

FAMILY NOTE NO. 13 (10th Nov. 2017)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please note the following:

Re. Notification of Electricity Supply Interruption to Scoil Barra:

We have been advised by **ESB Networks** that the supply of electricity to the school will be interrupted on Tuesday next, 14th Nov. from 5.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. This matter has been considered with staff members, with the Board of Management (BOM), with other local school principals, and with other principals of schools who have had experience of such power interruptions in the past.

The BOM has decided that the school should remain open on Tuesday next, and this proposal is supported by staff members within the school.

To facilitate the school staying open, it is proposed to put in place the following measures:

- a) The **school heating system** will be 'left on' overnight on Monday night to Tuesday morning, thus building up a good reservoir of heat throughout the school, which should then be generally retained within the school building thanks to the good quality 'insulation upgrade' completed throughout the school in 2010. External doors will also be kept closed to the greatest extent possible throughout the school day to retain the heat within the school.
- b) Post-Halloween break, we have the benefit of the **greater amount of 'morning light'** thanks to the '*changing hour of the clock*' so there should be sufficient natural light throughout the school to allow for school business to continue as normal.
- c) **Our Fire Alarm** system has a battery 'back-up' supply available in the event of power outages, so that should not be a problem for us from a Health and Safety point of view.
- d) **Teachers** may decide to take pupils on **walks/outdoor activities** etc. etc. to compensate if deemed necessary for any lack of light, heat, etc.
- e) This situation will present good opportunities for high quality **History Lessons** on such topics as: '*Schools Long Ago*'; '*Schools before the availability of electricity*'; '*Schools without Interactive Whiteboards*!', '*Schools in my grandparents times*'; '*The Story of Electricity*', etc. etc. *Carpe diem!*
- f) **Parents/guardians** may wish to consider allowing their child to wear extra clothing on the day, and they may also like to bring in a battery-powered torch to add a sense of magic/adventure to proceedings on the day!

It is worth noting that the power outage will not interfere with the supply of water to the school, so toilets, sinks, etc. will be operational as normal.

It is also worth noting that the long-term weather forecast for next Tuesday is for a relatively mild day with temperatures of 11 degrees Celsius approx., so 'Fingers crossed' that it is a relatively bright day at least!

Donal O' Sullivan, Principal.