
Letter to Parents – COVID 19 Closure January 2021

08/01/2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you well. On behalf of the staff and Board of Management of Cahir National School, I wish you all good health as we all venture once again through tumultuous and unprecedented times. **I request that you read this letter carefully and in its entirety.**

Every family's daily and weekly routine has been turned on its head not only in terms of school but in every aspect of recreational family life also. As a staff we can fully empathise with the difficulty that this brings to everyone's door. It is a worrying and uncertain time irrespective of each family's circumstances and it presents great challenges.

As you may well be aware, the Minister for Education has extended the school closure up until up to January 29th at the earliest. Since this announcement on Wednesday, all teacher's and SNA's have worked immensely hard to organise and prescribe work starting on Monday. Books and prescribed work will be giving to families on Saturday with further work prescribed for the children going forward. As a staff, we will continue to adapt to the changing situation and try to assist all children in the school where possible.

Parents can contact their class teacher by email with any concerns or queries.

Mr Crean (5th and 6th Class)

cahirschool@gmail.com

Ms O Sullivan (2nd and 3rd Class)

msosullivancahirns@gmail.com

Ms Lynch (Junior Infants- 1st Class)

celinelynch1234@gmail.com

We are very conscious that some families don't have access to devices and equipment (Ipad, laptops or phones). We will do our utmost to try and accommodate everyone going forward. We will be using the Seesaw App in order to prescribe and engage with pupils. The app based platform will complement the work being provided by email. If possible, try and take a photograph of work and send it back to the teacher. We understand that it may not be appropriate or practical for your child to engage with this Seesaw. If this isn't possible then normal email will work too.

We fully appreciate that all of this can be overwhelming and that overprescribing work to pupils and parents can also have a negative impact albeit, it is well intentioned. We also be

uploading some useful links to resources on the School Facebook Page. RTE and the Department of Education have relaunched "School on TV" on RTE 2. It will run from 10am to 12pm, Monday to Friday, with a shorter "catch up segment later in the afternoon. This may prove to be an educational break for some children and is bound to have some good ideas.

As mentioned previously, each family's circumstances vary greatly. We understand that for many this is a distressing time and that there are more pressing and important issues that supersede suggested work set by your child's teacher. **Therefore, this work is not mandatory and no child or parent should feel obligated to have this work completed when returning to school.** However, as a staff we also wish reach out to families who seek additional work and guidance for their children and we encourage you to engage in educational activities with your child when the opportunities present themselves. If you are under pressure or don't know where to start please get in touch with a teacher.

The school books will be available for collection tomorrow (January 9th) between 1pm and 3pm. Drive up to the back of the school as normal and a member of staff will drop the books to you. Books have been placed in black bags with name tags on them.

Stay safe for now. Thank you for your co-operation.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Patrick Crean

Principal of Cahir National School

Document 2- Principal's Letter to Pupils

08/01/21

To all the boys and girls of Cahir National School,

Happy New Year to all of you. How are you? I hope you are all doing well. Let me start by saying how unusual all of this must feel to all of you. But really boys and girls this feels very strange to everybody, children and adults. I sure Santa has been good to you all. bn

It really is annoying and I know it is very hard not being able to meet up with our friends or our cousins or call over to Granny and Grandads. Even the things we love to do like sport, dancing, music, and going for days out with our families and friends has come to a stop. But as annoying as it may feel, it is for a very good reason.

If you have been watching TV or listening to the radio now and again you might have heard the important people on TV asking us to stay with our families. This is very important and you can do your part to help out too by doing as they ask us to.

Another way that you can help out is by being good for your Mom and Dad. Do as they ask you to. Help them out around the house. If they ask you to work on some of your school work, do it and don't let it annoy you and try your best at it. You don't have to know how to do everything and if there are things you find tricky make a note of it and tell your teacher when you come back to school they will be happy to help out.

One good thing so far is we are having beautiful weather. Get outside and enjoy this in your gardens or by going on walks or cycles (whatever you like doing as a family or with your brothers and sisters). For our older pupils work on your sports skills, when we return we want you to be ready and you have lots of time to work on your striking, lifting, soloing catching, passing and kicking.

All of the teachers wanted me to say that they miss you all just like you miss all of your friends too and that we really look forward to seeing you all back at school again. All of this is a real nuisance for everyone but it will pass, it will be all over soon and we will get back to normal doing all the things we love to do.

It is not just the boys and girls of Cahir National School that have to do this or the boys and girls of Kerry or Ireland, it is children everywhere all around the whole world. So remember the best thing we can do is to be kind to ourselves and others at home, this is how you can really make a difference.

Bye for now boys and girls

Mr Crean

Príomhoide

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