



Dear Parents/ Guardians: Please read this full school information update.

As you are probably aware; all school closures have now been extended by the Government until 19th April at least. Again this date may be extended but for now, I would like to let you know that myself, our teachers, our SNAs and staff are all thinking of you, your boys and your families wellbeing at home. We hope that you are all keeping safe by following all necessary government guidelines during this difficult time. Stay safe, stay apart!

Keeping a happy, healthy and stress-free home at this time can be testing but as parents, you are the primary caregivers and you know best how to ensure that your home, your boys and your family get through this difficult time. We know as parents and family members ourselves that this is a new and challenging experience for you all. For public safety, we are bombarded with new restrictions and guidelines in a national crisis. The Easter holidays will have a different feel.

This is a whole new experience for the staff of St. Patrick's B.N.S. also. Thank you to all parents who responded to our parental survey on how the school can support any optional home learning at this time. There is a lot of praise for the system used on last closure date 12th March and we will continue to provide this mode of optional home learning support. Thanks to your responses, we now have great food for thought and school learning idea plans for future development when our school community is back at learning, work and fun.

As a parent, you are your child's prime educator and this is now more relevant than ever. Any school learning activities are optional. Whether you have the opportunity to help your son complete some or all of these is a choice you need to make. My own son is sitting across from me as I type, excited to be nearly finished with his Maths Challenge, whilst the youngest is trying to climb my leg and use my laptop as a drum kit. We understand!

We at St. Patrick's B.N.S. are providing these activities and resources as something which may bring a bit of learning routine and normality to your home. But we know that every home and every learner has different needs, so you decide what's best in your home. There will be no pressure on pupils/parents when returning to school to have all of these activities completed. We in school will be busy teaching when we return, so parents should not be stressing at home about difficult items to cover or putting unnecessary pressure on themselves or our boys. When we return, our staff will be ensuring that any necessary steps will be taken to cover the learning curriculum with your boys. When preparing learning activities for your son, all teachers have considered the extended closure, and Easter holiday until 19 April.

All learning activities can for now be accessed through the use of our school website at your son's class page. Your son's class webpage will be updated by his teacher before this Friday. There will be activities,digital links to activities and digital links to online books which you and your son may access and use. Your son's schoolbooks should be non-essential during this time. All the main book companies are offering free access to online schoolbooks to help in this closure. These links will be posted on your son's webpage.

Remember these are optional activities designed to not put any unnecessary pressure on families. We understand that not all families have suitable laptops/wifi/tablets for access to our learning digitally. We know that every pupil is different. If the school/staff can help with your son's learning wellbeing in any way please email stpatricksboysschool@gmail.com We will do our best to assist in the current climate!

None of us know when schools will return, but be assured that our teachers and staff will continue to offer optional support for your son's learning wellbeing at home. We will work together to get through this difficult time until the school bell in St. Patrick's B.N.S. rings again, the staff and boys all fill their classrooms with fun and learning and we are all ready to return to normality.

To stay informed, monitor our website home page <http://www.stpatricksboys.net/> or Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197972123960878/> If you need to contact the school/staff, please email stpatricksboysschool@gmail.com. School Secretary Sandra can be contacted at 0214502024 this Thurs and Friday morning from 10-12. Ronan Lettis our Home School Community Link teacher can be contacted on 0867844845 during school hours.

Again, thinking of you, your wonderful boys and families; take care!

Shane Foley (Principal), teachers and staff of St. Patrick's B.N.S.