

*Scoil Iosaif Naofa
Bothair an Chlochair
Cinn Mhara
Co. Na Gaillimhe*



*St. Joseph's N.S
Convent Road
Kinvara
Co. Galway*

H91 X673

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22.10.2020

Dear parents/guardians,

The department of education and skills has posted a message from the Minister for Education and Skills on their Website.

Minister Foley said: "I want to express again my thanks to all those responsible in our school communities for working so hard to implement and keep to the guidelines. This work is paying off, and I urge everyone to remain vigilant.

"We are all aware of the importance to children of keeping schools open. We have learned through research and direct experience that closing schools has hugely adverse consequences at individual, family and societal level. For children, it impacts on wellbeing, learning, on social development, can worsen educational disadvantage and can impact on child welfare.

At the end of this week, our school will close for one week. There is an opportunity for everyone to have a well-deserved break. I would like to thank all of the stakeholders in our school community.

Firstly, I would like to thank our pupils. They have been fantastic and have been a joy to work with. They have done all we have asked of them without fuss. We are all very proud of how seamlessly they have adjusted to the new world we live in. They never cease to amaze us. They are the new frontline in working to defeat this deadly virus.

To all of the staff of Saint Joseph's I sincerely thank you for all of your tireless work. Thank you all so much for making this first term so successful. You the teachers/ SNAs/Hilary/Rob/Board of Management are keeping this country going. We all owe you an enormous debt of gratitude. Our objective at the end of August / beginning of September was that children would reconnect with the school experience securely and safely. This objective has been achieved and surpassed. It is an absolute credit to your professionalism, dedication and cooperation to be where we are today.

"When schools return on Monday 2 November, I urge everyone to continue to comply fully with the measures in place, knowing that we all have a real role to play in suppressing the virus and keeping it safe for children to attend school. Our schools are playing their part and working hard to stay safe.

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They need the support of us all. Stay safe: reduce your social contacts, stay distant, wash your hands.”

We are now entering a very delicate stage in our battle against the spread of Corona Virus. Thankfully the school community in St. Joseph's N.S. has thus far remained relatively safe from the virus. New protocols have been introduced to our daily school lives and though challenging, these have been embraced enthusiastically by pupils and staff alike. As part of our ongoing drive for improvement, we now suggest that all parents wear a mask when dropping off and/or collecting their children from school. It is imperative that we appreciate and respect that some parents may be more vulnerable to this disease due to underlying health issues.

You can play your part by wearing a mask and socially distancing. These measures can help reduce the risk of contracting/spreading the disease especially given its asymptomatic nature at times. The oft used adage 'We are all in this together' rings true now more than ever and we urge you the parents to lead by example in protecting one another.

Enjoy the very well-deserved mid-term break as much as you can in these strange and straitened times. Take time to take care of yourself and your families and we will return refreshed and recharged in early November.

Kind regards,
Stay safe,
Dominic Gallagher.