

Dear Parents and Guardians of our pupils,

We have reached the end of what has been a very different school year. As we emerge from these unprecedented times. I hope that every one of you is safe and well. With the lifting of many of the restrictions, we are all getting a chance to see and visit those family members and friends we love dearly and have missed terribly. Antoine de St. Exupery, the author of 'The Little Prince' wrote 'There is no hope of joy except in human relations.' Over the last few months we have learned the truth of this.

Covid 19, while being a very unwelcome visitor. has taught us that it is the simple things in life that matter. There are many things I hope we will never take for granted again - the smiles and nods as we go for a walk, the reaching out and looking out for each other, those random acts of kindness and the realisation that no matter how difficult our situation is there is always somebody in a situation worse than ours. A visit to the hairdresser will now be an occasion I will not take for granted again!!

We have never been more aware of the people who serve us in our supermarkets, empty our bins, bring our post, clean our streets and work in our hospitals. Again we salute you, we thank you and we hugely appreciate your humanity and dedication.

As July approaches and our 6th classes take leave of us, we wish them well. Congratulations everyone! You have done it - you have completed primary school. Moving on can be a little bit scary but you can do it! We know you can. Let the world be your oyster! You may become a famous musician and I will be looking for a ticket to your concert, a famous artist with your work hanging in a gallery, a dancer, a scientist, travel to the moon, become the first female Taoiseach in Ireland or even return to St. Philip's as a teacher. Go for it everyone! As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' We believe in you. Don't forget about us! Come visit us!

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to say some words of thank you.

Thank you to the wonderful staff of our school who have adapted to a new way of teaching during school closure. You make a difference in the lives of our pupils every day.

Thank you to all other staff attached to our school, whether it be the friendly face you meet when you call in, our SNAs, the person responsible for the amazing grounds and all those who make St. Philip's the special place it is.

Parents, I thank you sincerely for entrusting your children to us every day. Together we are a good team. We strive to create a generation of young people we can be truly proud of. As you may be aware, a group of parents is working on revamping the school library. This project is well underway. I look forward to seeing our new library when complete. Thank you for your dedication and your enthusiasm and also for your support.

To every member of our Board of Management, I say thank you. Being a member of the Board is a voluntary role and I appreciate the support you have given me since last November. Your support and advice is invaluable.

As the school doors close for the summer holidays, the walls of the school have felt hollow, corridors have been empty and classrooms have been lifeless without the presence of our pupils since last March. I look forward to the buzz of seeing and hearing all of you again. Hopefully, that will happen on September 1st. In the meantime, have a blast during the summer. Laugh loudly, laugh often. Be curious, be kind. Remember you get out of life what you put into it.

Stay safe, stay well and thank you.

Warmest wishes,

Geraldine Casey