

January 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and that you had an enjoyable Christmas. Little did we think we'd be returning to online teaching in January and hopefully we'll be back to class again in February.

Daily schoolwork will be uploaded on Aladdin each morning. The majority of the work can be completed in the books and copy which you have hopefully been able to collect from the school. Maths and English work will be assigned daily along with one other subject.

I enclosed a copy with your child's books and this can be used for all their written work. Also included was a new wordlist and a 100 Square. I would ask that these be kept safely in their homework folder as they will be needed over the coming weeks.

The Aladdin homework page has the option to send completed work back to me as a photo or pdf. Please use this facility as it is a great way to keep regular contact between home and school and it also allows me to give feedback which can enhance progress. You can upload some or all of the written work. Maths work can be corrected daily by a parent and the corrected page/s can be uploaded. Many thanks in advance!

The Raz Plus reading scheme has a facility to record so your child can record themselves reading daily and have it sent directly to me. A recording doesn't have to be done daily but I would ask that each child sends a recording at least twice a week. This will help me assess and ensure your child is on the correct level. If anyone has any queries or difficulties regarding Raz please email me at the address below and I will hopefully be able to sort it out.

As you know, the internet is not always the safest place for children and it is strongly recommended that children should not have access to the internet without supervision, for their own safety. I will be including links which are child friendly but do watch out for ads and suggested videos on YouTube.

If your child is finding the work challenging then focus on a small amount of each activity.

For a child who has difficulties writing and spelling they can tell you a sentence they want to write orally, you write it down for them and they can copy it. At this stage most of the children are independent writers but might need support with spellings. Please encourage them to do neat work and to date each day's activities with the short date e.g. 11-1-'21

Ms. O'Toole will be in contact separately with a programme of Maths work for her group so they can follow that and needn't engage with the Maths work I upload. She may also have some suggested activities for her English group so keep an eye out for her email.

Making jigsaws, Lego, painting, drawing, colouring, playing with siblings, being outside and being read to are all important aspects of a holistic education.

Finally, I will include further instructions for the online work below and if you have any queries with regard to any of the work or if I can further support you in any way please don't hesitate to email me at rang1.urlingfordns@gmail.com

Stay safe and well,

Kind regards,

Ms. Cowhig.

English

Reading:

- If your child is struggling with reading in **Here Comes Buster** read it with them helping them with the words they find difficult. Have them point out some of the high frequency words like; the, me, this, on etc. It is also important to discuss the piece of reading, ask them questions to make sure they understand what they have read.
- With the words in the wordlist they get three new words four days a week. Have them put each word into sentences orally so you know they understand the meaning of the word. Have them look at the starting or initial sound of each word and the final sound. Keep revising the words they have done daily.
- Each week I will give a poem from the **Here Comes Buster** reader. These poems can be found at the back of the book. They do not have to be learned by heart. Ask your child to point out any rhyming words they can find after reading the poem. Try taking it in turns you read one line and they read the next etc. Encourage them to read with expression.
- With the Raz Plus your child can choose a book to read. When he/she has opened the book, click on the microphone icon and then press the 'record' button and start reading. When he/she is finished the book click on 'Done' and the recording will be automatically forwarded to me. If possible do this at least twice a week but please keep up some reading daily.

Written Work:

- Each Monday I will be asking the children to write a recount of their news. Remind them to always start a sentence with a capital letter and finish with a full stop. Finger space between words and try to keep writing as neat as possible. The words **First, Next, Then** and **Finally** can be used as sentence starters to help them order their news. For a struggling writer write the sentence for them to copy but encourage them to give you the sentence orally first.
- We will be covering 2 word families each week. This week's families are the 'ack' and 'ent' families. Go through the alphabet and see how many words they can

make using the letters e.g. b__ack makes back. Every second day they are asked to write a couple of Silly Sentences using their word family. They are used to doing these in school so should be well able once they have their list of words.

- On Thursday they have to write a short story titled **Fun in the Snow**. Again, they can use the words **First, Next, Then** and **Finally** as sentence starters to help them order their story. Keep it very simple with a beginning, middle and end. If your child is struggling then one or two sentences is plenty.

Spellings:

- Spellings will be based on the word families we cover during the week plus 3 high frequency words. They can use their copy to practice writing out their spellings each day. I will email a list of the spellings plus three sentences dictation for their Friday test on Thursday.

Maths:

- Busy at Maths. When your child has to do a page in the book there is a corresponding interactive page online. I am providing a link which will take you to the activity for page 39. To get to the other activities for the week change the number '39' in the link to the page number required.
<https://data.cjfallon.ie/resources/19619/activity-39/index.html>

PE

Below are a few suggestions for active breaks during the day. No pressure to do any of these once your child is getting daily exercise of some form.

- **P.E. with Joe** is back live three mornings a week for 20 minutes starting on Monday 11th Jan at 9am. These classes by Joe Wicks are streamed live on YouTube on The Body Coach TV channel but can be done at any time of the day if the livestreaming does not suit. No equipment required!
- Try some of the activities on Go Noodle. If you haven't already signed up go to www.gonoodle.com and sign up as a parent for free.

SESE

- Videos and slideshows etc. to support the topic being covered in **Explore With Me** can be accessed by visiting www.edcolearning.ie/login Login using the following details:
Username – edcotrial

Password – edcotrial

Click on the **Explore With Me** for First Class and when you go to the appropriate page you can click on interactive supports at the top of the page.