



# Redeemer Boys' N.S.

Scoil Náisiúnta an tSlánaitheora Buachaillí

Principal: Mrs M Murray, BEd, MEd

Chairperson: Mr F Mullen

Ard Easmuinn

Dundalk

County Louth

Tel/Fax: 042 93 32053

Roll No: 19246N

Email: redeemerboysschool@yahoo.com

Web: www.redeemerboysns.ie

## Remote learning arrangements from Monday 11th January

9th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You will be aware by now of the Government decision, taken earlier this week, on foot of public health advice, to **close schools for a period of three weeks**. Initially, the decision was made to prioritise in-person teaching and learning for two specific cohorts, to include special classes. However, a further announcement was made later in the week which ultimately paused the reopening of special classes subject to further engagement.

As of Monday 11th January all pupils in our school will be provided with a programme of remote learning. As it stands, this contingency plan of remote teaching and learning will continue for three weeks and school will reopen on Monday 1st February.

Our school will continue to utilise the **Seesaw App** and each pupil has been given their own laminated QR Code to access the App. All classes had been using Seesaw for the purposes of homework from Halloween. If you have any issues with getting online please make contact with us either via email (as above) or by phoning HSCL teacher Matthew McArdle on 085 785 0787.

**XBOX**

1. Go to 'My games and apps'
2. Find 'Microsoft Edge' and select
3. Visit the website

*You can use the controller to type and select, and can even plug in a USB keyboard!*



**PLAYSTATION 4**

1. Go to 'Library'
2. Select 'All'
3. Select 'Internet Browser'
4. Visit the website

*You can use your controller to type and select!*



For any of you with multiple children, it may be difficult to ensure each child has equal time on a laptop, PC or device.

You can now access Seesaw from a Playstation or Xbox.

In acknowledge of parental feedback from the previous lockdown, staff will prepare home learning packs for all pupils which will be available to collect from the school next Friday 15th January. The **Schools Meals Programme will continue** during this current period of closure as it did previously. Food packs for next week will be distributed with the home learning packs.



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A half hour time-slot for Friday 15th has been assigned to each class group as follows:

9.00am - 9.30am	Junior Infants
9.30am - 10.00am	Senior Infants
10.00am - 10.30am	Orchard Class 1 and 2
10.30am - 11.00am	First Class
11.00am - 11.30am	Second/Third Class
11.30am - 12 noon	Fourth Class
12noon - 12.30pm	Fifth/Sixth Class

If you have more than one son in our school please choose the time that suits you best and all packs can be picked up together.

Please Note: We have taken the **precautionary measure** of preparing and including work up to Friday 12th February. Hopefully this will not be needed and we will be open at this stage.

The distribution of packs will take place in a very **controlled manner**.

- If arriving by car, we recommend that you phone the school office from your car and wait in the carpark for a staff member to bring the packs out to you.
- If arriving on foot, please wear a mask and wait outside the front doors (socially distanced from anyone else who is waiting). A staff member will see you through the glass doors and will then set your pack/s on a table in the area just inside the sliding doors.

If you are unable to come to the school next Friday, please inform us of this and we will arrange delivery to your home. Either ring/email the school office using the details above or contact HSCL teacher Matthew McArdle.

Hopefully, the packs will help you establish a good routine for your son/s. **As the physical packs are being distributed on Friday 15th January, teaching and learning will be solely via the Seesaw App next week.** Teachers will provide direct teaching via pre-recorded audio/video messages to aid learning and pupils should complete the associated independent learning tasks and submit for correction and feedback. This format will continue when the packs are distributed.

Each teacher will explain the format remote learning will take and outline specific details within a short letter in each class pack. At a whole-school level we encourage all boys to do at least 20 minutes of exercise/walking each day. They could do a Joe Wicks workout or a session from Youtube 5 a day fitness TV.

**Fás agus Foghlaim**



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Class teachers will have responsibility for the progression of learning of all pupils within their class, however, Special Education Teachers, SNAs and, in the case of some classes, student teachers will link in with pupils under the guidance of the class teacher. Miss Quigley (2nd/3rd) and Mr McArdle (1st) may have the assistance of a student teacher at various stages across the closure.

We are very much aware of the fact that everyone is dealing with different circumstances at home, often unbeknownst to others. If any of you are experiencing difficulties, please reach out to us as we want to support you in any way that we can.

**However, we strongly encourage parents to submit all work that their child completes as teachers will provide feedback on any work that is submitted. This interaction will continue to motivate your child to complete their remote activities and it will strengthen both pupil/teacher and teacher/parent relationships. In addition to this, school-based assessment in Term 1 this year showed a definite correlation between high levels of engagement during last year's lockdown and positive progression of learning.**

You can contact class teachers via Seesaw or email for any advice or support that you may require with your child's learning. Our Special Education Teachers and SNAs may telephone parents for motivational or focused individual support so please ensure the school is informed of any change of contact numbers.

Teachers will be monitoring the App each day **during normal working hours** for work submitted (usually Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 2.40pm). As this is our only means of keeping track of the progression of learning, where there is no engagement we are obliged to contact parents to see if there is any support we can arrange to improve participation. If we are unable to establish contact or reach a resolution on this we **may** have to engage the supports provided by educational welfare officers (EWOs). We do not envisage this being a step that we will have to take with any of our families, however, we are obliged to draw your attention to the Government guidance we have received.

To keep the boys motivated, we will continue with the **Student/Achiever of the Month Awards**. The names of the winners will be posted on the School Facebook Page and the School Website. Prizes will be given to the boys when we reopen.

I hope this period of closure is a brief one and lasts only for as long as is absolutely necessary. We look forward to welcoming back all our boys when it is deemed safe to do so.

Stay safe, take care of each other and thank you for your continued support,

M.Murray

**Fás agus Foghlaim**