Letter 8: January 8th 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Wednesday, the Minister of Education, Norma Foley, announced the physical closure of schools until January 31st: with all teaching and learning to go online. In the case of our school, all classes from Early Start to Sixth Class and Cairde will be physically closed with teachers teaching online through Google Classroom (Gclassroom).

Since we closed originally in March the school has being online through Gclassroom and each class have their own online class with each child their own login to that Gclassroom. In addition, there is the IXL maths programme and for a number of student, TTRS, plus access to a number of other online sources e.g. Folens, Edco, Reading Eggs. You will be guided on these programmes by your child’s teacher.

To support teaching and learning, books and learning packages will be available for collection from Monday the 11th. On Monday from noon, packages from Early Start to 2nd Class will be available until 2:30pm. On Tuesday from 11am until 2:00pm packages will be available for collection for 3rd class to 6th class. Students with siblings should do one pick up on Tuesday. Only one person should collect the packages from the front of the school. Any books that go home must be returned to school when we reopen and not written in etc. Additional instructions for work to completed, use of books, online lessons etc. will be on your child’s Gclassroom. We will have an online assembly on Tuesday 12th at 11am. Please have your child login to their Gclassroom to attend.

As in the Spring there will be provision of school lunches through our supplier Carambola. This will be available to the students who were taking the school lunch.

After a brilliant first term where we did not have to close a single class, it is of course disheartening that we have to go online. There is no substitute for your child’s teacher in the real classroom and we understand that many of you have challenges in regard to online learning. However, when we returned in September we completed extensive testing of the children and this showed us that the students who engaged the most with online teaching showed the least loss of learning. It is essential that you get your child to do their school work. Please contact us asap in regard to login problems, device problems etc.

This closure affects both your family and most of the staff, who also have children at different school ages at home. It is in our working together that we can provide what best for the children. Hopefully, we will not be closed for too long and we can finally return to normal. In the meantime, stay safe, log in and most of all, take care.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick O’Rourke

Principal