

## **Letter from the Principal** **Litir ón Phríomhoide**

Dear Parents,

I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well. Mr. Hugh McDaid, the Chairperson of our Board of Management, would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and for your efforts to maintain links with our school during this difficult time.

### **Home Learning Activities:**

We hope that our home learning activities have been of benefit to you and your child. However, I know it can be difficult to motivate and engage some children in these activities, particularly at this time of the year. I am also conscious that your children are missing out on many of the lovely activities we have in the last term of the school year such as school tours, sports day, etc. We will take all of this into account as we prepare our home learning activities for June. Please remember that the health and well-being of you and your family must always be the top priority. Contact us if you are finding it hard and we will try our best to support you and your child.

Teachers can be contacted via their newtownprimary email address - you will find this information on the class blog page on the school website. Our Special Education Teachers are also available to support parents and children.

All of our teachers are aware that different children will be able to complete 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.

**Classes for children with ASD:** Teachers in our classes for children with autism are also available to support the children in their classes.

We would like to thank the SNAs in our school who are continuing to work under the direction of class teachers to support the children they work with. Dr. Geraldine Leader, our ABA Consultant, is also available to support parents who have a child with autism. Please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a telephone meeting with Dr. Leader.

**School Website:** Thanks to those of you who have already sent in photographs of your child's work. If your child would like to contribute to the art gallery or the 'Our work' page, please email their work to [c19parentsupport@newtownprimary.ie](mailto:c19parentsupport@newtownprimary.ie). We have received some lovely

photographs of children engaging in home learning activities. We can only publish these photographs on our website with your permission. Please indicate in your email if we have permission to put photographs of your child on our website.

Please do not feel under any pressure to do this if it does not suit you. It is not a requirement of home learning activities.

**School Lunches:** Carambola will be delivering food packs for June in the coming days. We are very grateful to Carambola for delivering food packs to our families during the Covid-19 school closure period.

**HSCL:** Ronan Keddy, our HSCL co-ordinator, is available to chat to parents during school hours. You can contact Ronan on 0862434741 or email him at [hscl@newtownprimary.ie](mailto:hscl@newtownprimary.ie).

Ronan has kindly organised art packs for families who do not have these resources at home. If you need one of these packs, please contact Ronan by phone or email.

### **School Reports**

Teachers are currently writing school reports and these will be available to parents in June.

### **Staff Changes**

We welcome Mrs. Gillick back from maternity leave. Mrs. Gillick will return to 3<sup>rd</sup> class from Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. We would like to thank Mr. O' Leary for his work with 3<sup>rd</sup> class while Mrs. Gillick was on maternity leave.

We also welcome Ms McGillicuddy back from maternity leave on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Ms Darcy will continue to work in Senior Infants for the remainder of the school year. Ms McGillicuddy will work with Ms. Ní Laocha's class for the next few weeks. We wish Ms. Ní Laocha well as she recovers from illness. We also wish Ms. Áine Kavanagh well as she recovers from illness.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Class – Class of 2020**

I know that our 6<sup>th</sup> class students are very disappointed to be missing out on many special 6<sup>th</sup> class activities this term. As we are still following HSE guidelines, our 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation will be online this year. This ceremony will take place on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 (time to be confirmed). Our 6<sup>th</sup> class teachers have asked the students to begin working on their memory books and we are looking forward to reading all about their memories of

Newtownmountkenedy Primary School. We hope to have a ceremony in our school for our Class of 2020 in the first term of the new school year.

We will be having "Student of the Year" awards for 6<sup>th</sup> class this year - a boy and a girl for each 6<sup>th</sup> class. These awards will be announced at our online graduation.

6<sup>th</sup> class hoodies have been ordered and should be delivered to us in early June. We will organise distribution of these hoodies when we receive them.

### **School Year 2020-2021**

We will issue you with a school calendar for the new school year in June. We will also inform classes of their teacher for the 2020-2021 school year in June. We will follow HSE and DES guidelines regarding the reopening of schools and we will inform you of this as soon as we receive this guidance from the relevant authorities.

We would like to send our congratulations to Fr. Smith as he celebrates 60 year of priesthood this week. We would like to thank Fr. Smith for his continued support of our school.

Once again we would like to thank all members of our school community who work in frontline and essential services. We very much appreciate all your efforts in keeping our community safe.

I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy.

Tabhair aire agus fan slán,

Deirdre Lennon

School Principal.