

Remote Learning Update: Week beginning Monday 8th February 2021

Dear parent or carer

That's Week 4 nailed! *Remember to plan a family treat this weekend!*

This week most parents were contacted by teachers for their parent meeting. It was great to get feedback from you all about your experiences at home and how we might help. Keep going! You are doing really well – honestly. It was also good to hear that parents appreciate the need to take a balanced approach and look after everyone's wellbeing – you can't fill from an empty cup!

Thanks also for your involvement – sending in work, photos and taking part in the surveys. Next week there are two – one for the children and one for the parents/carers. Just three short questions. I'll be in touch! Have a lovely weekend and many thanks for your continued support – this will pass.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal



Dates for the diary

Mon 8 th Feb	Week 5 remote learning
Tues 9 th February	Safer Internet Day – see update below
Mon 15 th Feb – Fri 19 th Feb	Mid Term Break
Mon 22 nd Feb	Week 6 remote/blended learning – start using pack given out on 12th Feb
Mon 1 st March	Week 7 remote/blended learning begins Post primary applications open at 12 noon

Y7 pupils and their parents: Post Primary Admissions Update – KEY DATES

The admissions criteria for post primary schools are now available to view

<https://www.eani.org.uk/search-schools> .

Before you start your application it is very important that you read the admissions criteria of all the schools you are interested in sending your child to. This year applications are online from 12 noon on **Monday 1 March** and 4pm on **Tuesday 16 March**. Please get in touch if you need any further advice. I will be in touch again once applications open and it is not 'first come first served' so don't feel rushed.

As many hands build a house so many hearts make a school

As principal, I was honestly speechless with the kindness shown by you all over the past few months since the passing of Darra Hassan and honoured that the school could help in some small way by passing on your messages and gifts for the Hassan family. Rachael has asked me to share the following message:

I was overwhelmed to learn of the very generous donations that so many of you left into the school for our family. I know gifts came from many of your families and friends further away too and ask that you pass on my thanks and blessings to them also. Your kindness is very much appreciated – and I know you will keep our family in your thoughts and prayers over the coming months. I will certainly remember your kindness in my prayers and am blessed to be part of such a caring community. God bless you all!

Rachael, Darcey, Thandi, Rafferty, Riley, Jude, Flyn & Lana Hassan.



Remote learning pack 3: Collection on Friday 12th February 2021

Our next remote learning pack will run from Mon 22nd February for 2 weeks and will be given out from the canteen steps on FRIDAY morning from 8.45am – 10.30am. Times are intended to assist with social distancing. Come at the family time that suits best and remember your mask. Only one adult per family.

8.45	9.00	9.15	9.30	9.45	10	10.15
Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7

Lockdown Stone #2



The lockdown stones you brought back with you in September are still taking pride of place at our front door. After lots of thinking about what we could do this time, I have come to the conclusion that there would be nothing better than making another. *Just like the last time*, watch out for a suitable stone when you are out for a walk. *Just like the last time*, be as creative as you want. AND *just like the last time*, we look forward to welcoming you back as you leave your lockdown stone at the front door once again. This will pass!

Parent/Teacher interviews

Most of Y1-6 parents should now have been contacted by telephone by their child's class teacher to discuss their progress. These interviews are continuing next week for Y4 and Y6. Please get in touch if you have not received a call by Fri 12th Feb and we will arrange a phone slot.



Engaging in Remote/Blended Learning

- Many thanks for keeping in touch and connected via seesaw. Your feedback from parent interviews tells us that you are finding it useful – and you are more confident in using it.
- If you are having trouble or think you are missing messages here is a simple tip: [All messages, work, videos etc will all be posted on your child's JOURNAL.](#)
- Parents of pupils at school for essential supervision/childcare are reminded to make a short, daily comment encouraging their child on the work posted on SEESAW by staff. This is to ensure the pupil knows that the parent is aware of their hard work during the day and their overall home learning expectations. Thank you for all of these parents who are already doing this.



Student placements from St Mary's University College

We were due to welcome three students for placement. These students are still very keen to join us and to help in whatever way they can during these strange times and to develop their experience. All three have been in class prior to lockdown so the children should be familiar with their faces!

Y1: Miss Rocks	Y6: Mr Loane	Y7: Miss Carville
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Next week they will introduce themselves via Seesaw. They will then provide supplementary activities alongside class teachers. We wish them well and know it will be a great experience.

This too, shall pass.

*When things are bad, remember: It won't always be this way. Take one day at a time.
When things are good, remember: It won't always be this way. Enjoy every great moment.*

Online safety at home

Week 3



Our plans:

Every class will be engaging in activities to help us remember about staying safe online. We do it every day, but a focus on these things is important and that is why Safer Internet Day has become such an important date in every school's diary. Our digital leaders in Y7 have been working on a video to share with useful advice about staying safe online. We will share this with you on Tuesday, so make sure you check Seesaw to hear their message – and see a few more familiar faces.



What can I do as a parent? (Pick some of these)

- Get involved in the activities your child is completing as part of class work around SID
- Watch the video with your child of the message from our Digital Leaders
- Visit <https://www.saferinternetday.org/resources> Search through the parent resources (tip: select language as English to narrow the results)
- Help your child design their SID poster based around the SMART message
- Watch the BBC teach SID special programme at 11am on Tuesday
- Register for one of the Webinars below



- Are you worried about what your child is doing online?
- Do you want some expert advice about how to strike a balance with screen time?
- Feel out of your depth when it comes to gaming?
- Wondering if your child is addicted to their device?

Hear from the experts!

To celebrate **Safer Internet Day** take advantage of the following FREE Short Webinars for Parents and Professionals. Click on each topic to register your place.

Webinar Topic	Date and Time	Speaker	Suitable for
Empowering Healthy Online Behaviour in Teenagers	Tuesday 9th February 7.30-8.15pm	Dr Nicola Fox Hamilton, lecturer at University of Wolverhampton and IADT, Dun Laoghaire	Parents/guardians of younger children
Empowering Healthy Online Behaviour in Younger Children	Wednesday 10th February 7.30-8.15pm	Mark Smyth, Consultant Clinical Psychologist	

More courses are available in March

Addicted in a Digital World	Tues 23rd March 6-6.45pm	Ineqe Safeguarding Group	Parents and carers of children all ages
Addicted in a Digital World	Wed 24th March 6-6.45pm		
Online Harms and Digital Resilience	Wed 31st March 6-6.45pm		

The results are in!



What helps cheer me up if I'm feeling a little sad during lockdown?

Thanks to you all for contributing to all our surveys this week. This was a really great way to reach out to all our families in helping to keep engaged. It was also intentionally planned to coincide with **Children's Mental Health Week**. Hope you all enjoyed the lovely activities set by the teachers.

Survey 1 (Our favourite fruit) was intended to get us all thinking about our likes and dislikes and who we share them with.

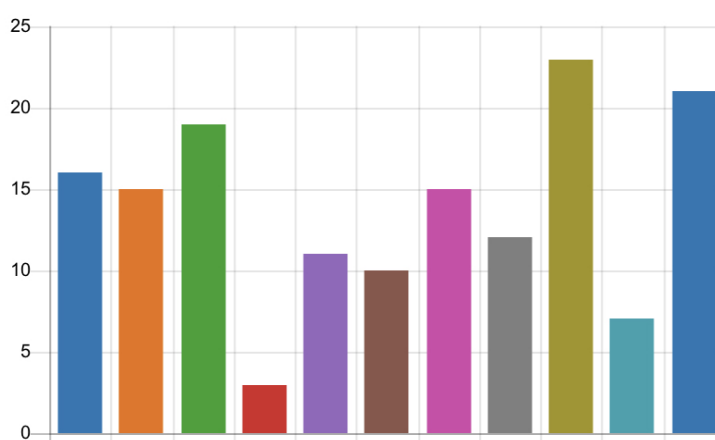
Survey 2 (where we are looking forward to spending time when back in school) hopefully created a bit of chat around getting back to school and that *this will happen!* It also reminded us that we will spend lots of time in the playground reconnecting when we reopen for everyone. Surprisingly, one person was looking forward to spending time in the principal's office – and it wasn't me!

Survey 3 focused on what we do to cheer ourselves up. The results were very interesting with a spread of responses across the range of activities suggested. There was also a good list of other ideas for ways to pick yourself up if feeling the lockdown blues. I've included them below – maybe you could try something different this weekend?

3. What helps cheer me up if I'm feeling a little sad during lockdown?

[More Details](#)

● Play with my toys	16
● Draw or paint or a craft activity	15
● Go for a walk	19
● Read a book	3
● Listen to music, sing or play a ...	11
● Bake or cook	10
● Play outside	15
● Talk to someone in my family	12
● Watch a film	23
● Dance	7
● Other	21



OTHER

- Getting a hug from someone at home
- Going to the farm
- Family time
- Ringing a friend

- Going out on my bike
- Time with my pet
- Playing with a brother/sister
- Playing on my console/pc/xbox with friends

- Going for an Ice cream
- Writing songs
- Football
- Have a bath
- Time to myself
- Drinking water

Thanks to everyone for getting involved – it was really interesting to see the responses coming in. The feedback was positive so we are continuing this weekly. Watch out on Seesaw for the link.

Next Week's Survey:

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?