



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

19th April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you in advance of our return to school tomorrow, albeit remotely! I hope you and your family are all safe and well and that you got to relax a little over the Easter break despite the restrictions.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of our students and teachers in dealing with the unique and challenging circumstances we are presented with at this time in such a positive and productive manner.

- **Contacting the school**

If parents/guardians need to contact the school please email us at reception@loretoclonmel.ie and your query will be forwarded to the relevant person.

Please be mindful that, no doubt like for many of our families, WIFI access is not as reliable for staff working from home, so there may be a delay in replying to your emails.

- **Individual Circumstances**

We want to let you know that as we send you this email, we are aware of a very small number of students who have circumstances that makes working with teachers remotely more difficult than for other students.

If there is anything that we need to know (from sickness to any individual circumstances) on our return to school please do consider emailing reception@loretoclonmel.ie to let us know. As always anything you share with us will be treated in confidence.

- **Supporting Student Engagement with Remote Teaching and Learning**

Before Easter we found that the majority of our students were very actively engaged with their teachers as they used Office 365 for remote teaching and learning.

In the three weeks before Easter in supporting student engagement with remote teaching and learning we found the following:

- Students who kept a good routine (got up at the same time each morning, got a good night's sleep, with phones put away an hour before bedtime) managed reasonably well with remote teaching and learning.
- Students with difficulties navigating Office 365 used videos from teachers and asked for help via video chats from friends to get to grips with Teams, OneNote, etc.
- Students who wrote their classwork and homework into their Student Journal found it easier to keep track of the work and meet deadlines.
- Students who checked their daily school timetable to complete work remembered to check-in to every subject's Team in order to gather classwork and homework and manage deadlines more efficiently.

- Students with individual circumstances (e.g. babysitting for siblings) perhaps did their school work at night time but still used their daily school timetable to ensure no subject was forgotten.

Parents/Guardians can help their child(ren) by reminding them of the above tonight in advance of starting back to school remotely tomorrow.

If towards the end of the week we find that a few teachers are having difficulty connecting with your child(ren) we will endeavour to let you know via text message. Thank you for your ongoing support for your child(ren)'s education in these new and challenging times.

- **Social Media Presence**

You might be following the school, or be interested in following us, on one of the social media platforms:

FaceBook: Loreto Secondary School Clonmel
Twitter: @LoretoClonmel
Instagram: loretoclonmel

We are doing our best to keep the school community connected via social media.

- **Easter Work**

As you will know the Minister advised all students to take a complete break for the second week of our Easter holidays. Teachers will be cognisant of this tomorrow when they return to remote teaching. However, the assigned work will need to be completed and your child(ren)'s teachers will adjust the deadlines accordingly.

Please keep doing your bit to flatten the curve. Our prayer for the start of our new term is below.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath,
Principal



Start of Summer Term 2020 Prayer

We pray for all in our school, the extended Loreto community, our family, friends, front line staff and all in our local and national community:

that we may face the unknown with **hope** and embrace goodness in each new day.

HSE Posters

Coronavirus COVID-19

Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Everyone stay at home.
Everyone has the power to **Stop COVID-19.**

Stay at home in all circumstances, EXCEPT:

- > Travel to and from work where your work is an essential service. [See gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)
- > To shop for essential food and household goods
- > To attend medical appointments and collect medicines
- > For vital family reasons including caring for children, older or vulnerable people or someone who is cocooning but excluding social family visits
- > To take exercise within 2km of your home. You may include children from your household but **MUST** adhere to 2m physical distancing from other people.

Cocooning has been introduced for those over 70 years and those who are extremely medically vulnerable to COVID-19. You can find out more about this on hse.ie.

Remember, you cannot arrange a gathering with anybody you do not live with.

If you have symptoms, self-isolate to protect others and phone your GP.

For information and advice visit hse.ie or phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

How to Prevent

Stop
shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people

Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination

Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue

Avoid
touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

Clean
and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Symptoms

> Fever (High Temperature) > A Cough > Shortness of Breath > Breathing Difficulties

Ireland is operating a *lockdown* strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Coronavirus COVID-19

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Social Distancing Outside

Spending time outdoors is good for our health. **But social responsibility is essential for ALL our health.**

Avoid
close contact with others

Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people

Small group
sizes should be kept to a minimum

Don't arrange
to meet up with other groups

Avoid
an area if it looks very busy and go somewhere else for your walk

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

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