



Parteen National School

Parteen

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School Community Newsletter

March 30th 2020

Covid-19

Since we last wrote, the country has faced more restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and families nationally and in our school community are facing more stress and pressure as a result. Parenting brings us our greatest joy in life but it is becoming increasingly challenging due to the circumstances we are all facing.

We are writing to wish you well and provide guidance too. As you are aware, all teachers provided learning activities on the day of our school closure. Since then, on a daily basis, we have published further activities on our Twitter feed which is accessible on the homepage of www.parteenschool.ie or on Twitter by following @Parteen_School. Today, we are publishing more class specific learning activities on the Newsletter Section of our website. I would like to sincerely thank all the staff for submitting these activities and to Ms. Barry for volunteering to manage our Twitter account.

Nationally, and in our school community, many parents and guardians are facing unemployment while some are facing the loss of businesses. Families have members who are self-isolating because of Covid-19. Some families are caring for elderly relatives and some families are caring for members with underlying health conditions who are at specific risk due to the virus. Many families are trying to work from home while trying to mind their children. There are families that have children trying to study for state exams. Some families are caring for babies and toddlers as well as school going children. These are just some examples of stress families face and we know there are many more.

It takes four years to train as a teacher. Please do not put yourself under more pressure by thinking anyone expects you to become teachers overnight at a time of increased stress. You did not choose to home-school your children. We have a responsibility to you to provide

learning activities and we will continue to do so for the period of the school closure. If you can manage to complete some of them, great. If not, do not worry. When the great day comes again that we can ring our school bell and reopen our classrooms we will pick up from where we left off. We are very proud of our great staff in Parteen National School and rest assured when we get to reopen, learning will continue, the children will catch up and all will be fine educationally.

As adults we are not immune to peer pressure. Please ignore social media pictures of children happily sitting around the table completing their Irish essays while parents and guardians walk to the table with the tray of freshly baked cookies the whole family cooked together while singing Kum Ba Yah! We exaggerate of course but we do know the pressure of social media. Take images of the 'perfect' families with many pinches of salt.

In summary, we sincerely hope you are all keeping as best as you can and are minding yourselves and others as best you can. We will continue to provide ideas for learning activities but they are optional. Please be kind to yourselves.

Kind regards,

Ger and Mairéad

P.S. Each class teacher has provided specific activities for each class. Support teachers have provided ideas for Oral Language, maths and reading that are applicable to all children in the school. Ms. Guckian will be publishing further advice on reading and Ms. O' Rourke will be sending out tips on maths via Twitter.