries or if you wish to receive.

Teaching and Learning

Students and their families are reminded of the Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Students:

- Microsoft Teams will be the platform used by teachers to upload work and assignments
- Communications may only take place during normal school hours
 - The normal school calendar will apply
 - The school Code of Behaviour applies to remote teaching and learning, including,
 - Anti- Bullying Policy
 - Acceptable Usage Policy
- This will, in particular, apply to student-to-student communications. Please be aware that all Teams are monitored by teachers, senior management and KCETB
- Only discussions related to schoolwork are permitted

Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply with students expected to present work to the best of their ability where this evolving, and unprecedented situation allows you to do so

You are asked, where possible, to respect these times. It may be the case that students or teachers need to work flexibly owing to personal circumstances, so please be patient and understanding of each other. There is no expectation that 'class' takes place at the normal timetabled time each day. What we are seeking to do is

to ensure work and learning materials are being issued out to all year groups and completed, corrected work is returned and/or feedback given within the school day.

Parents/Guardians are asked to encourage students to engage with their teachers by Microsoft Teams. If they have questions and are shy to put them in front of the class, they have the option to private message the teacher through Teams.

Communications between Home and School

1. At present, the school email and phone is being managed from 9.00am to 1.30pm each working day during the closure period(oifig@osrai.ie). This may be subject to change. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on this email.
2. We are also currently looking at piloting VSware as our communication tool between the school and Home. We are currently testing this. (You may see messages popping up on your account under the Mail Tab. They are also issuing a VSware app for parents which we will be using to stay in touch.
3. Because of the possibility of a further prolonged closure of the school we have modified the school's points system to reflect this new unprecedented reality. VSware Points have been reset to 100 at the point of closure. Records of missing work are now recorded as 'did not engage in classwork' and do get 0 points instead of -1 points. This is to reflect the VSware system's new role in providing parents and guardians with the information they need to manage their child's engagement as the school is not in a position to continue to do so in its normal fashion. Engagement and great effort will continue to be recorded.
4. We have updated our Website to make it more user friendly and more reflective of our school. Please look at our newsletter full of recent school projects and engagements. Next edition will be sent out this week we hope!
5. In the meantime we have set up a password protected page on our website www.osrai.ie/eolas. As you are aware a password was issued by text. This is a measure in case we need to send important whole-school information.

Finally

I suggest that parents take time to sit with your child and look through their Microsoft Office 365 account and the work that has been set to date and please be in touch if you feel we can do anything for you.

It is very important that we look after ourselves and after each other during this time. Striking a balance between school work, social time, exercise and helping around the house is vital to the wellbeing of all of us as we deal with the challenging times we are in. This also provides new opportunities for us to try new things and spend quality time together.

Ar deireadh tuigimid go bhfuil sé an deacair oraibh agus orainn ag an am seo. Iarraim oraibh a bheith foighneach agus tacúil. Labhair le bhur mac nó iníon faoi a gcuid foghlama agus féachaint ar conas gur féidir tacú leo. Tá sé fíor tábhachtach aire a thabhairt daoibh féin agus do bhur gclann. Coimeád an teagmháil oscailte lena cheile agus linne. Tíocfaimid tríd seo. Ar scáth a cheile a mhaireann na daoine.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Cathnia Ó Muircheartaigh
Príomhoide