



Scoil Oilibhéir

School Closure Advice For Parents

Dear Parents,

Yesterday was a most unusual day in the life of Scoil Oilibhéir and events moved at a very rapid pace. The staff of our school reacted in a most professional manner to ensure that children remained calm and were not worried. We also worked, within a very short timeframe to provide children with work which they can complete during the enforced school closure. This is primarily revision and skill development work as all new material will need to be taught by teachers. It is important that children would not get out of the routine of learning during this time. The following is a list of ideas for parents as you keep an educational focus to a portion of the day with your child each day.

General Suggestions:

- Do check the HSE website regularly and follow advice provided so that this period of closure will have a value and that we will all contribute in a socially cohesive manner to the stop of the spread of the Covid-19 virus in our community.
- Keep to a routine in terms of getting up time and bed time
- Encourage your child to do some school work each day
- Do not cover new material with your child which has not been taught in school
- Read with your child, encourage your child to read for at least 20 min a day
- Watch historical films
- Write letters to grandparents, a famous person, write reports on topics of interest to the child
- Draw/paint pictures
- Work on Jigsaws
- Word puzzles, crosswords,
- Lego
- This break is an ideal time for children to stay active by going for walks (Outdoor and Adventure Strand of the PE Curriculum)
- Bring mental maths into the everyday with your child.

Suggestions for Middle & Senior Pupils:

- Encouragement (and support where necessary) of reading should be an ongoing focus over this period. Spending time with your child reading is valuable in so many ways.



Scoil Oilibhéir

- P.E. - Getting out and about for walks & exercise, kicking a ball, pucking a sliotar etc. in the fresh air will be good for mental, physical and social health. You could keep fit and healthy by going for regular walks to parks, woods, the beach or just locally
- If you have access to national geographic channels or similar, exposure to educational programmes, as an alternative to requests for gaming, might be an option.
- TG4 usually has cartoons etc. as Gaeilge and TG4's online player CúI4 has access to many of these programmes also.
- Watch educational programmes. Watch the junior news, it's called News2day
- Spending time with your child doing arts and crafts or baking will promote language development, social interaction, literacy (following instructions), life skills and mathematical skills (measuring etc).
- Social Development: Board games, imaginative play. Engaging with your child with these activities will promote social and mathematical skills such as problem solving, turn taking, learning to win and lose graciously.
- Write a daily diary
- Read the newspapers and write a report
- Write book reviews
- Cooking helps with the Capacity topic in Maths
- Measuring items in the house & garden will help with the Length topic in Maths
- Use recycling materials for art and craft - build a robot/castle/rocket ship
- Use Lidl/Aldi booklets to calculate amounts of money
- Argos catalogues - more calculating
- Use shopping receipts to calculate money

Suggestions for Younger Pupils:

- Read to your child or share the reading of the text with them
- Discuss the story and ask them questions
- Ask children to find specific words in texts. E.g. find me the word "shop". How many times can you see the word "the" on the page.
- Children and parents write little notes to each other



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- Ask children to write their “news” each day
- Ask children to spell words in their environment
- Practise writing letters
- Revise sounds
- Singing
- Bake a cake
- Play I Spy
- Sort your toys by size
- Make up a quiz
- Paint something
- Pair your socks
- Blow some bubbles
- Sing the alphabet song
- Make up a new game. Use your imagination.
- Keep a diary
- Take a GoNoodle break (gonoodle.com)
- Practise counting
- groups of objects (Juniors – up to 10, Seniors – up to 20)
- Roll 2 dice. Add the numbers together
- Investigate! Do your toys float or sink?
- Do a jigsaw
- Watch something on Cúla4/ TG4
- Play Snap or another card game
- Go on a shape hunt in the house or garden!
- Find circles, squares, rectangles, triangles
- Help to make lunch or dinner
- Make some patterns



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- Spend some time outside every day
- Design a new cover for your favourite book
- Write a shopping list
- Play Snakes and Ladders (or other board games)
- Sort your toys by colour
- Hide something and make a treasure map to find it.
- Draw your favourite animal
- Make some junk art
- Find something longer/ shorter than you/ your arm
- Play with water. How many cups does it take to fill the pot? Which one holds more/ less?
- Talk about which months your family have birthdays
- Clean your bedroom
- Play with some playdough
- Make your bed
- Plant some seeds
- Make your own book
- Do some rainbow writing of words that you know
- Pick up ten toys and put them away
- Practise tying your laces
- Build a fort

Useful Websites:

- Athletics
- Manga High (Maths games)
- www.ixl.com (Maths)
- Twinkl (most subjects - free subscription during the closure for all)
- Go Noodle on Youtube (indoor activity)
- Google Earth / Google Maps for Geography
- National Geographic Kids
- www.jollylearning.co.uk/resource-bank (sounds revision)



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- www.oxfordowl.co.uk (ebooks)
- www.topmarks.co.uk (maths games)
- www.touchtyping.com (learn tough typing – older children)
- Maths: www.topmarks.co.uk (free and tablet friendly, no account needed) and Mangahigh is free at the moment due to Coronavirus (https://www.mangahigh.com/en-gb/blog/2020-03-06-free-access-schools-online-maths-coronavirus?utm_source=covid-blog&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=covid-blog-tw)
- Exercise and movement: www.gonoodle.com and Body Coach 5 Minute Move Series for kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrl0v-w>
- Gaeilge: Cula4 www.cula4.com agus Cód na Gaeilge (http://legacy.ccea.org.uk/curriculum/gaeloideachas/eochairch%C3%A9imeanna_1_2/r%C3%A9ims%C3%AD_foghlama/teanga_agus_litearthacht/c%C3%B3d_na)
- Project work: www.dkfindout.com and World Book Online available free by visiting www.scoilnet.ie and clicking on Enter WorldBook Online
- Most museums/galleries have online/kids sections

Useful Apps:

- Phonics Match (free)
- ABC Kids
- IXL (Maths & English)
- Math Kids