GUIDELINES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

The purpose of these guidelines is to set up parameters for teachers and parents in relation to supporting children's learning during long term school closures.
Parents, as the primary educator, will decide when and if their children will avail of the learning opportunities set out by the teachers. The purpose of the distance learning guidelines is to provide those opportunities for learning and not to add any further stress to parents, students or staff.

- We are mindful of various situations that families and staff are currently experiencing
- We are mindful that not all children have access to a PC / laptop / tablet
- We are mindful of this immensely stressful time for everyone
- Your unique family circumstances will determine how much work you can do at home
- When organising work teachers will respect the fact that not all families have access to devices or ample broadband, particularly when the rest of the family is also working from home
- The teachers will respect that not all parents can invest the same time into their child's learning at the moment if also trying to work from home and run a household
- We ask that parents keep in mind, the teachers are also finding themselves in this same situation in relation to trying to work from home

The teachers will be mindful of providing broad and varied work which helps children maintain their academic skills learned already and also practical application of skills such as research, Maths skills & social skills.

PLATFORM FOR SHARING WORK
Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh will use **SeeSaw** as a digital way of communicating work to parents during the school closure.

Teachers should:
1. Set up a class and add students as per the instructions shared

2. Add parents so that they can monitor their child's work
3. Share the parent link with parents through Aladdin or email
4. Maintain GDPR regulations so that parent email addresses are not shared with other parents

Parents should:

1. Download SeeSaw Classroom to a device at home through the app store or go to app.seesaw.me. It is also possible to connect to SeeSaw via a playstation or xBox
2. The teacher will add the child and send the parent a unique QR code for that particular class
3. The parent clicks 'I am a student' to enrol their child
4. The parent adds the student using the QR code given by the teacher
5. The app allows the teacher to upload work, the child to complete it and the parent to make any necessary comment or ask a question
6. The child / parent can upload any completed work back to the teacher for comments
7. Only the parent of the child can see their private comments / communication with the teacher
8. Once the child is enrolled in the virtual class, the parent will receive an email link in order to view their child's work, comments and feedback from the teacher. This is seperate from the child's account
9. Parents must be vigilant that students are using SeeSaw appropriately in the home

COMMUNICATION
Parents, teachers and students must be mindful that SeeSaw is for sharing school work. It is not a social media platform. Teachers will give clear instructions on the work to be completed. If feedback to students is needed, the teacher, during their working hours, will endeavour to reply as appropriate.

The teacher's work email address may also be used if necessary by parents. Each teacher can be contacted using (first initial)(full surname)@bsrac.ie. The list of teacher emails is on the school website under staff. We ask parents to be mindful of the limitations teachers may be under while working in the home. Direct emails should only be sent if absolutely necessary.

The school is mindful of the current situation which both teachers and parents could find themselves in regarding childcare. Normal working hours for teachers and parents may not be the usual hours. Please keep this in mind if it is absolutely necessary to contact the teacher or vice versa.

TYPE OF WORK
Teachers will draw on resources from their own resource bank, textbooks, websites and online content.
There is a wide selection of online resources available on our school website BSRAC.ie to assist parents and staff during the closure. It is updated regularly.
 As well as use of digital tools, teachers must be mindful of having a mix of the following:
- Self guided / independent learning
- Tasks that do not require digital technology
- Play based learning
- Life skills (baking, tidying etc)
- Exercise / Mindfulness

Please be advised that websites, apps and work being sent home, while very useful, are no substitute for teaching. They will consolidate learning but not teach a new concept.

CORRECTING WORK
Parents should check their child's work as usual and the teacher can provide some feedback when appropriate. It will not be possible to correct all work and provide feedback in the same way as in school. All parties should be mindful of the limitations here in relation to correcting primary pupils' work through distance learning.

LEARNING SUPPORT
The work that is being shared by its very nature is generic. It will not address the needs of each child. Please be mindful that all children learn at different rates and respond to different styles.The support teachers are working on additional resources for students with any academic needs or language needs to support parents in the home, as much as is possible.

CONCLUSION

We are conscious of the difficulties in which the school community now finds themselves. A structured routine where pupils and their parents share in the responsibility for their own development will be very important during this time.

The school will continue to work with your child to achieve the best educational outcome from this situation.