



09/04/2020

Dear Parents

On behalf of all of the staff of St Therese of Lisieux Primary School, I want to thank you all for your messages of support and appreciation over the past weeks. We have all had a steep learning curve and the staff are so appreciative of the efforts you and your children have made to come to terms with new ways of working. P1-4 are using ClassDojo and P5-7 are using ClassDojo and Google Classroom. We love to see photos of the children engaging in learning across the curriculum and it makes all our efforts to get ClassDojo and Google Classroom up and running worthwhile.

We know that many of you are working from home, some have limited access to technology and others are juggling the learning of more than one child, alongside the daily work of running a home. Therefore, please understand that all the work sent home in the learning packs and the work set on ClassDojo and Google Classroom, are suggestions. Do what you can without adding to you or your family's stress levels. Many of the school staff are experiencing the same issues in their own homes, juggling work and trying to keep their children's learning on track! So please be assured that no one will be disappointed or annoyed if you do not send work back to the teachers. However, we would like to see everyone check in with the class teacher on a weekly basis to let them know that you are all well.

Most family support services are offering email and/or phone support during this crisis, so if you need support please contact the appropriate agency. Information on most local services and also, good advice, can be found on <https://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/>

Reminders on these services are sent via twitter regularly, but some key support agencies are listed below.

- Parenting NI: help@parentingni.org 0808 8010 722.
- Early Intervention Support Service (EISS): eissbelfast@niacro.co.uk 028 9032 0157
- Family Support Hub: edith.mcmanus@ashtoncentre.com 07396374764
- Gateway/ Child Protection: 90507000
- North Belfast Advice Partnership: advice@ligonielvillage.com 02890391225

Resources for children with ASD

<https://www.eani.org.uk/services/pupil-support-services/autism-advisory-intervention-service-aais>

<http://www.southerntrust.hscni.net/pdf/visuals%20for%20schedule.pdf>

Resources for children who are supported by the Literacy Support Service (Mrs Jennings) or are on the waiting list for this service.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/services/pupil-support-services/literacy-service>

Resources from RISE NI to support children from P1-4 in developing speech and language, and social and emotional skills.

<https://view.pagetiger.com/riseniadvicleaflets/riseniadvicleaflets>

We are most grateful to those key-workers on the front line who are helping to fight this global pandemic. If any of our key worker parents need childcare, please email and let us know what you need. info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Every year the St Therese of Lisieux community donates thousands of pounds to Trocaire. As Coronavirus spreads around the world, Trocaire needs our donations now more than ever. Donations can be made online at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>

We hope that you and your children take a break from school work over the Easter period. Teachers will begin setting work next term on Monday 20 April.

Please continue to look after yourselves, and your families as we move into what is likely to be a very challenging period. We hope that you will join with us as a school community, to ask God to bless and protect all our frontline workers in their very difficult work and also to pray for families struggling with illness and loss due to this virus.

Regards
Mrs S McTaggart
Principal