



# SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

*Eco-School Green Flag Award 2017*

Principal: Mr P Gilchrist

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25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of our Schooling Staff, to place on record our thanks and appreciation to everyone for the on-going support during these challenging times. It has certainly been a very different year in the life of St Mary's. We know that Home learning is not ideal and it has not always been an easy time for all maintaining and facilitating that learning. When our pupils return to school in September we will do all we can to help, support and ensure that all of our pupils are at the level they need to be.

I have great pleasure in enclosing your child's end of year report, albeit a different report as there is no end of year assessment and your child has not been in school since March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We can only comment on achievements and observations up to that period of time. I would ask you to spend some time talking to your child to congratulate them on their achievements and to reinforce the positives. We, as a schooling community, are rightfully very proud of all of our pupils and I know you will be equally as proud of your child/children.

As we come to close this "unique" academic year, thoughts inevitably turn to the new school term and what a return to school will look like in August/ September 2020. The Department of Education issued their "New School Day" guidance which has put in place detailed measures and guidance which will enable a safe re-opening of schools. This guidance is based upon a situation as things currently stand in June 2020 and it must be stressed that the situation now may not be the same situation in August/ September 2020.

It is our preferred intention, and indeed hope, to be able to welcome all of our pupils back into school on a full-time basis for the new school year. This may be achievable under the current guidance but is dependent on a number of key factors. These are being considered very carefully and while I want to be in a position to confirm arrangements for welcoming all back to school in September but I hope you can appreciate that, I cannot, at this stage, give that firm

assurance. However, I will be writing out to you all again, by the week of 17<sup>th</sup> August, to inform you of the arrangements to welcome your child back to our school.

As it currently stands, Primary 7 pupils are planned to return to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August with P2-6 pupils scheduled to begin a phased return during the rest of that week. Normally at this time I would also publish our Holiday schedule for 2020/21. All of this information will be confirmed in my updated letter in August 2020.

When we do return the Teaching Staff arrangements for then will be;

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| ➤ Primary 1 | Mrs Breen   |
| ➤ Primary 2 | Mrs Dorrian   |
| ➤ Primary 3 | Mrs Gibson  |
| ➤ Primary 4 | Mrs O'Neill   |
| ➤ Primary 5 | Mrs Mullan (Tues/Wed/Thurs)<br>Mr Gilchrist (Mon & Fri) |
| ➤ Primary 6 | Miss Green  |
| ➤ Primary 7 | Mr Denvir   |

As you will be aware we agreed to change our school uniform and school badge for September 2020. This is still the intention, however, it is not compulsory for this incoming year as pupils can still wear their green coloured jumpers, should they still fit. There will be no new green jumpers for sale. New maroon coloured school jumpers will be on sale in August 2020 from the school, further confirmation details on when, where and how to make these purchases will be sent out in my letter of the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> August. We hope to keep the price similar to previous years. Trousers will again be grey with a white polo shirt and black shoes. A uniform grant is available, to those who are eligible but the information on the EA web-site has not yet been updated. Once I have confirmation on eligibility for the 2020/21 school year I will send out the link via the school web-site.

Finally, I hope that all of your families will be able to enjoy a relaxing and safe summer. Please continue to follow our school web-site and Facebook pages for updates as we will endeavour to keep you up-to-date as the situation unfolds.

I look forward to be in a position to see and welcome you all back to school at the beginning of the new term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gilchrist  
Principal