

29th April, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Wellbeing Celebration Day: A reminder that tomorrow, Friday, 30th April, is wellbeing celebration day in St. Mary's NS. Lots of fun activities are planned. Children are invited to wear bright, colourful clothes and families are asked to contribute €2. All funds raised will be donated to Pieta House. Contributions can be made via Aladdin Connect from next Monday/ by bringing €2 to school on Friday, 30th April. We look forward to a great day!

Permission- School Facebook/Instagram Account: Many thanks to all families who have accessed the permissions tab on Aladdin Connect and inputted their response to the request to share photos and videos on school social media accounts. If you have not accessed the permissions page on Aladdin Connect you are asked to do so before Monday, 10th May.

Health & Safety: As I'm sure we have all heard, a number of schools in East Cork have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 among their school populations in the last number of weeks. There is no denying that with the rollout of vaccinations and the easing of restrictions the future looks brighter with better days ahead. However, we are not there yet. All members of our school community are reminded to continue to rigidly adhere to all necessary safety measures in place at this time.

The following are a few essential health and safety reminders that all families are asked to note:

- **Illness:** If your child or anyone in your household displays any symptoms of Covid-19 do not send them to school. Always err on the side of caution. **If in doubt, keep your child at home until they are better.**
- **Face Masks:** All parents/guardians are asked to wear a face mask at drop-off and collection times.
- **Congregating:** There must be strictly no congregating of parents/guardians at drop-off or collection times. A 2m social distance must be maintained at drop-off and collection times. Children should not congregate before or after school.
- **Communication:** Under no circumstance is a parent/guardian permitted to approach a member of staff. A quick word/chat with a teacher/staff member at the start or end of the school day cannot be facilitated. Staff are contactable by email or through the office phone only.
- **Staggered entry:** Junior and Senior Infants, 4th Class, 6th Class and Ms. Halley's 5th Class should not arrive to school prior to 8.55am. Their school day does not commence until 9.05am. Parents waiting for the 9.05am start time may not congregate at the school gate. We understand that adherence to these times is somewhat more challenging for parents of pupils with two different arrival times. Therefore, to accommodate these parents, siblings with differing arrival times may aim for the later arrival time of 8.55am each morning thereby allowing for one drop off by parents/guardians each morning.

School Closure: As per the school calendar distributed to all parents in June 2020, the school will be closed for the week beginning 3rd May and will re-open on 10th May. Friday, 30th April will be a full school day.

Wishing everyone a good week.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan

