

St. Joseph's National School

BALLYADAMS



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Dear Parents,

This week Mr. Joe McHugh, Minister for Education, stated that schools will not be reopening on Monday 30th March as originally planned. This news, whilst unfortunate, is understandable as we come to terms with the measures required to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. The health and wellbeing of our school community is our first priority and I hope that each of you and your families are keeping well at this time.

We as a staff recognise the need to provide guidance in terms of the children learning at home for the foreseeable future. Learning Frameworks for each class will be posted to our school website on a weekly basis. The school website can be accessed on the following address www.ballyadamsns.com Learning Frameworks will be posted to the school website at the end of this week to provide for home learning from March 30th – Friday 3rd April. Following the traditional Easter break we will continue to provide this pathway for learning each week.

Families are invited to engage with the suggested learning material as much as possible. I would like to highlight that as a staff we are mindful of the demands challenging our families at this time. The Learning Frameworks we will be providing for each class should be considered as a menu rather than prescriptive. The number one objective for all our families right now is to stay safe and stay healthy. Learning at home gives an opportunity for children to develop personal skills such as hobbies, music, art, sport skills and cooking and we recommend these valuable skills are developed as much as possible. Daily exercise is highly recommended and children are encouraged to take regular movement breaks. Joe Wicks, The Body Coach, is live streaming child friendly PE lessons on his YouTube channel each day and www.gonoodle.com has a huge amount of activities for children.

There is a vast amount of online content available to support learning at home. The Irish library service have enabled access to their eBook and audiobook collections without the need to visit the library in person to join up. To join go to www.librariesireland.ie/join, complete the online registration form, note your barcode number and set a PIN. Then download the Borrowbox app on an Apple or Android device, log in using your library barcode number and PIN and you will be able to download eBooks and audiobooks for free.

World Book Online have also made their collection of over 3000 eBooks and audiobooks available for free. Register at the following link to access their content: <https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/#/>

Many educational publishers have made their content accessible to parents/guardians also. To access Folens content go to www.FolensOnline.ie, click 'Register', select 'Teacher', fill in a username, email address and password and use the code **Prim20** when prompted for a roll number.

To access CJ Fallon books for free visit <http://my.cjfallon.ie>, click 'Student Resources', then filter to the title you require, making sure that 'Online Book' is selected under 'Resources'.

Prim-Ed Publishing has made a series of Parent Packs available for free. To access these resource packs fill out the form at <https://prim-ed.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7de4c9406a3d7ae2e53315184&id=e6bf10ba0f>.

[Www.twinkl.ie](http://www.twinkl.ie) have given parents/guardians free access to their online resources using the code IRLTWINKLHELPS. You may be interested in browsing their school closure packs for resources and ideas, they are available at: <https://www.twinkl.ie/resources/roi-resources/school-closure-republic-of->

[ireland?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_2020-03-22_IR_0&utm_content=custom1](https://www.ballyadamsns.com/ireland?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_2020-03-22_IR_0&utm_content=custom1)

A comprehensive collection of Home Learning Resources have been uploaded to our school website. Suggested activities, online resources and links to free educational material have been uploaded and can be downloaded. Please visit the 'Useful Websites' section of school website accessible in the Parents section of the website for access to these helpful resources.

We find ourselves in an unprecedented situation both nationally and internationally. We look forward to the joyous day we will welcome all our students back to school in Ballyadams when the threat of the Coronavirus has been overcome. Until we reach that stage we will stay in contact with you by means of our TextAParentApp, our school website www.ballyadamsns.com and the school Twitter account @ballyadamsns.

We hope and pray that you, your children and all members of your family stay safe and stay healthy. Take Care and God Bless.

Le gach dea – ghuí,

R. Stapleton