Dear Parents,

Unfortunately following on from the announcement yesterday from the Minister of Education, we now find ourselves back in a position similar to last March. I can assure you, all the staff within the school are as disappointed as you are in being forced to follow this path. Nothing compares to face to face teaching each day. However due to the spiralling positive cases within our society, it was nearly inevitable that this would be the result.

Staff will be in school on Friday 8th for a planning and preparation day as it would seem that remote learning will be taking place up until at least the mid-term break in February. **Remote learning will then begin on Monday 11th for all pupils**. **Work will be placed on Seesaw by 9.30 each morning and should be returned via the app by no later than 3pm each day.** Moving forward, it is essential that every pupil completes all their activities on a daily basis. I ask you to remember that our pupils are already playing catch up in lost learning due to the extended school closure last year. No pupil can effort to take another 6 weeks off from learning. I will be monitoring all work being returned to teachers and am obliged to make contact with a parent if their child is not completing the daily activities.

All teachers will continue to use the ‘**Seesaw’** app for communicating with pupils directly on a daily basis. I ask that each parent monitors this to ensure all work is being completed.

In terms of providing work, we have the option of placing all work on Seesaw as done previously. However, the school could also provide work packs to be collected. This work would cover a three week block of the closure and would ensure that each child has a paper copy of the work in front of them. It would be completed by pupils and returned to teachers via Seesaw for marking each afternoon. This may prove more manageable in many homes due to availability of ipads/laptops etc. If you have a strong preference regarding this, please let me know asap via email. If there exists a demand for work packs, we will endeavour to have them completed for collection early next week.

Finally, I wish to inform you that there was intended to be a slight change in teaching duties this term due to unforeseen circumstances. There changes are:

P2/3: Mondays will now be covered by Mrs Dunne.

P5/6: Mr Woods will teach on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday with Mrs Dunne teaching on Thursday/Friday.

These are the teachers that will be setting and marking the work on these days.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation during this testing time for all of us. Our pupils continue to be our major concern along with the wellbeing of everyone. I will continue to keep you inform of any changes to circumstances that might occur over the coming weeks.

Kevin Woods

**PRINCIPAL**