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A Thuismitheoir dhil,

Beatha agus sláinte daoibh!  
I hope this letter finds you and your families well!

On behalf of the staff of Gaelscoil Aodha Rua, I would like to thank you for your co-operation with our connected home learning programme during the past ten weeks. Thank you for carrying out the learning tasks sent by class teachers and for the vast array of photographs and samples of work which you have sent us. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of learning which has taken place in your homes, in a wide range of forms and the level of engagement of the children has been remarkable! I thank you also for your interaction on the school facebook page and for your enthusiasm & participation in the various family tasks. Your continued communication & positive feedback has been greatly appreciated and has been very uplifting for our staff during this difficult time.

I also wish to pay a sincere tribute to all of our class teachers, who have worked tirelessly to create and disseminate tailor-made learning resources in Irish for our website. I commend them for their dedication and commitment in providing continuous opportunities for learning for all children and for the stimulating, innovative activities which they planned on a daily and weekly basis. We miss the children dearly and have enjoyed seeing their faces in all the photos you have sent us.

The past ten weeks have been challenging for everyone in our community and we fully empathise with parents who struggled with the sudden dependence on digital learning. Indeed, as teachers, we also found it difficult to embrace this new way of working almost overnight! However, our staff rose to the challenge and have worked tirelessly to provide both parents and pupils with a wide range of opportunities for continued learning. We hope that the provision of the printable resources and the delivery of paper learning packs & lap-tops to those who were finding the situation particularly difficult has been helpful and we continue to do our utmost to meet the needs of the families in our school, both curricular and pastoral.

### **Collection of Learning Packages**

With the gradual easing of the lock-down restrictions in recent days, our staff have been able to travel in to school more freely. We agreed timetabled access to the school building over the past few days and whilst adhering to the guidance on social distancing, all class teachers & assistants have been busy creating paper packages of learning activities, for all children, in all classes, for the month of June. These packages will be available for collection from the front gates of the school at the following times on **Monday 1st June**. We have allocated a half hour slot for each double year-group and ask that parents come at the time allocated for their **eldest child**. Please stay in your car and the packages will be brought to you by a member of staff:

**Rang 1&2 – 2 - 2.30pm / 7 - 7.30pm**

**Rang 3&4 – 2.30 - 3pm / 7.30 - 8pm**

**Rang 5,6&7 – 3 - 3.30pm / 8 - 8.30pm**

### **Reading Books**

When you are collecting your child's package, please also return all **reading books, novels & Accelerated Reader books** that were sent home in March, as we need to stock-take these items to allow us to plan for the new school year.

### **Online Learning Portals**

Although we have not yet received detailed plans from the Department of Education / Education Authority for our return to school, we do know that there is likely to be a blended approach to learning, with a mix of both face to face teaching in school and remote / digital learning at home. To that end, each class teacher has created an account for each individual pupil on the Seesaw / Google Classroom portals. These portals will ease communication between the teacher and pupil and will facilitate a system where pupils can submit pieces of work and receive feedback from their teacher. Pupils in Ranganna 1-5 will be using the Seesaw portal and pupils in Ranganna 6&7 will be using Google Classroom. During the month of June, we want all pupils & parents to become familiar with the use of these portals and to get to grips with logging in, accessing tasks and submitting work to their class teacher, in preparation for returning to school. Please find instructions on logging into your child's Seesaw / Google classroom account enclosed in your child's learning package.

### **School Reports / End of Year Packs**

We will be organising a date at the end of June for parents to collect their children's work. The school reports will also be inserted into each child's pack. We will be in touch in the next few weeks to arrange this.

### **Communication**

In the meantime, both myself and the class teachers will be available via e-mail throughout the month of June. Teachers will be uploading a weekly task on Seesaw and Google Classroom and we also aim to set up a video call with small groups from each class, via Collaborate Ultra. This is an app which is similar to Zoom, but is run through the secure c2k school network. This app only works with small groups and class teachers will be in touch to make the arrangements for these calls via e-mail.

Again, I thank you all for your co-operation during the past ten weeks and I commend the staff of Gaelscoil Aodha Rua in ensuring that learning continued and that our pupils and parents would still feel connected to our school community.

Take care of yourselves and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional support or if you have any further queries.

Is mise le meas,

Móna Uí Dhochartaigh

Príomhoide