



Scoil Phobail Bheara

Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile

Dear Parents/Guardians and students,

Following on from the recent announcement by the Department of Education and Skills, our school will now return to full time remote learning as from Monday 11th January. The current information is that this will last until the 31st January 2021.

What does this mean for your son/daughter?

- School will begin each morning at 08.55.
- Students should be logged in to their office 365 teams accounts at 08.50 and have the relevant text books and copies available.
- Students will follow their timetable. For some subjects e.g. PE, RE, I.T, students will be advised to take breaks, do some exercise, meditation, yoga etc at these times. Instructions will be given about this by the subject teachers.
- A roll call will be taken on VSware for each period. The attendance tab will be available for parents/guardians to view on the students' VSware account should you wish to view it.
- It won't be sustainable for students to remain online from 08.55 a.m. to 3.50 p.m each day therefore each subject teacher will decide the method of delivery for the class and this will be done in a blended learning way. Teachers will explain to students what is required for each class.
- The breaks for students are 10.55 to 11.05 and 1.05 to 1.50. (first year – 10.50 to 11.05).
- Rules for online learning are published on our webpage and on our facebook page. All other school rules apply as per normal.
- Student wellbeing will remain central to what we do. The Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain remain available to students and our care team supports within school will remain available to all students.

What can parents/guardians do to help in the following weeks

- Firstly students have been taught how to log on to teams, how to upload work and connect with all of their teachers.
- Parents/Guardians should read the rules for online learning with their son/daughter. All other school rules apply as per normal.
- Students will need a place to work. This may be part of a table as I am aware you may have a number of students working together at the same time. Please contact me should you wish to borrow a small folding table from school.
- Students will need a device to log in to the classes. Earphones would be beneficial for the students if they are available.
- Students need to be encouraged to get outside for parts of the day for exercise, to connect with friends by phone during lunchtime or evening.

- Encourage students to link with their subject teacher, class teacher/year head should they have any difficulties.
- Be understanding that students may be going through a difficult time and that online learning is much more tiring than in person learning. While at home for the following weeks students are at such 'at school' from 08.50 a.m. to 3.50 p.m. and should be treated as such.
- **ATTENDANCE:** If your son/daughter is ill and can't attend school for the entire school day you should make school aware of this by contacting the school and leaving a message at 027 70177 ext 4 (this is the main office extension). This is important in order for us to maintain our attendance records which are needed by the Department. If your son/daughter can't attend for one class e.g. because of internet connection he/she should contact the relevant subject teacher to explain his/her absence as soon as is possible.
- Be assured that all teachers will be doing their absolute best for your son/daughter and your son/daughter will need support in doing the best for him/herself.
- Contact us if you have any concerns.

What supports are available for students with additional needs?

The additional needs co-ordinator will contact parents by phone. She will discuss a distinct plan with you to support your son/daughter at this time. Please feel free to contact her or myself should you require further support or information. Students will follow their timetable.

Students receiving learning support:

Teachers of students who receive learning support will be contacted by their teachers directly and will be available to students for continued support. The relevant teachers will organise this with the student directly.

What can I do if we only have one device at home and more than one student?

- You can connect to teams on your laptop, iPad, phone etc.
- You can also connect to teams on PS4 and Xbox. Instructions for this are on our school Facebook and on our webpage.
- After the above if you still think you require an additional device please contact me.

What can I do if I don't have internet connection or very poor connection?

- Students should contact their year head/class teacher to make him/her aware of this. This is particularly important if you live in a blackspot area. We are aware of some students who are in this position and have contacted them.
- You could purchase a Wifi booster/range extender which may improve signal strength. There are a number available.
- Check with your provider regarding your broadband speed and connectivity.

I will be keeping in regular contact with you and we will review our first week with students and teachers and make changes if necessary. It is important to note that even though we are in an excellent position to deliver remote learning there may be some glitches at the start for both students and teachers. You will see below a list of contacts that may be useful for you.

I would like to finish by remembering all those who are ill at this time and those who are currently working in hospitals and on the frontline. Let us remain positive and optimistic that we will get through this together. Wishing you all the best for the weeks ahead. We can get through this as a virtually united school community. Stay safe.

Kind regards,

Pauline Hurley

School Contacts.

List of contacts that you may need. Please contact during school hours only unless in an emergency/concern situation.

A list of emergency numbers for outside agencies is also posted on our website.

Name	Position	Contact
Pauline Hurley	Principal	027 75084 pauline@bearacs.ie
Noel O Sullivan	Deputy Principal	N.OSullivan@bearacs.ie
Main office		027 70177 ext 4 (you can leave a message at this extension)
Noralene Ni Urdail	Guidance Counsellor	N.NiUrdail@bearacs.ie
Marie Murphy	Chaplain	M.Murphy@bearacs.ie
Mary Hanrahan	1 st yr Year Head	M.Hanrahan@bearacs.ie
Ruairi Deane	2 nd yr year Head	R.Deane@bearacs.ie
Margaret Harrington	3 rd yr Year Head	M.Harrington@bearacs.ie
Caitriona Murphy	4 th yr Year Head	N.Murphy@bearacs.ie
Marie Carey	5 th yr Year Head	M.Carey@bearacs.ie
Antoinette O Callaghan	LCA co-ordinator	A.OCallaghan@bearacs.ie
Kathleen Dwyer	6 th yr Year Head	K.Dwyer@bearacs.ie
Marion Lynch	Additional needs co-ordinator	M.Lynch@bearacs.ie

All other subject teachers can be contacted by students during school hours through MS teams. Please note that as teachers are teaching they may not be able to respond immediately.