

**Scoil Chroí Naofa**

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

Today marks another historical day in our lives – the day the children didn’t return to school after Easter break. We wish we were back. Unfortunately, Covid 19 has another plan for us.

As a staff, we have worked very hard and have developed a new structured plan of recommended work for your children. We have introduced a daily plan that we hope is user friendly and more manageable for you and your children. Your children should be used to the structure of the week and for the most part be able to attack the recommended work themselves. I have attached a link to the NEPS daily plan and sample daily plan for you to peruse. It may be a help as you try to focus on the days ahead. At the end of this message is 25 ways to encourage your child, there you will find some useful phrases to use if you wish.

We have listened to your feedback. We have now linked each work plan as a word document for you to view or download we hope this will alleviate and struggles of not being able to see the suggested work. Please remember: If you use a mobile phone to access our website materials please click on the **web version** at bottom of screen to enhance viewing of all pages.

Cúla 4 Ar Scoil will commence this morning at 10am – 10.30am on TG4. This is a recommended DES resource and will help with improving your child’s Irish. You can find it online at [www.cula4.com](http://www.cula4.com). Home school hub continues on RTE2 from 11am -12pm each day and comes highly recommended from the Department of Education and Skills. I find the web link [www.rte.ie/learn](http://www.rte.ie/learn) to be a great support as well. The weekly quiz podcast is great fun and keeps my children engaged in the material (to an extent!!!) during the week.

I hope that our school twitter account will become another way in which you and your children can engage with school. Please follow us on twitter by searching @SNaofa for news, updates and fun activities. I would really love if you could tweet your “Good News” to me on Friday.

I am cognisant of the fact that we are all leading very different lives now than before March 12th. Some of you have temporarily lost your jobs, some are working from home and some are working on the frontline saving lives and keeping us in supplies. No matter what your new normal is, it is no doubt very stressful, overwhelming at times and an anxious time for you all. As school leader and a parent myself I was ( and still am truth be told) guilty of constantly trying to pre-empt what might happen if, and making plans for all different types of scenarios but I had to realise that this was only causing undue stress and I have no control of the near future. We need to take each day as it comes, live in the now and hope and pray that all will be well soon and our lives will return to normal. As Parents, continuing to love and support your children in whatever way you know how is the most important bit of home schooling you can do. Only you know your current situation. If “home schooling” is proving difficult, put it on the back burner for a while and get to know how your child ticks.

Unfortunately, I cannot give you any extra information as to when schools will reopen or indeed in what way they will reopen, nor can I give you clarity on when Confirmation, First Holy Communion and other planned events will take place. Like you, I receive updates when Leo or Tony make an announcement. We all live in the hope that this will be sometime soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks.

Thank you for being so supportive to our school and to your children. You are doing a fine job and we are most appreciative of your efforts thus far. Keep up the great effort you are making in ensuring that your children are coping in these strange times.

Thank you to all the staff in Scoil Chroí Naofa. I am so lucky to be working with such a great bunch of people. I know of your extra worry of how the children usually in your care are coping without the routine of school. Thank you for being so willing to help in whatever way possible to ensure they are able to receive some semblance of normality.

To those of you on the front line working with the HSE, in care homes, in retail or providing an essential service we are indebted to you. Thank you for “keeping the show on the road “. I look forward to the day when I can thank you in person.

Finally, please continue to follow the advice of the medical professionals. It is our great hope that we see further progress over the next two weeks and we can all return to school to finish out our final term.

We miss you all and wish that you remain healthy and safe over the next while.

Le meas,

Kathleen McNamee

Principal

