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Re.: Homework and Online Learning and Communication

01/10/20

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are glad to report that learning is in full swing in each classroom with children and teachers seeing the benefit of the month's work that has been completed. We delayed homework for September to give all households a chance to settle back and re-establish routines.

However, from next week, each class teacher will formally be setting homework again, which in general will take a familiar format of learning e.g. spellings/tables/learning poetry etc. reading comprehension and written homework (this may be set at the beginning of the week to be completed by a certain date). Books will be sent home as required. We ask that these are sanitised prior to coming back into school.

The new element of homework will be the online dimension using Google Classroom or Class Dojo for the junior classes. As you are aware, we have adopted Google Classroom as our online learning platform for pupils from 2nd to 6th class. Mrs Tierney, our ICT coordinator, has overseen teacher training in the area and now, all pupils will be expected to logon at home as required, to complete homework tasks. Children have all received their login details, including a username in the form of an email address e.g. 21.kevin@stpatrickboysns.com and a unique password. Note that this does not give them access to an email account. [Instructions for logging in to google classroom can be found here.](#) If you do not have a tablet or laptop device, download the google classroom app on your phone and your child will be able to access content from there.

In order to facilitate working on this platform, we have purchased ten new Chromebooks, adding to our suite of laptops. These are completely cloud based and are specifically designed for the use of google apps like Classroom, Docs, Drive etc. As time progresses you and your children will become more and more familiar with them.

We have been using Class Dojo as our primary mode of parent/teacher communication across the whole school and in general this has been extremely useful. If you are not logged in, please inform us immediately and we will send out registration details. Again, I would like to remind you that should there be any concerns that need to be addressed, messaging on Dojo is not appropriate. Please contact the teacher to arrange an appointment or a call back. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Anthony Liddane,

Principal