

To my lovely class,

What a rollercoaster of a year it has been!

I want to begin by thanking you all. You have been such a wonderful class and I have learnt so much from each and every one of you this year. In fact, some of you have been teaching me for two years!

Sixth Class is never an easy year and the academic year 2019/2020 has been like no other. These unprecedented times have made demands of us that we never expected. You have missed your final months with your friends and with your teacher. So many milestones that are special to Sixth Class have either been postponed or replaced. You have engaged with distance learning which challenged not only your ICT skills, but also your motivation and determination to succeed. Please know this- you have impressed me every step of the way!

The resilience you have shown over the past few months will stand to you for the rest of your lives. A lesson that we explored together many weeks ago has come to my mind many times throughout the recent school closure. While discussing the topic of 'World War 2', I recall our brainstorming on what the 'big world event' of your childhood would be. Some of you, at the time, accurately predicted 'Coronavirus' and we carried on, as we always did, with our safe, happy learning.

Looking back on our time together, it is saddening to think how blissfully unaware we were of what was to come. Had I known that our last day together would be our last day together, I certainly would have had more to say to you all! Instead, I'll say it now.

I want you to know how inspiring you have been. You have been exactly what I asked of you at the beginning of the year; respectful, responsible role-models. I have watched you all grow and mature throughout the year, wearing your Sixth Class title as a badge of honour and demonstrating to the entire school community what it means to have 'arrived' at the end of a successful journey through your Primary Education years.

The kindness and humility you possess has been evident every day. I am certain that your Senior Infant Reading Buddies have learned a great deal simply by being in your presence. The care and encouragement that you showed these girls fills me with hope for the future in so many ways. Never lose this kindness.

For me, this year has been a year filled with laughter. From every-day, incidental jokes to extravagant performances for our class movie, your sense of humour and wit shone through and made the school clock tick that little bit faster!

I have asked a great deal of you all, always wanting each and every one of you to be the best that she could be. We set high standards and high expectations for ourselves and you reached them on every occasion. This success and ability to achieve is something that I hope you will carry with you to Secondary School and beyond.

Workload will increase and tests will get tougher, but I want you to remember something: You are enough. Your best is all that I have ever asked of you and I hope that it is all that you will ever ask of yourself. Don't push yourself to become a perceived ideal, focus instead on the amazing person that you already are. Don't become so lost searching for *what* is important that you forget *who* is important. Hold your loved ones close to your heart and, even when you are standing on your own two feet and living a life better than you could have imagined, never let them go. When you are challenged or rejected, always remember how special and unique you are. What is for you, won't pass you. You are enough.

Even though you are moving on to different schools and different futures, I look forward to the day that we can all be together again.

I will remember our class for so many reasons, all of which are positive.

You have been kind, brave, caring, strong, amazing and incredible.

Stay safe, be kind to one another and in years to come, if you pass me on the street- please stop to say hello!

I wish you every best wish for your future.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Sarah Fitzgerald.

6th Class Teacher & Deputy Principal