



LADYSWELL NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of May in what has been a very challenging and unprecedented time, we would like to thank all the families for their co-operation. Although there are many things we miss, there has been a lot of goodwill and hope. Perhaps this situation will bring us closer together as a community and when it passes, even though it is very much a difficult experience, it will make us better and stronger people going forward.

Applications for 2020/2021: If you would like to register your child for Early Start or Junior Infants please email or phone the school (see contact details above). We also have some availability in other classes.

Building Updates: We are delighted that our new school building will be ready for opening in September. It will comprise of a new library, resource rooms and of course a new kitchen/Breakfast Club! We will have an official opening later in the year.

In other good news, we have been granted funding for the replacement of the A and B block with another new permanent building! The work is going out to tender at present.



Remote Learning: We had a fantastic positive response to our **online survey**, thank you to all those who took part. Taking in to account your views, we have decided to set up **Seesaw** which allows us to engage a little better with your children and gives them the opportunity to send in their work to us. The activities assigned in Seesaw will come from the weekly

work that is posted on the school website and are not additional activities. Therefore, your child's workload will not increase.

It is of huge importance that we have your correct **mobile number and email** as your child needs to receive a code from us in order to log in.

First Communion and 6th Class Graduation: Unfortunately, we had to postpone the First Communion. At this time, we are unsure of a new date, or what form they will take. The 6th class graduation is one of the highlights of the school year and while we are all very disappointed, we know that it is just postponed to a safer time and the children will have their special day.

Food Parcels: Since the schools all closed on March 12th, we in Ladyswell have facilitated the collection and distribution of food parcels. It has been a great success, with approximately 3,200 parcels distributed so far. We also distributed **Resource Packs** and paper to all families. Every Tuesday is collection day from the yard, and every single Tuesday the sun has shone brightly! Social distancing has always been observed, and it has also been an opportunity for parents to ask questions and generally touch base with the school

News from Term 2

- Term 2 started off very well this year. The **Parents' Classes** resumed, and there was the usual good attendance at sewing, cooking and ESOL classes.
- In January we hosted a one-off Parent talk on 'Gender', which was very interesting.
- The school also organised a 2-week **Punctuality Blitz** for Junior and Senior Infants, where the slogan "Be on time at ten to nine" could be heard every morning! Punctuality really improved, and the children were rewarded with stickers and prizes.



Cathy Cooper with her Storybag creation

We relaunched '**Storybags**' in February. Eight parents of Junior children came to the school every week for six weeks, and under the watchful eye of tutor Yvonne Herd, they made a bag-full of activities to go along with a chosen book for their child. The finished results were amazing, and these initiatives that help with literacy are proven to have long lasting benefits.

- In February, all the children from 3rd to 6th classes heard a talk on **Cyber safety**. This is an annual event and is very important to alert the children to the dangers of the cyber/internet world. This was followed in early March with a follow-up talk for all the parents.



Seachtaine na Gaeilge : Children from 3rd and 4th took part in Tráth na gCeist. There was lots of fun at the céili for Junior and Senior Infants and for 2nd and 5th classes organised by Mr.O.Miacháin. He gave out lots of prizes over the course of the week!

February also saw our annual **Music Week**, where the children experienced music including percussion, classical music, band, music technology and musical theatre. The week finished with some of our very own 'musical prodigies' performing in the Hall for their peers!



The 5th class from Room 5B were also involved in **One Book, One Community** just before the schools were all closed. They had 3 sessions in Riversdale Community School where they participated in activities involving the book 'Brilliant' - sadly, the final 'Quiz and Party' session never took place. Maybe next year...



On our return from midterm break we launched straight into our **Reading Week**. The children enjoyed all sorts of literacy activities, from an author's talk to fairy reading to library visits. And as ever, the most popular activity was reading in the Hall while drinking hot chocolate and eating biscuits!

Confirmation: The children from 6th class received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Thursday March 13th. The choir sang beautifully on the day. The children all looked wonderful and a great time was had by all.

Let's all take these 5 simple actions, to mind our mental health, during this uncertain time:



Keep in touch with a family member by drawing them a picture, writing a letter or making a card for them.



Do 5 for 5!
-5 Jumping jacks
-5 arm rotations
-5 high knees
-5 sit ups



Go outside into the fresh air every day and notice the sounds, birds, trees and flowers while on your walk.



This week try out a new recipe with an adult in your home.



Give 5 people a loving smile today.

Remember,
laugh, dance, jump, smile, learn, care, play, hug, sleep and repeat! :-)

Check out <https://www.mentalhealthireland.ie/five-ways-to-wellbeing/#connect>



PE

We have uploaded some extra PE activities on our school website. Tap on Home, Scroll to P.E. Zone. Here you will find **Happy and Healthy activities** for everyone. There will be a new class demonstrating different PE skills for all levels uploaded every week from **Beyond the Classroom PE** and **GAA Skills with Amanda** and **Fingal Sports Skills /activities**. You will also find lots fun Dice Activities here. Other useful links that can be accessed here include: - National Education Psychological Service, Cosmic Yoga, Joe Wicks, Smiling Mind, Supermovers.

Active Home week was on April 27th to May 1st. You got involved in lots of fun physical activity at home like running, jumping, dancing, obstacle races and lots of competitions. Well done everyone!!! You can access more Active Home Week Challenges any time on www.activeschoolsflag.ie.

- In other news we would like to wish **Ms.Harnett** all the best as she retires at the end of August. Ms Harnett has been teaching in Ladyswell for over 30 years and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. We wish her the best of luck in her future ventures.
- Leaving us too, is **Liz Byrne** our Special Needs Assistant. Liz has been in Ladyswell over 20 years and will of course be greatly missed in the classroom and on the yard. Best wishes Liz on your retirement.

And Finally....

Parents may remember, and the children definitely will, a film Mr.Keneghan made with 4th class a few years ago called **Monkey Madness**. RTE will show it next week Thursday 21st on School Hub!!!! Don't miss seeing Max the Monkey on TV running around our school getting up to all kinds of divilment!! 🐵