

Just like April’s newsletter this one for May will also be a little different. I would like to thank all of our families for their hard work since the school closed on 23rd of March. There is some incredible work going on in the homes of our St Eugene’s children and I know that all of the staff are very impressed with the photographs and emails that have been sent in. Please do not be too sore on yourself if school work is difficult in your home, this is a crisis and it is important to remember that safety, well-being and happiness must take priority during these unprecedented times. We are missing the boys and girls so much and look forward to the day when it will be safe enough for us all to return to school.

Please remember that a copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website [www.steugenesps.com](http://www.steugenesps.com) at any time. We encourage our parents, grandparents and extended families to ‘like’ and ‘follow’ our Facebook and Twitter accounts to be kept up to date with all the latest news and developments at St Eugene’s PS.

Miss Gormley

Newsletter 09

May 2020

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

We have been praying for our P4 children who would have made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 9th of May. We are so proud of the children in this class for coping so well with the disappointment of having their special day delayed. Miss Gormley had a telephone call with each child in our P4 class, the children are all in good spirts and are looking forward to the day when they can celebrate this special Sacrament. The P4 children have all received a special card in the post to let them know that our school community is thinking about them all. Bishop Donal McKeown also recorded a video message for the First Communion children which has been shared on our social media accounts.

**COMMUNICATION**

Miss Gormley has been working through the class lists and giving each family a phone call to check in and say hello. Families without online access were contacted first, Mrs Connolly’s class have now all been contacted and Miss Gormley will move on to calling Mr Gormley’s class will be next. If you see a call from a withheld number, this may be Miss Gormley.

If you are experiencing any difficulties or require support, please email your child’s teacher in the first instance.

In your April-June learning pack you will have email addresses for contacting your child’s class teacher, and also information for logging on to various online platforms. These details can also be found in the ‘files’ section of our website at [www.steugenesps.com/files](http://www.steugenesps.com/files).

* Rec/P1/2 – contact Miss Gormley at [lgormley873@c2kni.net](mailto:lgormley873@c2kni.net) and Mrs McDermott at [cbrennan207@c2kni.net](mailto:cbrennan207@c2kni.net)
* P3/4/5 – contact Mrs Connolly at [dconnolly699@c2kni.net](mailto:dconnolly699@c2kni.net)
* P6/7 – contact Mr Gormley at [tgormley142@c2kni.net](mailto:tgormley142@c2kni.net)

Queries will be answered during working hours between 9.15 and 3.15, Monday to Friday, please be patient whilst we respond as there is a high volume of emails to work through. Many parents have been sharing wonderful photographs of their children at home and keeping in touch using our school Facebook page. We have had excellent feedback from our parents and grandparents on all that is going on, on Facebook, it is helping us all still feel connected and as always it is lovely to see what everyone is getting up to. Facebook is also being used to communicate updates to our website and offer advice, tips and activities to do at home.

**MY SCHOOL**

All Passwords expire 120 days after they were last reset. If a password expires, or needs to be reset and the user knows their old password they can go to: <https://services.c2kni.net/ums>

Enter the required details and the new password will be registered.

**MATHLETICS**

Children in P2 – P7 have passwords for Mathletics which can be accessed through Google or by downloading the app. If you are experiencing difficulty in logging into Mathletics contact your child’s teacher. There has been some lovely feedback from you our parents, about Mathletics. We have been informed that children using it are even arranging to go online at the same time as their friends so that they can compete against each other in the Live Mathletics Class Challenge. Staff are monitoring each child’s progress and are delighted to see so many taking part. If your child has yet to log in to their Mathletics account, we encourage them to do so.

**ONLINE TASKS**

Online tasks have now been rolled out to all classes P1-P7. These tasks are usually uploaded to the files section of our website on a Monday for submission later in the week. Parents can find a screenshot of the tasks and a reminder on our Facebook and Twitter pages, this has been welcomed by those having difficulty accessing Microsoft Word. Tasks are set by all staff including our classroom assistants.

Whilst the tasks are optional, we encourage as many children as possible to continue to carry these out. It is a great way to keep up motivation and stay in touch with the staff from school. Many parents email back their child’s work or some find it easier to submit the task via Facebook. If you are scanning your child’s work you can use the Notes App.

You can scan documents using the Notes App on your mobile phone:

* Step 1: In the Notes app, open a note and then tap the Edit button.
* Step 2: From the formatting bar, tap on the + button.
* Step 3: From the popup menu, select **Scan Documents**.
* Step 4: You’ll now get into the document scanning screen.
* Step 5: You’ll now be able to crop the page.

**ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

We have been using Zoom to keep in touch and engage in virtual learning. This had been working well, but throughout April the numbers logging in had continued to drop. We understand that it can be challenging finding time, particularly as many of our families have only access to one device or have several children needing support at one time, we are also aware of the fact that many of our parents are trying to balance this with working from home themselves.

We have been made aware by our EA Link Officer that Zoom has an age restriction of 16+ and, therefore, it would not be appropriate to continue to use this platform. Staff will be engaging in numerous webinars to train in the use of other platforms. This training will increase our options should an element of remote learning need to continue in the autumn term.

**WEBCAM FOR ST THERESA’S CHURCH**

Fr Canning is delighted to inform our school community that there is now a webcam in place in St Theresa’s Church, Sion Mills. Masses from St. Theresa’s will be broadcast on Saturday at 6.00pm; Sunday at 9.30am and Monday – Friday at 10.00am. The Legion of Mary Prayers will be said via the webcam on Monday at 7.30pm and the Rosary on Wednesday at 7.30pm.

The webcam can be accessed by clicking into the Melmount Parish website or by following the link: <http://melmountparish.com/sionwebcam.html>. We know that this will be welcomed by many in our school community who are missing attending Mass and celebrations in our Parish Church.

**FINAL NOTE**

We continue to pray for those working on the front line to fight against this virus. We ask that our families keep up the great work by staying safely at home to support the efforts being made by those on the frontline.

To finish our May newsletter, here are some fabulous pictures of what our boys and girls have been up.

