Dear Parents,

“It always seems impossible until it is done”

Nelson Mandela

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**Ms Horkan**

**SET**

**Week 3**

Week beginning 30th March 2020

These are challenging times for everyone and I hope that you, your child and your families are safe and well.

I have attached some advice and information that may help to support learning at home. Try a little bit every day, do your best and remember to take plenty of breaks!

Please don’t feel overwhelmed at this stage. These are suggestions to keep you motivated and entertained…if you have the time. I am not going to set you curriculum subject work in addition to your classroom teacher.

Remember to enjoy your time at home and take this opportunity to read, play board games, bake and read some more!

Don’t forget you can do an Easter egg hunt, make an Easter card for a relative and enjoy your Easter eggs!

I miss seeing and teaching the children and I look forward to seeing them all at school again soon. Stay safe, be kind and take care.

Kind Regards,

*Deborah Horkan*

*Below is a list of useful websites, advice and activities for you to dip in and out of throughout your time at home. There are so many websites as you well know, and some are more interesting and easily navigated than others. Personally, I have used the websites listed here and have found them really beneficial.*

**Suggested Activities**

**Time Capsule**

I would love for you all to create a time capsule if you have not already done this with your family. This was shared by a friend on social media and I did this activity with my own children. Our children are living through a historical event as we connect. What better way to document it than make it a family activity and keep a record of it; they may be studying it in years to come! Steps 1-4 are outlined below to help you.

* *Step1*. On a sheet of paper, ask them to create a profile of themselves; name, age, address, family, favourite things, friends, height etc. Ask them to include what is going on in the world today and how that makes them feel.
* *Step 2*. Draw a picture of their family (optional) or write about them.
* *Step 3*. If you have a newspaper cut out a section of it; make sure you cut out a section that includes the date! Alternatively, you could print a section off online (If you have access of course!). Don’t worry if you don’t. Write 1or 2 story headlines from the news on tv.
* *Step 4.* Take pictures of yourself over the next few days (or draw them) showing the things you got up to.

Put steps 1-4 together (in a scrapbook, on a larger sheet of paper) or do as I did and put it in a Ziplock bag/spare lunchbox and put it in the attic or memory box (if you have one) to ‘find’ in years to come.

**Suggested websites:**

[https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford- levels/which-reading-level-stage/](https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-%20%20%20%20%20levels/which-reading-level-stage/) *\*Free access to Oxford Owls enables you to choose an age and reading skills to find some books for your child to read. This may be helpful for children to access books at home*

“We are all in this together”

Leo Varadkar



<https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye>\**Parents could join an e-library to get access to books*

<https://www.dublinzoo.ie/animals/animal-webcams/elephants/> \* *You can watch the animals live from Dublin Zoo (feeding time is usually around 2.00pm)*

**General websites**:

[www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie)

[www.schooldays.ie](http://www.schooldays.ie)

[www.twinkl.ie](http://www.twinkl.ie) \**This website is a fantastic resource and is now offered for free. Great PowerPoints for research ideas and information.*

**Reading websites:**

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go”

Dr Seuss

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/> \* *If you have a copy of any of his books you could read along too!*

**Mathematics websites:**

<https://ie.ixl.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> \**This is fantastic as it covers all topics and levels. It also has a short video clip for each topic if you are having difficulty.*

**Exercise websites:**

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com)  **\*** *Some good ideas for short movement breaks. Stay Calm; sometimes it may not be easy and we all need to take plenty of breaks. 20 minutes on an activity followed by a movement break is a good idea for everyone.*

<https://rtejr.rte.ie/10at10/>

**NCSE website:**

<https://ncse.ie/online-resources-for-parents> \**This may be of particular interest to you and is a fantastic resource for you at home. I would highly recommend it!*

**RTÉ School:**

[www.rte.ie/learn](http://www.rte.ie/learn) \**RTÉ are launching a daily, scheduled virtual classroom. They are broadcasting from Monday 30th March from 11.00am to 12.00pm throughout the closure, Monday to Friday inclusive.*

**EAL Schoolwide Project**

Our EAL team have asked if we share a schoolwide project. They plan on doing it next week also. Their request reads:

“This week was to be International Week in Illistrin NS. We would still like to celebrate this with our families and the wider community. Maybe you could include a lesson on a country of interest to your family, listen to music from a different culture or so some art work from another country. We are asking the school community to send some artwork, a song or piece of written work under this theme to [illistrininternational@gmail.com](mailto:illistrininternational@gmail.com). We will then compile the photos we receive to create a video for our website and Illistrin pa Facebook page. Let's work together to celebrate our school while staying apart! We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well”.

*Deborah Horkan*