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This is the latest advice for schools

### Statement from the Department of Education

The Department of Education and Skills is liaising closely with the Department of Health on a continuing basis.

Any decision to close schools will be made on public health advice. There is no such advice at this point. It is essential that any decisions regarding responses to Covid-19 are proportionate, necessary and based on specific public health advice. No other response is appropriate.

Public health professionals will contact schools if there is any action to be taken. Schools should not take unilateral action.

Schools, pre-schools and higher education settings have been provided with advice and guidance in respect of Covid-19. There is up to date guidance for schools and parents on [education.ie/covid19](https://www.education.ie/covid19).

The Department is deeply conscious of the significance of decisions concerning school closures, and the potential impact any such decisions would have on parents, families and the wider community.

This is an evolving situation and the health advice is being updated on a daily basis. The Department of Education and Skills and Department of Health will continue to work closely together on this issue.

## Newsletter March 2

The Department of Education is working very closely with the Department of Health. Please check the website [education.ie/covid19](http://education.ie/covid19) if you require more up to date information and advice. If there are any further developments you will be notified immediately.

In the event that schools are instructed to close, here is a list of educational websites/apps suitable for use at home. Reading to your children every day would be a great help to them.

### Literacy, Numeracy & Creative Apps for Children

#### Junior and Senior Infants

##### Literacy Apps

Starfall ABCs  
Starfall Learn to Read  
ABC Alphabet  
Pocket Phonics  
ChatterKid

##### Numeracy Apps

Maths Age 3-5 for Schools  
Counting numbers 1-10  
Friendly shapes

#### First Class

##### Literacy Apps

Starfall Fun to Read  
Starfall I'm Reading  
A+ Spelling Test  
Toontastic  
DKFindOut  
Sight Words 2

##### Numeracy Apps

Match Stretch  
Bubble Maths  
Pattern Shapes  
Pieces Basic  
Math Fight  
ScratchJr

##### Numeracy Apps

NumberFrames  
Playgrounds  
Lexico Cognition  
Jungle Time  
Jungle Coins  
Tell the Time

##### Creative Apps

Book Creator

Spark Video

GarageBand

##### Suitable websites

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/hehh1/index.html?launch=true> (handwashing challenge)  
<http://dltk-kids.com> (art ideas)  
<http://www.starfall.com/h/> (lovely reading, rhymes and phonics)  
<http://www.mystroybook.com> (click on the menu/new storybook. Children can then create book)  
<http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/uk> (lots of fun facts)  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids> (lots of fun facts)  
<http://www.gonoodle.com> (activities and movement for all children)  
<https://www.twinkl.ie/offer> Enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS to get a month's free access