

Weekly School Letter 24th April, 2020



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Message from Staff

Parents/Guardians & pupils, We hope the families and friends of Crusheen National school are all safe and well. As you know, the school has been closed since mid-March and the country will remain in lockdown until May 5th at least. We will continue under the Department of Education guidelines on how to proceed with remote learning. Thank you to all the families for being patient with us over the past few weeks. Thank you, also for all the positivity during the last term. Please feel free to contact the school email crusheen@eircom.net if you have any queries.

Remote Learning Tips

As a parent you are the primary educator of your children.

There are, however, a few tips that might make it easier for you.

- ✓ The importance of routine. Set a time to start, plan your child's breaks and finishing times for certain activities. You decide those to suit your own family situation.
- ✓ Communicate clearly. Discuss the routine with your child. Give them some input in deciding the routine. Visual timetables are particularly useful.
- ✓ Set targets for the week. Your teacher will have work assigned but your child should have input into creative pursuits and extra-curricular activities. Agree on a reward system for successfully ticking off the list of chosen tasks for the week. 'If we get 'x' done by Friday we will get/do....' Be sure to praise effort rather than just output.
- ✓ Remember if a child is not feeling safe or happy they cannot learn. Try and 'know' the time to encourage further work but also identify when

continuing with something will not be productive.

- ✓ Physical activity. Lots of it.
- ✓ Reading for enjoyment. Lots of it. If you are busy all day and can't attend to school work, don't worry. It can always be rectified with paired reading in the evening.
- ✓ Let kids play/explore and work outside as often as possible.
- ✓ Don't presume everyone is doing more at home. They are not. Doing your best is good enough

Music Generation

Ms. Considine has been sending out the Music Generation Clare class video for Kids' Ceol programme. We know you will enjoy the links.

First Holy Communion/Confession and Confirmation

A decision on the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation will be made at diocesan level later in the calendar year. As yet, there are no plans to reschedule these sacraments for this school year. We await further clarification and any decision will understandably be dictated by government restrictions

Top Ten Tips for Reading

1. Find a quiet comfortable corner with no distractions-turn off mobile phones and the TV.
2. Show a positive attitude towards books and reading.
3. Take an interest in different children's authors.
4. Read to or with your child everyday at a set time if possible. Enrol and encourage your child to visit the local library once a week...
5. Read some of the books your child enjoys so you can discuss them with him/her. Recognise and praise your child's efforts in reading.

6. Encourage your child to read articles / headlines in newspapers, magazines or in digital media-online with parental supervision. Discuss ideas and points of view proposed by newspaper articles etc.
7. Encourage your child to read to younger brothers/ sisters.
8. Allow your child to choose his /her own reading material. Find the right level book for your child, too easy will bore them and too difficult will discourage them. Use the five finger rule- there should be no more than 5 new words your child is unfamiliar with on a page. More than 5 new words means the text is too difficult. Encourage your child to guess unknown words.
9. Encourage your child to read for information – timetables / weather forecasts / menus
10. Encourage your child to try and guess what is going to happen next.



Earth Day

Earth Day is a day that was created to promote awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment and occurs each year on April 22nd. The first Earth Day was in 1970 and was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) as an environmental teach-in for school children. Check out website Earth Day for more interesting facts at: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/>

The Primary School Learning & Development Portal

GAA Primary Challenges – see attachment



OPERATION Transformation leader, music teacher, musical director Shane Farrell has turned the Covid-19 crisis into a way to bring thousands of people together. Shane is hosting a virtual youth choir on Wednesdays at 4.00 p.m. Look up Virtual Voices with Shane for more information.

Fun Activities

Here are some fun jokes and riddles for the kids:

Q: What has one head, one foot and four legs?

A: A Bed

Q: Did you hear the joke about the roof?

A: Never mind, it's over your head!

Q: How many letters are in The Alphabet?

A: There are 11 letters in The Alphabet

Q: How can you spell cold with two letters?

A: IC (icy)

Q: What state is surrounded by the most water?

A: Hawaii (this is really just a trick riddle)

Q: David's father had three sons: Snap, Crackle, and ?

A: David!

Q: If you were in a race and passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in?

A: 2nd place!

Q: What is the center of gravity?

A: The letter V!

Q: What English word has three consecutive double letters?

A: Bookkeeper

Q: Why did nose not want to go to school?

A: He was tired of getting picked on!

Q: How do you get straight A's?

A: By using a ruler!

[Free celebrity school lessons online - Teach kids with stars during this time.](#)

PE with Joe Wicks

The Body Coach Joe Wicks is getting kids moving with his home PE lessons. You can take part by heading to The Body Coach TV on YouTube. Joe is running the workout sessions Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m.

Maths with Carol Vorderman

Countdown legend and all round maths whizz Carol has launched daily classes for schoolchildren. Carol announced yesterday that she was making her online maths school, The Maths Factor, free for children aged four to 12 until schools reopen.
<http://themathsfactor.com>

Music with Myleene Klass

Former Hear'Say star Myleene is passing on her musical skills to the next generation. The talented singer and pianist has launched her very own Myleene's Music Klass YouTube channel - see what she did there? With the help of her daughters Hero and Ava, the star is vowing to teach children about music with daily videos, including lessons in reading music and learning how to play your name. Myleene is planning to run classes at 10am on Monday, 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday and 10.00 a.m. on Friday.

Dancing with Oti Mabuse

Another Strictly star, Oti Mabuse, is also posting free dance tutorials on her Instagram page, alongside her husband Marius Iepure. She's also teamed up with Speyside High Performing Arts School to offer dance classes to anyone who wants to join in.

Story Time with David Walliams

Britain's Got Talent star and children's author David is lending a hand to story time. The former Little Britain star has vowed to release a free audio story every day for the next 30 days, reading out stories including his own book The Terrible Triplets.
<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

Story Time with Floella Benjamin

Actress, writer and Baroness Floella is also vowing to read to your kids free of charge - so you can have a break. Check out her stories on her YouTube channel.

Seanfhocal na Seachtaine – Irish Phrase of the week

Is fearr beagán den ghaol ná mórán den charthanas.

A little kinship is better than a lot of charity.