

Letter from the Principal **Litir ón Phríomhoide**

Dear Parents

I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support during the 2019-2020 school year. This has been a very challenging year – one we are unlikely to forget.

The staff of Newtownmountkenedy Primary School have missed our pupils over the last few months. We appreciate all the wonderful work done at home and would like to thank you for your engagement in our home learning activities.

We know that last few months have been a worrying and difficult time for everyone. We know that many of you are worried and anxious about the new school year. We are still awaiting guidelines from the DES about schools reopening in September. Once we receive these guidelines we will inform you.

I would like to assure you once again that all of our teachers are aware that different children will have completed different amounts of work during this period of school closure. As a school, we take a child-centred approach to teaching and learning. We will adapt and differentiate all our lessons when schools reopen to take into account where your child is at with regard to his or her learning.

School Reports – Summer reports will be released to parents this week on Aladdin. If you are unable to access your child's report please contact Fiona at office@newtownprimary.ie.

Staff – We would like to wish our caretaker Paddy Hamilton well as he retires this summer. Paddy has worked at our school for many years and we are all very grateful to him for his commitment and dedication to our school. We look forward to celebrating Paddy's time in Newtownmountkenedy Primary School in the new school year. We hope that Paddy will continue to visit us.

We would like to wish Ms Hegarty well as she takes up a job-share position in Cork. We would also like to extend our best wishes to Ms Healy as she will continue to take parental leave in the coming school year. We wish Ms Maguire well as she will begin her maternity leave in September.

The teacher list for the coming school year will be available to parents this week. We have some teachers who will be job sharing next year. We also have teachers on maternity leave and teachers who are taking parental leave. We have advertised these positions and once we have completed the interview process, we will inform parents who each class

teacher for the coming year is. I appreciate your patience with this matter.

School Year 2019-2020 – While the school year may have ended in a disappointing manner, 2019-2020 was a busy school year in Newtownmountkennedy Primary School. We would like to thank all the boys and girls for their wonderful school work. We are so proud of all our pupils for trying their best. We are very lucky to have them as pupils in our school. We have had some wonderful initiatives in school this year and we hope to continue with as many of these as is possible in the 2020-2021 school year.

We would like to thank Jackie Kinch and Newtown GAA for all their help this year. Jackie worked with all our classes in the Junior and Senior Schools and helped them to develop their football skills. We are also very grateful to the Community Centre for their ongoing support and we would like to thank them for allowing us to use their rooms for many different events throughout the school year.

We were delighted to have Gemma and Sandy our Reading Dog visit our school every week. We know the children in our school loved seeing Gemma and it was great to see their confidence grow as they read with Sandy. We hope to have Gemma and Sandy back with us again soon. We were delighted to have Music Generation with us once again. Thank you to Karen and Joan for all their wonderful work. We look forward to more Music Generation lessons in the next school year.

This was a busy year for children in our ASD classes and in our mainstream classes - We were delighted to have drumming with Neil, Yoga with Maura, Dance with Zoe and of course our lovely trips to Festina Lente.

We were delighted to continue our links with the Heritage in Schools programme and would like to thank Grace Garde for her all her work with us. We welcomed teachers and students from Coláiste Chraobh Abhann to work with Ms. Nolan's 4th class on our Dráma as Gaeilge - Oisín i dTír na nÓg. Maith sibh Rang 4! Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers and parents who helped with Lift Off to Literacy and group activities throughout the school year.

We are delighted to have had all these initiatives in our school this year. They have helped to contribute to the wonderful learning that takes place every day.

Covid-19

Even though our school buildings were closed from March 12th, it was great to see our school community come together for our wonderful Together-Apart Art Project earlier this month. We would like to say a

special thank you to Newtownmountkennedy Post Office, The Parkview Hotel, Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, Greystones and District Credit Union and Eugene's Day-Today who allowed us to display this project. It is great to be part of this wonderful community. Thanks once more to all parents who came to the school to collect books, etc. during the Covid-19 closure. Your co-operation was very much appreciated at a difficult time.

Samhradh

Our summer holidays begin on Friday 26th June at 12.30pm. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward with hope and positivity to the start of the new school year. Tá súil agam go mbeidh samhradh taitneamhach agus grianmhar agaibh go léir.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Deirdre Lennon
School Principal.