

January 8th, 2021.

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Secondly, apologies for not being in touch sooner. Every time I put pen to paper the goalposts shifted and the plans devised had to be re drawn given the unfolding developments at national level.

As it stands now, the government has reversed its initial decision to hold physical classes for some year groups. Therefore, from Monday January 11th all year groups will be taught online.

So what does this mean for you and your son / daughter? We have significant experience in the delivery of online classes as a result of our teaching and learning plans and investment in ICT infrastructure over the last number of years. Your son / daughter will have been familiar with the use of our online platform, MS Office Teams from their experience of it with their teachers in their classes.

We will continue their learning over the coming weeks using this technology. All students have been trained in its use. They will have also received their usernames and passwords from staff. If they have forgotten or lost these please contact deputyprincipal@cpr.ie who will re-set it for you.

Since the last Lockdown in March 2020, we have developed a remote teaching plan. In essence, all teachers will use the same platform, they will strictly follow the school timetable and will pace the content delivery for online learning accordingly.

To ensure everyone is working together can I ask that your son / daughter follow their timetable. They will have one-hour classes as per their timetable every day from January 11th next. These classes will contain content delivery, class work, and review / feedback elements. Their teachers will have created class groups on the platform and resources will be available there.

I understand there may be a demand in your household for devices, Internet connections etc. Please try to facilitate your child and us by ensuring they have access during their timetabled classes. I understand that some gaming consoles with Internet access can be used to access our platform, which may be of assistance to you.

Our Year Heads and teachers will be available to assist your son /daughter during this period of online learning. My hope is that this period will be short and that we will be back on campus very soon. In the meantime, I cannot stress enough the importance of student engagement with their teachers during this time. Their teachers are best placed to help them with any difficulties they have,

please encourage them to contact their teachers. In doing so, please remind them to adhere to school hours and appropriate use of the learning platform during the weeks ahead.

If you experience any difficulty, please contact your child's Year Head in the first instance. The school's student support team and pastoral care team, along with Guidance Counsellors and staff will be available to you and your son/daughter also.

Finally, we have not been informed yet if the school meals programme will continue during this period of school closure. In expectation of this, if you are already in receipt of the school meals scheme in the school (Lunch Pass recipients) and require to be supported with food parcels please contact reception where your details will be recorded and parcels distributed once sanction has been given.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Michael O' Connor.
Principal.