

# GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

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May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

A Chairde (Friends),

## Friday update

I hope everyone is having a good week. It's been lovely catching up with everyone over a variety of platforms this week. It has been great to see how everyone is managing during this time. I want to say how proud I am of all the children, who are doing a great job, as well as all the Moms, Dads, older brothers and sisters and guardians. It is important that we keep trying to do what works best for us in each of our home contexts. Our well-being is so important at this time. A big shoutout to everyone trying to work from home and those involved with frontline services from our school. We are all behind you and want to support you in every way that we can.

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 returning to the 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.**

## School Books

We are hoping next Wednesday and Thursday to give core textbooks to families who do not have access to printing facilities or would just like to have them. **Remember, these books are all available to download for free online at the moment.** You will get a link this evening, similar to the parent/teacher meeting slots, where you can allocate yourself a time to collect your child's books.

- 6th Class collection is on Wednesday 6th May between 9am and 11.30am
- 3rd Class collection is on Wednesday 6th May between 11.35am and 2.00pm
- 2nd Class Jenny collection is on Thursday 7th May between 9am and 11.25am
- 2nd Class Anita collection is on Thursday 7th May between 11.30am and 1.55pm
- 1st Class collection is on Thursday 7th May between 2.00pm and 4.30pm.

Other classes already have their books.

**Families with more than one child in the school need only use one slot to collect the books.**

When you come to collect your books, the school gate will be open and you can walk around to the hall where each class's set of books will be clearly labelled and you can collect your child's books with their name on them. 6<sup>th</sup> class can take any books, as they don't have names on them.

**Unless in exceptional circumstances, please come alone.** In order for this process to work, it is very important that parents come to the school, collect the books and leave promptly and that there is no interaction with others.

If there are any families cocooning, please contact me and we will do our best to get your books to you if you need them.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you've any questions or issues at [eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie)

I want to sincerely thank the SNAs for sorting all the books for us, and the teachers who have and continue to create amazing work for all the children during this school closure.

Please note that the SNAs will be working independently when they are preparing the books and will not all be in the building at the same time.

### ***New Childcare Provider***

Please remember to leave any questions for our new childcare provider Sherpa Kids at this link.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GHR3J8BLrk2tb7BLMEihEL2HrjqF9TJFrFKo9\\_ck7A5UNjFZRE04MUFMR0JFVkc3N1RQTzdZQ1VMNy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GHR3J8BLrk2tb7BLMEihEL2HrjqF9TJFrFKo9_ck7A5UNjFZRE04MUFMR0JFVkc3N1RQTzdZQ1VMNy4u)

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Class Yearbook***

Many thanks to all of sixth class who got back to Aisling with their yearbook contributions. It's been great to see them all coming in. If there is any parent who has a photo of our current sixth class, please send it to Aisling at [aisling.egan@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:aisling.egan@griffithbarracks.ie).

### ***Active Schools Week***

Many thanks to Cathal, who has been leading Active Schools Week across the school this week. It has been great to see all the active things everyone has been up to. It's inspired me to get out a little bit more.

### ***Board of Management Report***

The Board of Management met this week. We worked on our revised Enrolment Policy. The Admissions to School Act is coming into force and we are making sure that our school is compliant. There won't be that many changes to our policy as we had changed ours to be largely in sync with the Act three years ago. These changes mean that all schools will have very similar policies and the practice of having waiting lists in schools which are years long, will disappear. We are working with our Parents Council and Patron Executive on this and I will publish the updated Policy next week.

The Board also prepared a contract for our new childcare provider.

There was a vote of thanks to all the staff for the amazing work they have done throughout the closure.

The Board and our Patron will be represented at the Educate Together AGM which will take place online.

### ***Possible online Quiz/Music Community event***

Some parents approached me this week about doing an online quiz/music/community event for the school over the next while. 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](mailto:eddie.fox@griffithbarracks.ie) and I will add you to the meeting.

### ***Around the School***

Lovely work again from our Infant department this week. Junior and Senior Infants have sent out lovely newsletters weekly which give a great flavour of what everyone is up to and how they are learning at home. If Junior Infants would like to get into some reading, I would recommend the Oxford Reading Owl. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>. If you sign up as a parent, there is a huge library of ebooks for free and it gives you the questions etc to ask while reading with your child. Cathal and Cian will support you with this if you need it. It might be something you could do every day that doesn't require too much preparation, as it's all done for you. Learning happens in so many different ways and it has been great to see the active learning happening in all the infant classes. Well done everyone. Keep up the good work. There were lovely videos from all the teachers as well. "The Greedy Python" was read and some videos with great active ideas were sent out.



Well done first class on all your reading <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>.

They have also been learning about number bonds in maths, for example,

*Bond 63 to the next 100*

What bonds 3 to 10? Well done, 7 does. That brings us up to 70.

How many more 10s to get to 100? Count, 80, 90, 100. That's three more 10s.

Three 10s plus 7 is 37.

Rang 2 have been doing great work in Gaeilge working on "Caitheamh Aimsire" and have made some great upside-down houses from "The Twits". They have also been working on explanation writing. Well done for all the responses on Flipgrid. The great thing about it is that it is fully moderated, and nothing can be posted by the children before a teacher sees it.

Rang 3 and Rang 4 have had some great work on Flipgrid. They have been making Mandalas and have some great content up so that the children can engage, as well as work that can be done in the more traditional way.

Super work also from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class, who have done mini lessons on cyberbullying, LGBT issues and great work in Literacy, Numeracy and Gaeilge as well.

1 week and 6 days of shared learning across our Grids! That's how long it would take you to walk from Madrid, Spain to Paris, France!



Hope you all have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend. School is closed on Monday and Tuesday. The teachers have sent you work for Tuesday (if you want to do it) and will be in touch with you again on Wednesday.

Beir bua,

Eddie

Priomhóide