

St. Conaire's NS: Information in relation to school closure owing to COVID-19

March 12th, 2020

This morning the government have announced a series of measures aimed at addressing the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ireland. Effective from 6pm this evening, until 29 March, all primary schools in Ireland will be closed.

St. Conaire's NS will be closed at normal home time today, March 12th 2020. Information regarding re-opening will be sent by the Aladdin Connect App, our Textaparent Service and on our school website.

We have compiled a list of suggested activities for the children to engage with over the period of the closure. We hope that this will be of assistance to them. We thank you for your co-operation and understanding and we hope that everyone is safe in these uncertain times. In particular, we thank all school staff for their work and dedication in keeping our school safe and clean over the past few weeks.

Ceremony of Light for 6th classes: This event will **not** take place owing to the current situation. The parish and schools will review the situation regarding First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the coming weeks. We will be following the public health guidance and instructions from church authorities in this matter. Fr. Arnold Rosney will post church information on social media related to Shannon Parish.

Junior and Senior Infants: A folder of activities has been sent home today with your child

First and Second suggested activities.

Reading Raz a-z

Please continue reading on the Raz App. The login details are in your homework

Journal /Aladdin if you have not already done so.



Science Experiment Research

As 'Science Week' approaches, start researching your experiment. This year we are focusing on climate change, how the world is changing as a result and what we can all do to help.

Khan Academy Junior

An educational App for young children. Free to download.

Exercise

RTE jnr. **Operation transformation 10 @10.** Available to watch on RTE

Player.ie

Go Noodle App (Movement and wellbeing videos and activities)

Card Games/Board Games

Learn to play a new card or board game

3rd – 6th Suggested activities

RAZ plus

(Please see note attached regarding this app. All children have had access to this app at school and have their own unique log in codes)

Khan Academy

(Please see note attached regarding this app. All children have today, been given a unique username and password to access this app. Each teacher will assign various activities that can be completed while the school remains closed)

Science Project

(For further information, please see letter attached. Our main theme for this year is Climate Change)

Exercise

We encourage children to remain active and complete at least 30 minutes of daily exercise. A website that some of the children are already familiar with is Go Noodle.

Twinkl (A site which provides access to materials which support the Irish primary school curriculum). has opened their site to all parents in order to allow children access to their materials while schools remain closed.

12.3.2020



Dear Parents/guardians,

In the coming weeks, the pupils of St. Conaire's N.S. will be using the Khan Academy website and app to support the teaching and learning of Numeracy in the school.

Khan Academy is a **free** online resource that allows students to learn anytime, anywhere, with material that is uniquely appropriate for them. Students can explore new topics and strengthen their skills by practicing problems and viewing tutorials.

As students learn, their activity feeds into reports that show important information such as strengths and weaknesses in a particular concept. Time spent completing tasks by each individual will also be recorded. By using Khan Academy a more personalized learning experience will be provided.

For your child to begin using Khan Academy please follow these simple steps

1. Go to **khanacademy.org/join** or download the **Khan Academy app**.
2. Click on **"Sign in"** followed by **"Already a user"**.
3. Type in the **username and password** provided below.
4. Begin completing **assignments** or **mastery goals** assigned by your teacher.

PLEASE RECORD USERNAME AND PASSWORD IN HOMEWORK JOURNAL

USERNAME: _____

PASSWORD: _____

The school looks forward to using Khan Academy in the coming weeks. In previous years Khan Academy has proven to be a valuable resource that consolidates the work being completed in class.

Enjoy!!!

Reading A to Z (RAZ)/On-line reading trial

Dear Parents,

As a result of our 'Reading Engagement Survey' for our School Improvement Plan for Literacy we have explored many resources and have decided to run a 3-month free trial of a reading programme which we believe will be beneficial to all pupils.

During the past couple of weeks, your child has been introduced to a free trial of this new literary resource, Kids A-Z, Learning A-Z's website created for students. The students have been actively involved in using Kids A-Z for literacy practice, focusing on reading and comprehension. Raz-Plus has thousands of levelled books and resources. The program helps to support individualized learning and to have your child progress at his/her ability and rate, we are asking and recommending that use this program as a home reading trial.

Students' reading comprehension can only be as strong as their listening comprehension. Occasionally, they can be assigned the listen and quiz options the site allows to determine how strong their listening comprehension is at a given level.

Giving students access to the Reading Room will help build listening comprehension, increased awareness of differing text structures, and broader vocabulary as students listen to books at higher levels.

We understand the value and importance of sitting side by side and engaging with your child during the reading process and believe that this should occur regardless of the reading material.

We now invite you to log on and request parent access to view your child's activity report. Once you have requested access, permission will be granted and your child will receive a personalized student login card from his/her.

Kids A-Z Login Instructions:

Step 1: Go to www.kidsa-z.com

Step 2: Enter or choose your teacher's username

Step 3: Your child finds his or her username on the class chart

Step 4: Your child enters his/her password

Access resources on mobile devices by downloading the Kids A-Z app from the app store.

Students can access Raz-Plus to hear modelled fluency and practise reading from any computer with Internet access - at home, at the library, on Wi-Fi-enabled tablets- anywhere.

Raz sister site, Vocabulary A-Z supports the vocabulary from the online books with customised vocabulary lessons, word work activities, and assessments.

Raz-Plus can be used with ESL students to powerfully reinforce the connection between the written and spoken word.

Each student can read at their own pace and work toward 'levelling up', which will also accompany an in-class assessment.

Advantages of RAZ:

- ✓ Assessing students' comprehension through comprehension questions
- ✓ Provides a library of levelled books
- ✓ Removes competition and builds confidence through an individualized reading program
- ✓ Ensures that more information is available to target students' unique learning profile
- ✓ Provides an extension of learning at the "just right" level, with parental help
- ✓ Book access - parameters are set by the teachers

Depending on the student's reading level, we are asking for 5-15 min of home reading time on school days. It is our experience that encouraging reading for pleasure enhances pupils' engagement with all school subjects.

Please join us in this special project to support your child's reading.

Thank you,

The Literacy Team at St. Conaire's NS

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St. Conaire's Science Fair

March 2020

Dear Parents,

We will be holding our Annual Science Fair on Thursday & Friday 26th and 27nd March .This year the theme of Our Science Fair will be Climate Change and the impact it has on today's world. What we can do to save our planet!

We are asking children to investigate, explore, enquire , research science websites, science books and to visit their local library where there are lots of resources available & then present a project or experiment showcasing their research on the causes of climate change , suggest possible actions to tackle the problem and consider the effect of these on people and the environment. Some ideas include renewable energy, fossil fuels, carbon footprints, pollution, deforestation, the melting polar ice caps, the depletion of the ozone layer, farming practices, electric cars, impact of climate change in Ireland , our bees, native animals and birds, recycling, our over dependence on plastic, impact of climate change on our oceans & sea life etc. It is important that children are able to talk about their experiment/project. Your teacher will also advise you. All experiments/projects must be ready on Thursday 26th March to showcase to your class & partner class. There will be a prize for 1st, 2nd & 3rd for each class for the most original /project experiment & for those who are able to show an understanding of what they have learned.

The winning projects/experiments will exhibit for the whole school in the school hall on Friday March 27th .

We are asking parents to please check your child's experiments/projects to ensure that the projects/experiment are safe to exhibit in school. (No salt/ice experiments or anything that involves fire or any substances e.g. Sodium Hydroxide that could be harmful and compromise the safety of any child.

So get working, get researching and get investigating.

The following are a list of websites which have ideas on them which will help you , so get started and have fun being a Scientist:

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate-challenge-7-11>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

<https://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/climate-justice>

1. www.primaryscience.ie
2. www.minscientist.ie
3. <http://www.tryscience.org>
4. www.bbc.co.uk/schoolsscienceclips
5. www.brainpop.com
6. www.explorescience.com
7. [www; //science.howstuffworks.com/](http://www.science.howstuffworks.com/)
8. [Experia App on Ipad](#)

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