

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

24th April 2020

A Chairde (Friends),

Friday update

I hope you are all having a good week. I want to thank all the teachers for the supreme effort they are putting into online learning at GBMDS. This week, we have been looking at core learning objectives we want to achieve for the rest of the term. We are all still learning and are figuring out what works well and how we can engage with the children in the best possible way. It has been great to see so many children engage with Flipgrid, and it's a real privilege to see all the enquiring minds in Griffith Barracks flourish during this time. 6 days and 10 hours of total engagement time across all our grids. That's how long it would take to watch every Netflix Original Movie back-to-back!

I also want to thank all the children and families who have been getting in touch with us by email and more traditional ways. It's really heartening to see that the effort all the teachers are putting in is paying off.

If there is any family who will not be coming back to school in September, could you please let us know. It is very important as this affects the number of teachers we have in the school.

Student Dáil



JOKES FROM YOUR STUDENT DÁIL

Domhnall:

**Did you hear about the new restaurant on the moon?
Lovely food, but no atmosphere**

**I saw someone stealing our gate last week, I didn't
say anything, I didn't want them to take offence!**

**What is spelt incorrectly in the dictionary?
Incorrectly**



Noah:

**What appears over Ash's head when he gets an idea?
A lightbulbasaur!**

**What do you call a Pikachu that can fix computers?
Geek-achu!**

Tara:

How did the beaver get online?

He logged on

How do snails keep their shells shiny?

They use snail varnish

How do crazy people go through the forest?

They take the psychopath. 😊

Aislinn:

Why did the pony cough?

Because he was a little hoarse

Ella:

What do you call a dinosaur with only one eye?

A Doyouthinkhesaurus

Danny:

Why did Eddie buy a chicken?

Because he's a Fox.

Íosold:

Why did the plank of wood have nothing to do?

He was board

Did you hear about the unemployed man who took up meditation?

He was bored with sitting around all day doing nothing

New Childcare Provider

We will have a new in-school childcare service starting in September 2020. They will be offering a Breakfast Club (depending on demand) running from 8am to 8.50am. There will also be an Infant Hour Club from 1.30pm to 2.30pm and we will have a service from 2.30pm to 6.00pm every day. Sherpa Kids will provide this service on site and they will attend the Junior Infant Information Evening (possibly remotely). The cost of the care is €6.50 per hour, €26.00 for childcare from 1.30pm – 6pm and €19.50 for childcare from 2.30pm – 6pm.

There is a government grant for reduction in costs for parents earning under a certain threshold. You can find more information on this at www.dcy.gov.ie. It's called the National Childcare scheme. The video at this link is very good at explaining how this system works and Sherpa will help parents apply for it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=120&v=Q_bLPdEWmcl&feature=emb_logo

The after-school facility is just for children from Griffith Barracks. The children spend most of their afternoon in supervised free play with their friends. Weather permitting, they can play out in the yard, if they wish. On wet days, they play indoor games, play board games etc. There is a facility for children from 1st to 6th Class to do their homework if their parents wish. A snack and a drink will be provided by Sherpa Kids for the children. Sherpa will also run camps during holiday periods and in the summer. You can find

out more about the provider here <https://www.sherpakids.ie/>. Sherpa kids can be contacted at GBMDS@shepakids.ie.

I want to sincerely thank all the people who have helped in this very thorough process. Thanks to Margaret Cashman (R2,4) and Sinéad O’Riordan (R2,4,5) for all their input and support with the Parent Questionnaire that started the process. The Board of Management has worked tirelessly to ensure we have a service that upholds the values and ethos of our school. I want to also thank Board member Aideen Burke (JI) who has really given lots of her time and expertise to this process supported by Diarmuid Collins (R1). Here is a link to the Microsoft form below. Feel free to contact Sherpa directly as well.

As we can’t have an information evening, I have set up an online form in the link below so parents can ask any questions they have. We can then share these questions with the provider and share their answers with the school community.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GHR3J8BLrk2tb7BLMEihEL2HrjqF9TJFrFKo9_cK7A5UNjFZRE04MUFMR0JFVkc3N1RQTzdZQ1VMNy4u

We had hoped to hold an event this term to honour Lisa and Deirdre for their 20 years of service as part of Kids Club to the school. This will now take place when we return.

6th Class Yearbook

Aisling will have emailed sixth class parents about the Yearbook. When we have the next update from the Department on 3rd May, we will be able to plan for 6th class events like the musical and graduation. Sixth Class will be our priority in the process of any easing of closure restrictions for schools.

Poetry Book

There's great excitement as Giovanni has just sent us a draft of the GBMDS 2020 Poetry Anthology, with everyone's poem included. All the staff are proofing it and we should be able to distribute it this year! Huge thanks to Giovanni Giusti (R6) for all his work on this project and to Jenny for liaising with the staff on this. Watch this space.

Link in Videos from Eddie this week

Here are links to all the videos I sent this week in case you missed them. We are all learning so forgive my dodgy camera work. The main reason to do these is to connect with the children. On a positive note I am getting better and faster in the production process.

<https://vimeo.com/410969586/eee06f372f> - Mixed Mike JI and SI

<https://vimeo.com/410787132/18b642bf2a> R1 and R2 Assembly Story – World Earth Day D. Attenborough

<https://vimeo.com/410356803/d0d944d942> - General Assembly video

Possible online Quiz/Music Community event

Some parents approached me this week about doing an online quiz/music/community event for the school. If this is something you would like to be involved in, we can get all get together virtually to discuss. It would be nice to get together for something positive. Just email me at eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie and I will add you to the meeting.

Around the School

I’m genuinely bowled over by all the work and activities the Infant classes have been up to and love seeing all the pictures. Learning happens everywhere and all our infant children are showing us that.

Well done to Rang 1 on all the great reading they are doing on oxford reading owls. I can’t recommend this resource enough and Anne Marie is very complimentary about it too. This resource straddles the age and

level range and means that you can keep up reading every day and feel you are achieving something as I know learning at home can be daunting. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>

Rang 2 have been learning all about Roald Dahl's "The Twits" this week.

"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely".

Rang 3 and Rang 4 have had some great work on Flipgrid and Ben and Emma have made a guest appearance.

Rang 5 and Rang 6 have been making great contributions on Flipgrid and also sending Aisling and Sabina some great written work as well. 6th class started work on their yearbook this week. They are also going to be working on the *Same Families Different Love* project, which is run through the INTO. This is something 6th Class take part in every year.

Beir bua,

Eddie
Priomhóide