24th March, 2020

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s)

We hope you are all keeping well and staying safe at this time of COVID-19 school closure. The HFSS Special Education Department and our school management are very aware that remote learning can be challenging for many of our students. We are encouraging students, where feasible, to try and follow their regular daily timetable from home to give some structure and normality to their day.

Subject teachers are assigning class work and homework online and we are aware that working remotely can be very challenging and more time consuming than any of us ever expected. **We do not want any of our students overwhelmed by the volume of this online learning and our main priority is that each student engages every day at her own appropriate level with online learning.**

The degree of appropriate engagement will be different for individual students and particularly students with additional educational needs. Therefore, we are encouraging parents to regularly check in with the workload assigned online for your daughter’s class and in line with our normal school practice to differentiate/reduce that work to a level that is manageable.

One tip that we suggest is to actually write the assigned work into your daughter’s journal each day, take note the submission date for the work and then review what is feasible and achievable for your daughter to engage with. Subject teachers are also aware of this differentiation of workload.

To enable students to continue their progress and boost motivation in following the school timetable, the SEN teachers have suggested that some students may wish to engage with the online supports, in addition to, their classwork or instead of, the work assigned online. A list of some useful websites is attached with this letter.

In addition, NCSE (National Council for Special Education) offices remain open and its staff remain available to provide support to parents and schools in the following ways:

For Parents Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) can be contacted for help and support in the usual way. To find out the name of the SENO and their contact details in your area please click here: https://ncse.ie/regional-services-contact-list

Queries relating to services such as Assistive Technology and Transport may also be directed to your local SENO. Visiting Teachers continue to provide support to parents, guardians, teachers and other professionals involved with children and young people who are blind/visually impaired or deaf/hard of hearing.

While NCSE staff are continuing to provide these vital supports please be aware that the mode of delivery will in many cases need to change in order that NCSE complies with central government and HSE guidelines. The NCSE is currently preparing online resources for children with Special Educational Needs who are at home as a result of the schools’ closure and these will be made available on the NCSE website in the coming days www.ncse.ie

Thank you for your cooperation in these strange times. Please remember that teachers are available for guidance and support during this time.

The senior management team, Ms Allen, Ms Kissane and Ms Aherne send weekly emails directly to all of our students with advice and updates. The Wellbeing Coordinator also sends weekly advice and ideas. We are all learning together how to engage in remote school and we want our students to continue to enjoy their learning.

However, the most important message that we are communicating to all of our students is that we know that they will work to their best of their abilities with remote school. It is the quality of learning that is important and all of our students learn at a different pace, in many different ways. This key purpose of this letter is to reassure our students with SEN and their families that we will continue to work to support you.

Do not hesitate to contact Ms. Keenan our SEN coordinator mkeenan@holyfamily.ie if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

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Special Education Team HFSS

**Range of Websites which students may find useful**

 **Maths:** themathstutor.ie is a maths website with every topic covered via video lesson with little quizzes at the end.

Mangahigh is great to practice maths through games. Students have used it in school already.

**English and Languages:**  **Twinkl**is generally a primary school online resource which is good for the basics to languages such as verbs in Irish, English, Maths etc. [**www.twinkl.ie/offer**](http://links.support.twinkl.co.uk/mps2/c/GQE/8PUmAA/t.2zz/Xw1O2VUCSnGYwtJkzJTVKw/h5/EbC1nPf9k9D5DT3zk18lxGUKuamMA95vG5cEo0LJesWAZop1auaKe-2BoOOqFuBqOKcT6FFYWCkIiB2KV6nR2yVszkZG-2BpR-2FFlY0nA-2BGQO1flSCu56rmW3KDYaoYTL8j2189IAPCLwFAmUDZYigOvUcFmIaLguZ1X7hUREkTgON0E-3D/Zxe_)**and enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS**

**Immersive Reader: a tool to help with reading and writing**

Immersive Reader <https://www.onenote.com/learningtools> is a free learning tool from Microsoft.  It allows text to be read aloud, can provide a coloured background colour and can identify different grammar elements such as verbs or nouns use.

**Seeing AI/EnvisionAI (An app which reads text aloud)**

**Seeing Al** <https://itunes.apple.com/ie/app/seeing-ai/id999062298?mt=8>

This is a short video to show you what it can do: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN_UfF-RJlM>.

Android phone/tablet the equivalent app is **Envision AI** from Google play Store <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.letsenvision.envisionai&hl=en_IE>

**Litcharts  [www.litcharts.com](http://www.litcharts.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

Litcharts, from the creators of Spark notes, have a  library of 1,156 literature guides, 130 [poetry guides](https://www.litcharts.com/poetry), 136 [literary devices and terms](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms), and [modern English translations](https://www.litcharts.com/shakescleare/shakespeare-translations) of every Shakespeare play.

**World book** have given free access to over 3000 books. Link below:

<https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html?usertoken=Mjk5MzQ6MTpJUjA5MjAxNjoyOmNsaWVudDE2OTc6MTY5NzoyMjE2Mjg4OjE6MTU4NDM4MDExMzA2Mjp1cw==>

[www.readworks.or](https://www.readworks.org/)g is good for reading comprehension.

**Howjsay** is a free online talking dictionary of English pronunciation & useful for new words in subjects such as Biology.  It also provides definitions and translates words

[www.elsp.ie](http://www.elsp.ie). gives key vocabulary and workbook activities for every topic on every subject at Junior and Senior Cycle.

www.quizlet.com is brilliant for key word revision of all subjects. The students can create their own flashcards or use existing ones. Lots of games there to develop memory skills too.

bbc dancemat is good to practice typing.

**Science Resources**

[www.theconicalflask.ie](http://www.theconicalflask.ie/).    This site offers video lessons, notes and model questions and solutions in the subjects of Agricultural Science, JC science, Biology and Chemistry.

<https://sciencequiznet.weebly.com/>   quizzes for revision in JC Science, Physics and Chemistry

[www.studyclix](http://www.studyclix/)  is great for exam years. There is also videos and presentations on most topics.