

Dear Parents,

I hope you are keeping well and very much appreciate all your support and understanding during this period of online remote learning. This time communication will be through Seesaw which is in line with school policy. If children have mislaid their Seesaw log in codes please contact me via email on chalpin65@gmail.com . You are welcome to use this method of communication or Seesaw any time you have a query and I can be of some help.

This term, 4th class have been allocated a student teacher who is in her fourth year of training in Marino Institute of Education. I have been liaising with, the student teacher, Gráinne Murphy to understand what is required of her during this final teaching practice, especially now that we are moving to online remote learning. Student teachers at this stage of their training are required to prepare a scheme of work for most of the day in all curricular areas. There is also an expectation by the college that Miss Murphy will prepare resources that are meaningful and add to the remote learning experience. Student teachers must also assess pupils' work.

With this in mind, I am and will be continuously in communication with Miss Murphy so that we can ensure your children's needs are met and that online learning is beneficial for all. I have added Miss Murphy to our class Seesaw as a teacher so she will be able to view and also have the option of responding to any work posted by the children. This week I have planned the programme of work and asked Ms Murphy to be involved in supporting me. I have asked her, for example, to post a video which will support the class when attempting the multiplication chapter. From the 18th January, her role will increase as she becomes increasingly responsible for the planning, delivery and assessment of tasks on Seesaw. Needless to say I will monitor, support and plan with Ms Murphy throughout this process. Having met with Ms Murphy I genuinely feel that we will all gain from her input. She has a great interest in online learning and has received invaluable training from her college. The children have been taught by Ms Murphy before when I was absent and she is very enthusiastic about working with our class.

Finally parents, I really hope you and your children will not feel anxious at the prospect of returning to home schooling. As a parent myself I fully understand the challenges it presents. All we can do is our best. I look forward to speaking to you on the phone at our annual parent /teacher meetings in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

Clodagh Halpin.