



Thursday, 3rd June, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

June is always a very busy month in schools and this year is no different. The following are a few points to note in relation to the weeks ahead.

Standardised Tests: These are now complete for this school year. I have attached an information leaflet here prepared by the NCCA which aims to support parents in understanding your child's standardised test score in the context of her end-of-year report for 2020/2021.

Book Rental: 2nd- 5th Class are asked to pay the book rental fee of €25 before 18th June. This can now be paid via Aladdin Connect or in cash. Books for next year will be distributed to children for whom full payment has been received on 25th June. Book Rental for Junior Infants- 1st Class will be paid through the Section B payment.

School Tours: Traditional school tours cannot happen this school year. However, all classes will undertake a local outing. Class teachers will inform parents of the relevant details in due course.

Homework: Written homework will cease after the June bank holiday weekend. All homework will cease on Friday, 18th June.

Active Week is planned for the week commencing Mon. 21st June. Lots of fun, physical activities planned for this week. Children may wear their school tracksuit everyday of Active week. Shorts may be worn if the weather is fine.

6th Class Graduation: Much work is currently going on behind the scenes to prepare for the 6th class graduation. We are committed to ensuring the 6th Class graduation is as special as possible. The following are some points to note with regard to the 6th Class graduation.

- 6th Class will finish on Tuesday, 29th June.
- A graduation ceremony will be held on this date to mark 6th classes' time in primary school and to wish them well in the future.
- 6th class pupils are asked to wear their full school uniform on Tuesday, 29th June.
- The children will receive a certificate, a school pen and a yearbook on graduation day. The pens are being funded by the Board of Management and the Yearbooks by the Parents' Association. I thank them both stakeholders for their generosity.
- A 6th Class video will be created and shared on the school website and on school social media platforms.
- 6th Class may wear their 6th Class hoodies from 14th June.
- There are a number of surprises planned for 6th class both in the lead up to graduation day and on the day itself. We look forward to 6th Class experiencing these surprises.

Unfortunately, due to necessary Covid-19 response measures, we will not be in a position to facilitate the attendance of parents or other family members at the school on or after graduation day. Parents will not be permitted to take photos of pupils in the school/on school grounds on/after graduation day. Photos and videos of graduation day and other surprise activities will be uploaded to the school website and social media platforms for parents to view. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Classes for 2021/2022: The number of mainstream classes a school has each year is decided by the Department of Education and is based on pupil enrolment numbers on the 30th September of the previous year. Based on this, next year our school will have 12 mainstream classes. This is a reduction of one class from our current allocation. This



reduction will naturally result in a necessary reconfiguration of some classes. Our division of classes policy will be followed and as per this policy

'Where a new class configuration needs to be formed, children from Senior Infants to 5th class will be asked to name three friends and an effort will be made to facilitate the placement of a named friend with each child in the new class formation'.

Parents will be notified on 17th June about the division of classes. No parent will receive special consideration outside the schools stated procedures otherwise all parents would be entitled to the same consideration leaving the task of dividing a group impossible. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

End of Year Reports will be sent to all families via Aladdin Connect on Wednesday, 16th June.

Class allocations and booklists will be sent to all families via Aladdin Connect on Thursday, 17th June.

Summer Programme: The Department of Education has issued guidance in relation to a new optional school based summer programme for mainstream primary schools. This programme aims to support pupils to re-engage with education following school closures, build pupil's confidence, increase pupil's motivation and promote wellbeing. St. Mary's intends running the school based programme for the first time this year. The programme will run for two weeks in July. There are strict eligibility criteria for attendance at the summer programme. Parents of all eligible pupils have received a correspondence from the school. We look forward to engaging with pupils and parents taking part in the summer programme.

It has been an exceptional school year that has presented many challenges. Sincere thanks to all our families for your constant and continued co-operation and support. It is most appreciated.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan