

Our Lady's Girls' Primary School

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are all living through very difficult times. Our families and lives are divided by the virus which is currently sweeping over us. Everything is different and we are all settling into what will be the new 'normal' for the foreseeable future. It is not easy for our pupils to be hemmed in at home and perhaps even more difficult for you parents, to keep routines going. Ultimately those of you that can get a routine established for your children, will have an 'easier' spell whilst we are in lockdown.

ONLINE LEARNING

We want to reassure you that the staff of our school are hard at work, mainly from home. If you haven't tried the online learning, please do! There are plenty of lessons and activities for our girls to do. Most work is posted through Seesaw. If you are having difficulty with Seesaw please email your daughter's class teacher through the school email address info@ourladysgirlsprimary.belfast.ni.sch.uk remember to put the teacher's name in the title of the email. There is also lots of learning set up on the school website. Go to PUPIL AREA – 'Home Learning' enter the password that is on the front of your school work pack and away you go!

One of our extremely talented classroom assistants, Miss Murray, has opened a page on our school website where you can view our pupils' creative work. There will be lots of artwork, poems and stories and also photos of our girls being creative. Keep an eye on this section of website and watch it grow. Go to PUPIL AREA – DeanbyArts

Send your work to deanbyarts@gmail.com and remember to give your name and class.
(Names will not appear with photos).

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

As we are all spending a lot more time online, it is important to remember E-Safety. Encourage your children to treat others as they would expect to be treated. Stranger danger applies online too! Don't give out personal information like your full name, address or phone number. Use an avatar instead of a real picture of yourself- you could draw one if you don't have one yet! If anything online upsets you, tell an adult! Stay safe.

EASTER BREAK

We will be stopping online teaching for the Easter period on Thursday 9 April and we will resume on Monday 20 April. Even though schooling is different, we feel that all pupils and the staff will need some downtime, to refresh and recharge the batteries for Term 3. We suggest keeping activities over this time to fun creative arts, reading and games. (P6 girls who are intending to sit the transfer exam next year, should continue as directed by their teachers).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Two additional resources that may be of interest over the holiday period are:

Mr Hullabaloo: Introducing a brand new learning theme each day, the aim is to bring a little bit of Hullabaloo magic to your home-schooling using storytelling, music and imagination, to discover and learn about the world around us. Mr Hullabaloo's Facebook page and YouTube channel has inspiration and ideas to support your child's learning in a way that is interactive, engaging and fun!

Facebook:<https://m.facebook.com>

/Mr-Hullabaloo1458096697759418/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0 You Tube: Mr Hullabaloo

INTO FILM: This is a brilliant set of resources that use the medium of popular children's films as a motivating avenue to promote literacy and creativity at home. www.intofilm.org. Go to Resources at top. Scroll down to Fifty Film Guides to use at home (look for Shaun the Sheep). Click on the age appropriate to your child's year group. Download. Children can do this alone but it is even better to do this as a family!

KEEPING IN TOUCH – GETTING HELP

Over the last few days we have been trying to contact some of our parents to see how they are getting on. If you see a call coming through on your phone with *NO CALLER ID*, it could be a member of the school staff. If we can't reach you, we will leave a message and try again. Should you need to contact us for any reason, even over the Easter period, please do; through Facebook PM or through the school email and we will respond to you as soon as possible. We will do whatever we can to help you. NO ONE should feel completely isolated.

We are really missing the buzz of school and the fun in the classrooms. Our staff send their best wishes to all of our families and hope that you stay safe over the next few months. We wish you a very happy Easter and trust that it won't be long before we are all able to be together once again. Keep well!

Yours sincerely,

Emer Hughes