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Dear Students, Staff and Families of Greater Sydney Edmund Rice Schools,

How are you all doing? We are thinking of you!

We hope you know that you are in our prayers here in Blarney Street, Cork City, Ireland.

Our school has been through lockdowns and remote learning and we know how challenging it is for you right now.

For us, it was inspiring to hear how Edmund Rice school communities across India, Africa, America, Australia and Europe united together and showed care and compassion for their students and families.

One of the strengths of Edmund Rice Education is this sense of community. There is an ancient Irish proverb - 'Ní neart go cur le chéile' - Unity is strength.

This unity and community spirit will help us all across the world to face these challenges with imagination, creativity and flexibility.

Hopefully the following staff messages will give you another lift.

Warm regards,
Billy Lynch (Principal)

Thank you to everyone for doing what they can to get our community through this crisis. We'll all have down days and days when we just want to escape reality. Be open with those around you. If you need a break, tell them. If you need support, don't be afraid to ask. Then, on the days when you're feeling stronger, look to see who you can support in return. This too shall pass. (Ms O Donovan)

Stay in touch! (Ms Desmond)

Hope is a good thing, perhaps the best of things, and no good thing ever dies- Andy Dufresne, Shawshank Redemption (Mr Kennedy)

You're not alone, everyone is finding the lockdown difficult at times. Read a book/Listen to music/Play a game you love or chat to someone at home or over the phone. This too shall pass. (Mr Russell)

Every little thing - is going to be alright! (Mr Burke)

When it was announced that schools were not opening it made me sad for many reasons. The students don't get to enjoy the days in school they deserve, we don't all get to be together in person to make learning fun, we don't get to sit around the staff room table and have a cuppa and a laugh together and the students don't get to share their learning with all their pals. I thought about all the things that don't seem fair right now but I also thought of all the ways we are making a difference by staying at home.....we are literally saving lives... you, me and all of us are heroes!! I know school right now is different, but school has not stopped. Educators are doing everything in our power to provide our students with the best education we can during these strange times. I want to thank all of the parents for being our tag team partners during this time, ye are doing an amazing job! (Ms Condon)