

## **Newsletter, March 2019**

Dear parents,

Many thanks for your continued patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. All children should be continuing to work at home during this school closure. We understand that this can be difficult to oversee with work and child-minding commitments but some time spent each day on schoolwork will be beneficial to your child's learning.

All children have been provided with some work to complete during these initial few weeks. It is to be expected that some children will complete this with ease while others may find it more challenging. Above all else, children should continue to practise their reading each day.

Should the school closure continue beyond Easter, which is quite possible, teachers will make arrangements to provide further work for completion. As you can appreciate, it is difficult for pupils at primary level to continue on with the curriculum as content needs to be specifically taught. Much of the work assigned will reinforce areas already covered. If necessary (and permissible) we may arrange to open the school one evening to allow parents or children from other classes to collect further textbooks and perhaps work-packs.

Mr Sweeny's fifth and sixth classes are familiar with Google Classroom from using the resource in school over the past number of months and will continue to engage with this platform over the coming weeks to facilitate their learning.

All children from 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class have access to ixl learning which is a fabulous resource for both English and Maths activities. We would encourage all children in these classes to make use of this valuable resource. If your child has forgotten his/her login details please email the school and we will be happy re-issue the details.

A number of children also have access to Lexia reading software. Again, we encourage these children to make full use of this resource.

RTE have announced plans to launch 'School on TV' in conjunction with the Department of Education. This programme will broadcast each day Monday to Friday from 11.00 to 12.00 and is aimed at first-sixth class children. This is another resource which we would encourage children to engage with.

We have attached below a selection of educational websites which parents may find useful to source further learning resources. Many of these sites are normally subscription based but have waived subscription fees during this time.

Thanks again for your understanding,

Pearse Mc Groary.

# **Online educational resources**

## **Twinkl**

All classes

Twinkl are offering all parents a one month free Ultimate Membership to Twinkl.ie. This will allow parents and teachers unlimited access to every single resource for every single curriculum subject from junior infants to sixth class.

[www.twinkl.ie/offer](http://www.twinkl.ie/offer)

Go to [www.twinkl.ie/offer](http://www.twinkl.ie/offer) and enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS.

## **World Book**

All Levels

The World Book is a resource offered by the PDST. It's like a virtual encyclopedia except a lot more interactive.

<https://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/products?ed=all&gr=Welcome%21>

## **EPIC**

All Levels

Epic! is an online library which offers over 35000 resources including "Read to Me" books, audiobooks, student tracking, reading level linkage with Accelerated Reader and other reading levelling schemes. It also offers high interest texts such as National Geographic Kids and Guinness Book of Records. It is suitable for children from ages 4-12.

<https://www.pdst.ie/DistanceLearning/SourcesofInformation#epic>

## **Edco Learning**

All Class Levels

Pupil resources for programme include:

- Skills Books
- All readers
- Pupil's digital resources

<https://www.edcolearning.ie/>

Notes: Username: primaryedcobooks Password: edco2020

## **BorrowBox**

All class levels

If you or your child/children or parent/s are a member of the local library, you can access an App or website called BorrowBox. It is free.

<https://www.borrowbox.com/>

Notes: To register, you need your library card which has your membership number on the back.

## **Vooks**

All class levels

Vooks is committed to being a resource for families to keep kids reading at home. Vooks can also be a welcome distraction for parents, allowing them to enjoy time with their kids, watching and discussing books together. To help, we have created take-home lesson plans that can be shared with parents and guardians - built to provide children with 20 minutes a day of read aloud time and activities.

<https://www.vooks.com/>

Notes: Free one month, sign up required

## **Oxford Owl Ebook Reader Library**

Junior Classes

Oxford Owl has an ebook library with over 250 books in it and offers free access to teachers and parents once you create an account at [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) They also have some vocabulary and comprehension activities for most of the books.

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

## **Writing Legends**

Junior Classes

As part of their Assistance for Schools response to Coronavirus they are providing Writing Legends free of charge through to July 31, 2020. Writing Legends is a comprehensive writing program, containing hundreds of activities for students in grades 3 to 6. The regular price is \$11.50 (USD) per student.

<https://www.writinglegends.com/>

## **www.sorchaj.com**

Infants to Fifth Class

This site covers phonics, Dolch, Jolly Phonics including tricky word lists and practice reading sentences following the Spellbound order of words and more.

[www.sorchaj.com](http://www.sorchaj.com)

## **Rivet Reading**

Infants to Fifth Class

Rivet Reading App by Google is not available in the EU, but the web version of the books, with reading is. High Interest Reading books are available with help for pupils with words that are not easily decodable. Topics range from Animals to History, Sport to Science .Very useful for reluctant readers and self-guided.

<https://rivet.area120.com/read/#/libraryScreen>

## **Teach Your Monster to Read**

Infants to 1st Class.

Teach Your Monster to Read is a fun activity that helps infants work on everything from initial sounds, CVC words, blends and digraphs all the way to full words and sentences. The Web platform is free for teachers and students (the App costs, but is not necessary). Teachers can set up a class quite easily and can simplify passwords. Great fun game that children can engage with at home (although teachers cannot set sounds - pupils work through independently).

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

## **Léitheoireacht: Séideán Sí (gach leibhéal)**

<https://www.seideansi.ie/aiseanna-eile.php>

## **Teanga ó Bhéal: Scéal an Lae - TG4**

1st - 6th Class

Short stories i nGaeilge read aloud online. Perfect for first - 6th classes i Scoil T2 or rang ar bith i Scoil T1.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Sc%C3%A9al+an+lae](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Sc%C3%A9al+an+lae)[Link to the website](#)

## **Teanga ó Bhéal: Soundcloud - An Gúm**

Soundcloud - Irish language stories read aloud online/ scéalta i nGaeilge ón nGúm

<https://soundcloud.com/search?q=An%20G%C3%BAm>

## **Multiplication.com**

3rd Class up

Loads of games to practice Multiplication.

<https://www.multiplication.com>

## **Top Marks - Hit the Button**

All class levels

Hit the Button is an interactive maths game with quick fire questions on number, bonds, times tables, doubling and halving, multiples, division facts and square numbers. Games are against the clock and develop number fact recall. Designed for 6-11 year olds.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Notes: A paid app version is available from Apple/Google Play/Amazon but the web browser version is free to use.

## **Scholastic Learn at Home (Free)**

Day to day projects (USA based) for children Infants to Sixth Class.

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

## **Science Foundation Ireland**

Infants to 6th Class

Any science experiment you could ever think of is nicely organised into lots of different sections. Much of the equipment you can find at home but well worth exploring to try and do a science experiment every few days.

<https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/discover-primary-science-and-maths/activities-search/>

## Ask About Ireland

Infants to 6th Class

This web site covers both History and Geography from infants to 6th class including some great project ideas.

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/primary-students/>

[https://www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy\\_bodies](https://www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy_bodies)

## Scoilnet SPHE Page

Infants to 6th Class

A small number of resources to support the SPHE curriculum including the Webwise programme

<https://www.scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/sphe/>

## GoNoodle

All class levels

GoNoodle is a really easy and good way to get kids moving.

## SoundTrap

[www.soundtrap.com](http://www.soundtrap.com) :: A great way for students to experiment with loops and sounds through layering tracks and building songs. Supports GSuite and Office365 logins which means all work saved to the cloud. Free version gives students five compositions to explore. Lots of learning in students playing around with the built in demo songs and their use of sound recording techniques, musical effects and layering of sounds (texture etc.) (@stephenmcf)

## I Am An Artist

All Classes

<http://www.iamanartist.ie>