



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr. M Ryan BA (Hons) NPQH

Head of School: Mr. J Conwell BA (Hons) NPQH



23rd January 2019

Disconnect to Reconnect Week

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Tuesday 5th February it is annual Internet Safety Day. On this day, as a school, we will be working with your children to increase their understanding in this area. We will be helping them to equip themselves, so they are safe when they use the internet.

But we would like to go a lot further. As a staff, and with the children, we have begun to question how modern technology can be helpful in so many ways, but how it can also be harmful for children, for families and harmful to people as individuals. How many times do we see people walking along streets with their faces glued into their phones simply ignoring the world around them? Do we want families talking to each other, or checking their phones for messages and going online to engage with the virtual world? As a Catholic community, we need to promote the importance of family and belonging and the need to reconnect with one another.

We are going to use this week to Disconnect to Reconnect: to disconnect from unnecessary use of phones and technology and to reconnect by talking and engaging with the world in a meaningful way. We are simply going to focus on engaging with the people and the world around us by putting our phones and devices away. We would like all parents to support us with this hugely important initiative.

For our children and families, we want them to:

- Share a book and a story at bedtime and not spend time with an electronic device
- Talk about what has happened at school together
- Share family meals without any phones or tablets present
- Watch something on TV together as a family and not have devices and phones out
- Greet each other when they are collected from school without anyone looking at their phone, so they can ask about the school day
- Go home and complete their homework and spend time drawing, baking, playing and making things. Class teachers may set specific tasks which match current topics.

During our **Disconnect to Reconnect week (4th-8th February)** we will not be sending out any tweets. We would like children to tell their parents what they have been doing and for parents to ask their teachers about their children and their learning when collecting children from the playground. As a staff we will be considering how much time we spend with modern technology at home and at schools and try to reduce that time.

PTO



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As parents we would ask you to ask your children to 'survive' for a week without a phone or tablet. We would also ask you to limit your time and lead by example.

We are simply trying to disconnect our children from an electronic world and engage more with the real one! We don't want our children playing football on an Xbox when they could kick a real football. We don't want children in chat rooms or in chat groups, when they could have a friend round for tea and talk to them properly.

In school, each class will be planning teaching and learning so the children can go home and talk about their learning and to continue it further. We will be teaching the children to play traditional playground games. We simply ask for your support. We simply want the children to grow up with healthy minds and bodies. It is hard to break habits, but where there is a will there is a way.

Please help us by supporting our Disconnect to Reconnect week in school beginning on Monday 4th January. Let's get our children to explore the real world, not the virtual one...

Yours

Mr. Ryan

Mr. Conwell