

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you all healthy and well in these hard times. Many thanks for all your work in supporting children's learning at home via our guidance on the school website since the school closures came into effect. We are very aware that the past fortnight has been a time of great upheaval for everyone, and that many families are facing additional employment and financial stresses at the moment. It is to everybody's credit that we have been receiving some fantastic work from pupils via email and that both students and parents have been in touch with us to discuss progress.

As we are now facing into an extended period of school closure, staff want to do their very best to ensure that children not only keep up with their curricular targets, but also continue to have some chance for social interactions around their learning. As a staff team, we have been researching a range of digital learning platforms, and we have provisionally selected the two that we feel might be most beneficial in our school setting. These are

- Class Dojo [www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com)
- Zoom <https://zoom.us/>

We feel that these will offer pupils enhanced opportunities to engage with their learning, and with one another, in the changed educational landscape. Many other schools are also beginning to use these remote learning tools now and we feel that they represent safe and meaningful spaces in which to communicate with pupils. As with any new venture, there will undoubtedly be challenges and learning curves, but we hope that, together, we can all make this work for us. Of course, it is completely up to you as parents whether you would like your child/ren to be involved, and if you have reservations in any regard, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can try to arrange an alternative learning pathway for your child.

Obviously, children will need access to a device such as a tablet, laptop or phone to interact with both Class Dojo and Zoom. It is our understanding that the majority of households can facilitate this, but again, we are aware that parents may need existing laptops etc to complete their own work these days. As such, the teachers will timetable Zoom video sessions with children to run between 12 and 2pm daily, in the hope that devices might be available to all pupils during this traditional 'lunch' time. The school also has a bank of 6 tablets that potentially could be signed out to families who are in need, if there is agreement. Teachers will use these video sessions to interact with different class groups, explain work requirements, facilitate discussion, model /complete activities together and provide feedback on finished tasks. For the rest of the time, children will have access to their teachers via the Class Dojo website or app, where differentiated work activities will continue to be posted, children can easily upload completed work and teachers can send them individualised messages.

We would love to see as many children as possible engaging with these, and we include instructions on how to access both below. Class Dojo has the option for parents to be able to view their child's progress and portfolio of learning, you can let us know via return email if you would like me to link you to this. Also included is a draft timetable for home learning going forward. We would greatly value your thoughts and feedback as we establish this, so that we can make it successful for all of our pupils.

Kind regards,

Miss O'Shea

## Explanation and Instructions

### ➤ Class Dojo

This is an online space, similar to a noticeboard, where teachers can post work tasks, communicate with students and keep track of each child's learning via their individual portfolio. All parents will be emailed a letter with a unique code for themselves and their child. From the Class Dojo app or [classdojo.com](http://classdojo.com), families will use the invitation code to get verified, connect to the online classroom, and set up their child's account. This allows each child access to his / her own folder on the platform. The folder will not be visible to other students or parents – only to you, your child and their teacher. Children can then access work assignments, and submit work by uploading pictures, video or audio. We have the option to create a Class Story, where examples of excellent work can be shared - if you would like your child's work to be part of this, again let me know via return email as per template below.

### ➤ Zoom

This is essentially an audio and video conferencing platform. It is up to you / your child if they would like to interact just via voice or to enable camera for video; either is fine for us, but they may enjoy seeing their friends! We do not intend to record any of the Zoom conferences.

To access a scheduled Zoom meeting, your child will be sent a link via Class Dojo; they do not have to set up an account, they simply click on the link to download and run the Zoom programme and then at the scheduled meeting time, they can talk to their teacher and to one another. We will need to work with the children initially on understanding the format of the conferences – the teacher will act as moderator and the children will be encouraged to raise hands / give a verbal signal when they wish to contribute. Hopefully they will all get on board with it easily enough and we can restart our whole-class communication.

You can familiarise yourself with the data and privacy settings of both platforms here:

[https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/201166546-Safety-and-privacy?mobile\\_site=false](https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/201166546-Safety-and-privacy?mobile_site=false)      <https://zoom.us/privacy/>

**If you are happy to proceed, please copy, paste and edit the below into an email and return to me at [missoshea@stlaurenceschapelizod.com](mailto:missoshea@stlaurenceschapelizod.com) before Monday 30th so that we can set everyone up.**

Best wishes, Miss O'Shea

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the information relating to my child's use of Class Dojo and Zoom as remote learning tools. I consent to:

1. Being sent a unique code via email to allow my child to access Class Dojo      Yes / No
2. My child's positive work being visible to their class community on Class Dojo      Yes / No

3. My child participating in Zoom class meetings via audio / video

Yes / No

My child does / does not have access to a suitable device and would need / not need to borrow one from the limited school supply (delete as appropriate).

### **Draft Timetable for Remote Learning**

**9am to 12pm** All children have English, Irish and Maths work tasks to complete via Class Dojo.

\*Teachers will endeavour to make these daily tasks as child-friendly as possible, so that they can be completed independently. They do not all have to be uploaded on a specific day; we understand that families have other pressures right now, and this daily plan is a guide. We would appreciate if all weekly work tasks could be uploaded by Friday, if possible.

**12 – 12.30pm daily**      **Junior Class Zoom (Language / Phonics / Maths / SESE / Art / Music / etc)**

**12.45pm - 2pm,**      Miss Whelan and Miss Buckley are available to do individual Zoom sessions with specific pupils / groups. Parents or pupils can message the teacher to schedule a slot.

**12.30 – 1.10pm**      **Senior Class Zoom (Language / Maths / SESE / Art / Music / Project Work etc)**

**1.30 – 3pm**      Miss O'Shea and Miss Buckley are available to do individual Zoom sessions with specific pupils / groups. Parents or pupils can message the teacher to schedule a slot.