Dear Children of St. Oliver Plunkett PS,

This is probably one of the most difficult letters that we have ever had to write. As I sit in the school office today, the classrooms and the hall is quiet. Each morning when I greet you in the hall, I always enjoy hearing about what has been going in your lives and this is the first day that I haven’t been told that Beragh Red Knights are better than Eglish!! Little did we know that our St. Patrick’s Day Concert would be the last time we would see you for what could be a number of weeks.

Your parents have probably been telling you about the nasty germ that is going about making people sick. This little germ is so bad that it means all schools have had to close. Because of this germ we now have to remember that, for a short period of time, things are going to change. We need to listen to our parents, we might not be able to have our friends over or do all the fun things we normally did. We have to make all these changes to keep us, our families and our friends safe. Remember to be extra careful and make sure to wash your hands, wash your hands and wash your hands again.

Just because school is closed, we do not stop learning. All the teachers have been busy planning and getting learning packs together with activities to do. They also include tips to help you remember all the things you have learned and to help you to learn even more!

Many of you will have been working with online programmes such as Accelerated Reader and Study Ladder. The teachers are also posting different activities on to the school website each week that you can download. Working like this will be different for all of us and it is not the same as being at school. I am going to send out a different challenge each week that we can try at home. This week I want you to send me a reply to this letter and tell me what you have been getting up to at home. There are lots of different ways of doing that and I want you to have fun in trying them all out. For example, you could write me a letter on paper, you could send me an email, you could record a blog, you could send me pictures of your different activities in a collage or you could record your activities using a video. Your parents can then post the work to me or they can email them and I will put them on the school website and our social media pages. In this difficult time, we will become a “virtual” St. Oliver Plunkett’s PS, but we will continue to share in your achievements and successes. We want to hear about all the great things you are doing.

Big brothers and sisters, we need you to help mums and dads by looking after little brothers and sisters, helping them with their school work, reading to them and making sure they are safe. We need you all to listen to your mums and dads and to do as you are asked, even if it seems strange or difficult.

Now we turn to our P7s. P7 you are our role models in our school, our House Captains, our digital leaders, our playground leaders, our student council members. So we look to you to lead by example in your home and neighbourhood. Confirmation and Gortatole have been postponed and there may not be an end of year show etc. This is not what we had planned for you. We want you to know how important each and every one of you are to us and, that you are and always will be an important part of St. Oliver Plunkett PS.

All the staff are so sad at how things have turned out. Just remembers girls and boys that we are proud of you, miss you and look forward to seeing you again, hopefully very soon.

Best wishes,

Mr Martin

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