



Dear parent/guardian,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I am writing on behalf of the school to acknowledge the great work that you are all doing in these very difficult and challenging times. I know that many of you will be struggling to make childcare arrangements or trying to work from home. I recognise that some may have suddenly lost their jobs and all of us are doing our best to protect our children, their grandparents and those we love. Regardless of your circumstances, these are tough times. It is wonderful to see the community pulling together and supporting each other. Social distancing is difficult but so necessary. When the chips are down, we are a very resourceful and resilient nation.

The school is conscious that parents have so much on their plates and we do not expect parents to home school their children on a daily basis. Due to time and other commitments this would be very challenging. I am also aware that there are so many suggestions and resources being sent to parents via the media and social media that it can be overwhelming. Please be assured that you are doing your best.

I want to make a few suggestions that may help you to support your child's learning but they are only suggestions and I know that you know your child best.

1. Routine is very important, it focuses children and gives them confidence and reassurance around what is happening in their lives. Some children may benefit from a written/visual timetable of their day. It may include jobs like, making their bed, tidying their room, folding clothes, free time, time to call a friend for a chat and some homework, etc.
2. If you are planning to do school work with your child at home, please keep it to short and manageable time slots.
3. Remember that many household activities and family life is in itself learning. Board games teach social skills. Cooking/baking promote

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literacy and numeracy skills. Arts and crafts promote creativity. Writing letters or emails to loved ones promote writing skills. Not all learning has to be linked with a school book.

4. Physical activity is essential for your child's health and wellbeing. Where outside activities aren't possible, you may want to avail of online indoor activities for kids, such as <https://www.gonoodle.com/>
5. Suggestions and useful resources have been placed on the school Twitter account. If the government extend the closure of schools, the school will place some suggested school work on your child's class blog on the school website [www.greenmount.ie](http://www.greenmount.ie). However, these will merely be suggestions and no parent will be expected to complete the suggestions but to engage with them when and if they can.

I am aware that some children may have been absent the day we closed so may not have taken home school books. If you wish to arrange an appointment to collect books from the school, you can email [oifig@greenmount.ie](mailto:oifig@greenmount.ie) and an appointment will be given to you for social distancing reasons. However, Folens, Edco and CJ Fallon have made all their school books available free online to parents so you could use these text books rather than having to collect your child's books from the school. This may be the safest course of action.

Finally, these are unprecedented times and you and your child are doing the very best you can. We are thinking of you all and please say hello to your child from us and tell them that we are really looking forward to school life returning to normal. Please remember we fully understand that your child's health and happiness are your first priority. If I can be of any assistance to you, please email your query to [oifig@greenmount.ie](mailto:oifig@greenmount.ie)

Keep safe and God bless,

*Finbarr and all the staff at Greenmount N.S.*