

Belgrove Senior Girls' School
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Scoil Eoin Baiste Cailíní Sinsear
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8ú Eanáir 2021

A thuismitheoirí / a chaomhnóirí,

Tá súil agam go raibh Nollaig deas agaibh, I hope you all had a nice Christmas.

By now you will be aware of the Minister's announcement that schools will reopen for remote learning for pupils from Monday 11th January until Monday 1st February 2021:

- *"In order to support the suppression of the COVID-19 virus in the community, Government has decided that schools will be closed to students for a period of three weeks and will reopen on 1 February.*
- *"The wellbeing of the whole school community is vital, and the department will continue to promote its wellbeing supports and guidance to schools and directly to parents and students over the coming weeks. Along with my colleagues in Government, I urge everyone to continue to follow the public health advice, to minimise contacts and to do our bit to reduce the spread of the virus, so we can return to in-person learning for all as soon as possible."* Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Josepha Madigan TD
- <https://cpsma.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=678cc95a0cae678dbaa86b177&id=d3de65b4a5&e=ce4aa13daa>

We will continue to use the online platform SEESAW. The work will be uploaded on a Sunday evening by your daughter's teacher. Further communication will issue to you from the class teacher.



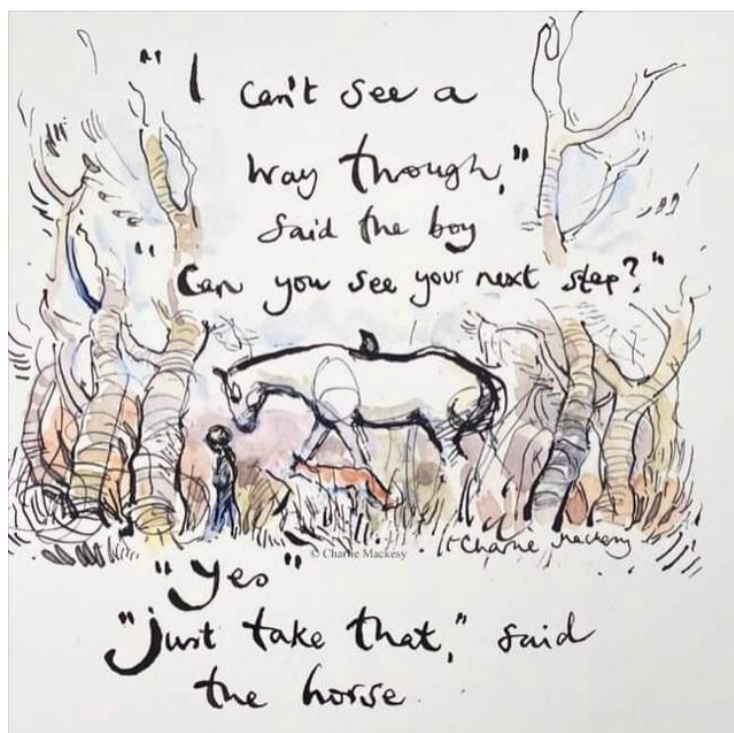
Circular 74/2020 which issued to schools in November 2020, gives further clarity regarding distance learning. We are in the processing of setting up a Zoom School Package with a view to linking in with the girls on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You will be given an assigned time by your class teacher. I hope to have the system set up for Thursday 14th January 2021. Please remember that this is new to us too and we as teachers and SNAs are getting familiar with new methods of communicating with you and the girls.

Teachers will be in school to bag your daughter's books next Monday and these will be available for collection on Tuesday 12th January. You can select an assigned collection slot via Aladdin Connect Parent Teacher Meeting Scheduler as per last year. This will issue on Monday morning.

What can I say to you? These are very unprecedented times for us all and for some of you I know, they must be exceptionally challenging. Unfortunately, I have no magic wand to wave to make it better. We have to go through it. An interesting, simple but deep and thoughtful read is the book *"The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse"* by Charlie Mackesy.

As in the previous COVID-19 school closure you can only do your best I know that parents, just like the teachers and SNAs are trying to work from home as well as mind children, run the house, worry about vulnerable family members, and circumstances may have changed with regard to your work. **Mind YOU.** If you would like to speak with me on a confidential basis, please contact the school.

Prioritise time with your family- enjoy games, nature walks, baking, telling stories, talent shows, reading together, talking to elderly family members about the "old" days. Get the girls involved in helping you at home – tell them Mrs. McCarthy knows how great they are at helping in school – I am asking them now to do the same at home for you.



Charlie Mackesy ✓ 19 December 2020 at

Please find attached

- Guidelines for Distance Learning in Belgrove Senior Girls' School
- Child friendly version of guidelines
- Letter to the girls from me

To each and every one of you in your homes – stay safe. Should you have any queries you can email the school.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Mrs. Anne McCarthy
Príomhoide