

4th May 2020

Dear Parents,

With the announcement last Friday of the road map to Reopening Ireland, it is now clear that the school building will not be reopening in this school year.

Firstly, I would like to note that while the school building is not open, this does not mean that school is over for the year and we will continue on with our programmes of distance learning until the official school holidays on June 26th.

The staff are in regular contact with each other and we will continue to try and improve the service we can provide to the children in our school. Like everyone else, this is a new situation for us as teachers and we are learning as we go. I would like to thank the staff for the work they are doing in organising and preparing weekly work, sourcing resources, replying to pupils who have contacted them and working to upskill themselves in the new technologies we are all using in these strange times. I truly appreciate the amount of work that is going in behind the scenes. I know that all our staff are really missing the daily interaction with their pupils. Teaching is not meant to be done from a distance but, unfortunately, we will have to do our best for the end of this school year.

To that end, I would remind people of our request to send a contact email. We have three quarters of the families connected in this way at the moment. Many thanks to all who sent in their email contact. I would again ask anyone that hasn't sent a contact email to the school to please do so. Just email urlingfordns2020@gmail.com with your email address. We prefer gmail accounts as these can be potentially linked to a schools GSuite and Google Classroom.

Over the next fortnight, we will plan a strategy to allow us to get all books and materials back to families when restrictions ease a little after May 18th. When we get the logistics in place, we will contact everyone with our plan of action.

Finally, today, I would like to address our Sixth Class pupils. When we hurriedly sent you home on March 12th last, we did not for one moment foresee that we would not have you together as a class again in our school. There are so many things we had to finish with you! (Thankfully we got to do Peace Proms! On a lighter note, the hurling team played two, won two! Our first ever perfect season!!) I just want to assure you that you will graduate from our school and we will hold a graduation for you. When? I don't know yet, but it will happen. We also will get a photograph of you as a class for our wall when possible! Please don't throw out your uniform just yet!!! I always emphasise that you are the leaders in our school and I'm sure you will continue to show that leadership in these last eight weeks. Stay strong for us!

Stay safe everyone. We miss you!

Dermot Dunphy, Principal