



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that all families are keeping safe and well during these very uncertain times. These are testing times for all and I want to commend the whole school community for their commitment to keeping our school open by following the public health advice so well. Please continue to do the basic things such as washing your hands, catching a cough or sneeze in your elbow and maintaining a social distance.

As per Government guidelines, the school will remain closed until 31st January. Our distance learning plan includes the use of Seesaw, Zoom and teachers' emails. Please see Acceptable Usage Policy for Internet Use attached including Appendix 1 - internet etiquette (Netiquette) for pupils on Seesaw and Zoom calls. Please read through this policy. It is the responsibility of parents to supervise their children when working online. Essential school books and copies have been sent home. If your child does not have books please email the school office and we will arrange collection next week.

Seesaw

1. Each child has a Seesaw code and should have logged in by this point.
2. Activities and explanations will be posted by the teacher each day.
3. Pupils can record/photograph their work and upload it onto Seesaw.
4. Only the teacher and pupils can see/comment on the child's work. Other pupils do not have access to your child's work.
5. The teacher will use their discretion regarding feedback that they are able to provide.

Zoom

1. There will be two Class Zoom calls per week, Mondays and Fridays (see timetable for each class – first Class Zoom Call will be on Friday 15th January).
2. This will be a check-in with your teacher and classmates.
3. These calls will be set up where the teacher will send an invitation link to the parent's email address.
4. Children with additional needs will receive an extra call from their support teacher. Support teachers will be in touch via email about this.
5. Please be respectful of all people on the Zoom call. Teachers may give children things to think about on these calls regarding topics that might be coming up during the week or the following week.

Email

1. Similar to when we are at school, teachers can be contacted via email when necessary (contact details attached to email).
2. All email communication with staff members must be from parents, not children, through the dedicated email address.
3. School office email: office@slanens.ie

We understand the difficulties with distance learning but the aim of this plan is to maximise interaction between staff and pupils during this situation. We will do our utmost to ensure the continuation of teaching and learning throughout the school closure. We are aware that there are varying circumstances for families during these trying times. You as parents are best placed to know what you, your child and your family can manage. Please know that we are here to support in whatever way we can and contact the school email address office@slanens.ie and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. Stay safe and stay well,

Is mise le meas,

Lorna Gerrard

