

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We all now know with certainty that we will not be returning to school this year. All we know at present is that we are due to return for the new school year and that work is underway at the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that this can be done in a safe way. We do not have any further information or guidance from the Department. As soon as we do, we will let the school community know.

Naturally we are all very saddened that we will not see the children again this school year, particularly our wonderful 6th class. We had all hoped that we would return for a few weeks before the end of the school year to bring a natural and fun closure to what's been a very difficult few weeks for everyone. Despite this, we must now move on in a positive manner and as best we can in the interests of our students, their families and our staff..

It is very encouraging to see how much support children are receiving from home from their families during this prolonged school closure and we must also acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our teachers over these last number of weeks. We know it's not easy with parents/guardians trying to work from home and trying to share devices and find time for everything. It is important to continue this effort each and everyday with your child/children with the support of the school and their teachers. Every bit of work and reading that they do will stand to them upon their return to school so we encourage you all to please keep up the effort you're making - it will have a positive impact on the education of your child/children for their future.

With regard to engaging with Distance Learning through Google Classroom or See Saw - if you are experiencing any difficulty with these tools please contact me on trionamorrisson@holytrinitynsfethard.com as soon as possible so that we can help you and/or make alternative arrangements for your child's/children's work.

We are all mindful of keeping children safe while they work online and engage with teachers through Google Meet. Please look at the following documents which you'll find on the website now.

- An updated Acceptable Use Policy which outlines procedures for Google Meet. This is a requirement from a Child Protection perspective and aims to keep all of our children and staff safe while working together online.
- An updated Risk Assessment to reflect changes to work practices and we ask all parents/guardians to ensure that you are familiar with these for the last term in school. Again this is to ensure that all children are safe when working with their teachers and their peers online.
- Guidance for parents/guardians on the use of G Suite and in particular Google Meet.

Any questions or comments can be sent as always to:

trionamorrisson@holytrinitynsfethard.com

Yours faithfully,
Triona Morrisson.