



Scoil Sheosaimh Naofa

BALLINAGAR, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY R35 RW26

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Príomhoide: Mr. Alan Plunkett *Leas-Príomhoide:* Ms. Sheila Lynam *Cathaoirleach:* Monsignor T. Coonan

A chara,

27/03/2020

I hope that you and your families are well during these challenging times and please pass on our best wishes to your child(ren).

As you will have heard there has been a further announcement by the Taoiseach that, in line with public health advice, schools will remain closed until 19 April. The teaching staff will continue to provide work & activities to the children in their classes in order to minimise the impact on their learning as per Department of Education guidelines. The work which can be found on the school website, www.ballinagarns.weebly.com, is designed to ensure continuity in learning for your child from home.

Please note that these learning activities are not intended to cause stress, anxiety or frustration. We understand that families are under pressure and that your and their health is the main priority.

Don't feel under pressure to complete the schoolwork we have assigned.

You know your child best - you know what they need and what works best for them, so feel free to do it your own way. With regard to the extra activities we have suggested to you, these are designed to occupy your children, allowing them to learn in a different way, **and are entirely optional**. Some recommendations we have heard about are:

- RTÉ 2 is starting their virtual classroom on Monday at 11am (or anytime on the RTÉ Player).
- Joe Wicks 'The Body Coach' is uploading a PE video every morning- search for 'P.E with Joe': <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
- David Walliams is doing a free audio reading every day at 11am. <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses> (We cannot overemphasise the importance of your child reading regularly).
- The Primary Planet and News Flash will be published as an online magazine from April onwards, while related exercises, quizzes and activities will be posted on the website daily.

If your child is missing any books or you need a hard copy of the Weekly Class Programme of Work, you can contact the school via email and we can arrange collection. Please feel free to let us know how your child(ren) is/are coping with the assigned work as your feedback is very important to us in planning for the coming weeks.

Please continue to follow official advice and promote hand hygiene and social/physical distancing with your child(ren). And finally, remember this difficult time will pass and right now, we need to focus on minding each other and taking advantage of this extra time with our families.

Le meas,

Alan Plunkett and the teaching staff.