

RATHFARNHAM



EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Update

22nd January 2021

This Week in RETNS

This may be a short Weekly Update but that is because of the very high level of engagement taking place every day between school and home. Well done to children, staff and parents and guardians.

Shorter Zoom Sessions

From now on, Katie and Niamh will plan their zoom sessions for infant classes to last 20 minutes – shorter sessions, as most of us have learned, bring better concentration.

Assembly

We had a great turnout at assembly last week and I hope to see the same today. For those who have been working on their puffin pictures, you might like to have them ready to hold up at assembly. I particularly look forward to seeing pictures from 1st class, the Puffins. Have a look at our website [RETNS](#) to see puffins from every class in the school.

Value of the Month

Happiness is our value for the month of January. The attached poster was designed by Ella Jane in 2nd class. Everyone in 2nd class might like to have their happiness folders ready to show at assembly.

Supervision of Zoom Sessions

Please remember that there should be an adult present for all zoom sessions. For younger classes, certainly up to 1st class, the adult should be very close by as the children often need support during the sessions. Please remind your children of the protocol for zoom sessions. Buttons should only be pressed at the request of the teacher.

Partial Return to School Postponed

No doubt you are all aware that the proposed return to school for children with significant additional needs has been postponed and that talks continue between the Department of Education and the unions.

I appreciate that this decision will be very disappointing for some parents and that the current situation is particularly difficult for some children. When we have clarity on the plan for a partial return to school, we will be contacting parents of children who might benefit but it is important to stress that this will be aimed at a small group of children until such time as it is considered safe for us all to return to school.

I have attached an information leaflet from the NCSE (National Council for Special Education) with advice for schools and parents. [NCSE Supports for Schools and Parents](#)

In the meantime, please contact your child's class or support teacher or me if you have suggestions for how we could improve our current remote learning programme.

Online Yoga for children with additional needs and their parents

DLR Libraries in conjunction with yoga teacher Tanja Thomas have online sessions coming up:

- Yoga for children with autism on 30 Jan and 20 Feb, both from 11am-12pm
- Yoga and relaxation for parents of children with special needs on Sat 6 Feb, 11am-12pm

Another week of remote learning is approaching its end, thank you all for your continued support and cooperation.

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve