## **OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## **End of School Year Letter**

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021

## Dear Parent/Guardian

We are coming to the end of the school year and on behalf of all staff I would like to thank you for your fantastic support throughout the year.

The last 16 months have been an extremely challenging time as we have all had to come to terms with living during a global pandemic. Personally, I feel our whole school community can be extremely proud with how we have adapted to the ever changing situation we find ourselves living in. I must especially praise our children who have demonstrated excellent resilience with how they have come to terms with our new routines, procedures, including: remote, blended and supervised learning. They really are brilliant. Thankfully all classes have been able to experience two full terms of face to face teaching this year. We were able to celebrate Holy Communion, Confirmation, host our sports days and all classes were able to go on their school trips which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

I would like to thank our staff for all their hard work and commitment over the course of the year. We are indebted to our excellent school team who strive to do all they can for the children and have excelled over the course of this school year. I hope they enjoy a relaxing summer break. I would also like to thank the committee of O'Connells GAC, Tullysaran who have allowed staff members to park in the club grounds which has enabled us to use the carpark as an extra playground.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our arrangements for this week and the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

All pupil reports have been sent home today and we will host our **Primary 7 Leavers' Mass (tomorrow)**, **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June @10am** in the Immaculate Conception Church, Tullysaran, with refreshments served afterwards in the school for P7 parents and children. This will be the P7 children's final day and they will have a fun day in school with a treat for everyone planned. **School will finish for Reception/P1-P6 pupils on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June (normal finishing times)**. Friday will be a free non-uniform day. Please ensure all dinner and outstanding bills are paid before Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

We were delighted with the number of responses we have received for our Summer Scheme which will commence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July for two weeks. Children who have registered in: R/P1, P2, P3 and P4 will attend for one week and P5 & P6 children will attend for two weeks. A note will be sent home on Thursday to all those children registered to attend the Summer Scheme, confirming what week they should attend.

The Summer Scheme will run each day from 9am-12.30pm. Only children who have registered for the Summer Scheme may attend and registration is now closed. Those children attending should come to school in their own clothes with a snack and drink for a morning break. Sun cream should also be applied as the children will be spending some time outside each day. The children will be split into four groups: R/P1 & P2, P3 & P4, P5 & P6 and P6 (Transfer Group). The children will have the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts, games activities and we will have a coach in every day to facilitate outside sports/games. The P6 Transfer Group will complete transfer work and sport activities each day. We also plan to provide some Relax Kids sessions for the children. On both

Fridays we hope to host a mini fun sports day for all of the groups with some hot food being provided, weather permitting. We are looking forward to hosting our first Summer Scheme. Hopefully all of the children will enjoy it and we will be able to offer it again next year if funding is available.

School is scheduled to recommence on <u>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August for all P2-P7 children</u>. Breakfast Club should be available, £2 per child daily, from **8am** as normal and children who are not attending Breakfast Club may enter school from **8.40am**. 123 Club should also recommence with the daily charge remaining at £3 per child. All payments can be made via Parent Pay. Thanks.

There will be <u>no buses on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August</u> but school dinners will be available. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused. Buses will operate as normal from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Primary One and Reception children will begin school on the agreed dates in September and October. A provisional holiday list for next year is available on our school website.

I must advise you that all of these arrangements are dependent on the Department of Education's COVID guidelines. If there are any changes to these arrangements we will update you in August via the school website so please ensure you have downloaded the school app.

Classes for next year are as follows:

Reception & Primary 1: Ms Noreen Loughran

Primary 2: Mrs Kerry Dillon Primary 3: Mrs Kate Comiskey Primary 4: Mrs Aideen Mc Cloy

Primary 5: Mrs Karina O'Hara & Miss Colleen Kerr

Primary 6: Mr Ryan Mc Cusker

Primary 7: Mr Tomás Mc Kee & Mrs Anne Maxwell

School uniform will remain the same next year with plain black footwear (shoes or runners) and plain navy trousers/tracksuit bottoms or skirts/pinafores permitted in school. Girls should wear navy tights or navy knee high socks. Children may wear plain navy shorts or blue checked summer dresses with white socks in September and in the third term. <u>Tracksuit bottoms with logos and coloured trainers will not be permitted</u> <u>when school returns</u>. Hair accessories should be kept to a minimum. Please ensure that your child wears full school uniform.

Advice on applying online for free school meals, school transport and uniform grants for 2021/22 is now available on the Education Authority website. It is very important that you register your child for free school meals even if they take lunches as the school receives extra funding from the Department of Education for children who are eligible for free school meals.

A short end of year parent survey has been posted on our website and we would greatly appreciate it if you would take 5 minutes of your time to complete the survey to assist us in our evaluation of this year and our planning for next year. We will send out the survey code via text message. Thank you.

I would like to wish our Primary 7 children and their families, especially those families who bid their final farewell to our school all the best of luck for the future. The Primary 7 children have been a fantastic group of children and we will all miss them. Take care and good luck.

I hope that you and your family enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing all children back to school on **Tuesday 31**st **August 2021.** 

Thank you for your continued support and please contact the school if you have any queries.

Take care and all the best, <u>Tomás Mc Kee</u> Tomás Mc Kee (Principal)