



Date: 29th March, 2020

Home Learning Pack for 5th & 6th Class

Hello everyone,

With the news that schools are going to be closed for a little while longer, we would like to continue to ensure that everyone in Newtown Junior School can continue with teaching and learning. We also want to maintain our community spirit and keep up the connection between home and school. This pack aims to let you know how I will be interacting with you and your child for the next little while.

As Ms McSweeney said in last week's blog, the most important thing for all of us now is to keep happy and healthy. Engage in the activities as much as you can but please don't feel under pressure. We know and understand that not every family will be in a position to participate in Home Learning activities. The activities given are a suggested menu, choose those that best suit you. As Ms McSweeney said, we will catch up when we get back to school.

Things you need to know:

<u>Where I will post activities and information for my class:</u>	Our school blog on www.njs.ie - look for the letter from 5th & 6th class and SeeSaw App.
<u>When I will post this information:</u>	On the blog: a letter to my class will be posted on the blog each Sunday evening; and SeeSaw App: new activities will be posted each Sunday evening and Wednesday evening.
<u>How I will interact with my pupils:</u>	I can be contacted via the school email – office@njs.ie . Please allow up to two school days for a reply. I will access SeeSaw at least once each school day, and will be available between 10am and 11 am and will provide some feedback to children. See below for information on how I will assess work.

NEWTOWN JUNIOR SCHOOL

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<p>What <u>resources</u> will be needed by children:</p>	<p>Generally, children will need the books they brought home which are: Busy at Maths, Racing Ahead, Warhorse, copybook, writing materials, access to the internet via PC/laptop/tablet/phone and internet access. Children may also research topics when needed in other school books that they may have at home.</p> <p>For some activities, they may need other specific materials – these will be specified in the activity.</p>
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Suggested Timetable for your child(ren)'s day

In our blog post on 19th March, 2020 we set out a general timetable to act as a **guide** for you. Here is a summary. Remember, it is a guide only. It might suit some households to have free mornings and do school-based activities in the afternoon. Do what suits your household.

1.	<p>Exercise: Before any home learning gets done, it's a good idea to get in some exercise. There are plenty of options for this depending on family circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go for a walk • Do some of the activities from the PE Challenges posted on 19th March • Follow PE with Joe - this is a thirty minute session Monday to Friday at 9am with Joe Wicks on his You Tube Channel, "The Body Coach TV"
2.	<p style="text-align: center;">Core Subjects:</p> <p>Try some Irish, Maths and English with short breaks in between subjects including for movement and/or snacks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Time spent on these activities depends on each child.</p>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;">Project Work: Try some Art, Music, Science, History or Geography</p>
4.	<p>School On TV: Every day at 11am, RTE2 are showing School on TV. While we don't know what will be covered, it's worth a look or watching it on RTE Player</p>
5.	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Time.</p>
6.	<p>Free Time: School work should be completed by now. Children, of course, can continue with projects, read a book of choice, have some downtime or choose and activity from the Activity Grid on our blog or any other activity of choice</p>

Assessing Work

I would love to see photographs of the children's work and projects. I will offer praise and encouraging feedback for all efforts.

I will be asking families for help in some assessments by asking you to check if your child(ren)'s answers are correct, and that appropriate levels of effort are shown for the work being completed at home. I will provide feedback where appropriate.

Tech Support

Distance Learning is new to us all and we are all learning. There are a few things that can go wrong and please don't hesitate to ask for help. The main things at the beginning will be accessing SeeSaw. If issues arise, please send a quick email to office@njs.ie for support and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes to everyone and hope that you all stay safe and well.

Mr. Busher

Outline of Activities for Week beginning March 30th

Gaeilge

Complete Gaeilge activities as outlined on Seesaw.

5th & 6th class have been working on irregular Irish verbs for past, present and future tenses. They should continue to work on these by taking one verb per week as we do in school. I would suggest past tense on the first day, present tense on 2nd day and future tense on 3rd day in line with how they completed this as homework.

English

For this week, in addition to the work on Seesaw, the children can use their text book Racing Ahead and go back to page **184** and read the factual account of **Canine Evolution**. I would suggest that they then work through the activities based on this text as we do in school. Spread the activities across the week as in practice in school.

I will add some English activities on Seesaw also. These activities may be more grammar and vocabulary based and it may prove helpful to your child if you work through these with them and discuss any new vocabulary and how it is used.

Maths

Well done to all the children on completing the Maths tasks that I have uploaded to Seesaw in the last 2 weeks.

This week, the focus will be on the topic of Time. I will add Maths based activities on Time to the Seesaw app and in addition I recommend using the examples in the text book Busy at Maths to help with any difficulties that the children may experience on activities. The children can work through the questions in their books throughout the week as a support to the online activities

We will be looking at 24 hour clock, am & pm, adding and subtracting time, timetables (tv schedules are great for problem solving here). 6th class will also look at Time, Speed and Distance.

SESE

History - This week I am asking the children to research the history of Education in Ireland, given that we are into new territory in educating. The main history activity this week will be a project on this topic and there will be key terms and phrases I will be looking for. These will appear on the instructions on Seesaw.

Geography - Sticking with the theme of Ireland I would like the children to create a mini fact sheet on an Irish county of their choice. If possible, it would be great to have 10 facts for the county.

Science - Again sticking with Ireland I will ask the children to conduct some research on some birds of Ireland. Instructions and direction will again be given on Seesaw.