

Dear Parents and Guardians of the pupils in our school,

As I write to you today, the school year is fast coming to a close. What a year it has been for all of us. As we set out on our journey together in September, who could have predicted what this year would hold in store? We have all been reminded of our fragility as human beings. In an interview she gave recently, Mary Robinson, our former president, spoke about how human behaviour really matters. Our behaviour over the last couple of months has really mattered. In doing what we have been asked to do, we have all helped to save lives. We continue to do what is being asked of us to protect frontline workers and those who are most vulnerable in our society. There has been an opening up of empathy and compassion. Neighbourliness has come to the fore and there is a great caring of anyone who has less than we have. The word pandemic has become part of our daily vocabulary.

Schooling has been different over the last weeks. Our teachers have worked tirelessly behind the scenes preparing work and lessons. Next week will be Active Home Week. We might leave the pens and pencils behind for a few days and participate in some of lovely ideas suggested in next week's timetable. Thank you Ms. Flynn and all the team. In St. Philip's we are blessed with a great team. However, online lessons and websites are no substitute for real people in real classrooms. Teachers want to be teaching in school and I think, that now, all of our pupils would love to be back in school. We miss you.

There is still a degree of uncertainty about our return to school. We await direction from the government and as soon as we receive guidance I will communicate this to you. In the meantime, we would like to see all of our rented books returned and we would like to give you an opportunity to collect school reports and booklists for the coming school year. Next week, we will give every class a time where this can happen. Please bring your schoolbag to school with the books you are returning and we will give you any books or copies you may need to take home. Let's not go down the road of plastic bags and add to the plastic mountain. Please come to the fire door of your classroom at the appointed time.

Tuesday, June 9th

9.30 Ms. Carolan's class

10.00 Ms. Keenan's class

10.30 Ms. Coady's class

11.00 Mr. Campbell's class

11.30 Ms. Kenna's class

12.00 Mrs. Harte's/ Ms. Murtagh's class

12.30 Mr. Donohoe's class

Wednesday, June 10th

9.30 Ms. Flynn's class

10.00 Mr. O' Shea's class

10.30 Ms. Gallagher's class

11.00 Ms. Keenahan's class

11.30 Ms. Loughnane's class

12.00 Ms. Brogan's class

Don't forget to keep your social distance on Tuesday and Wednesday!

I will finish again referring to what Mary Robinson stated in her interview where she said that something profound has happened over the last couple of months, where we realise what is important and what communities we belong to. I am so proud to belong to the community of St. Philip's. I look forward to seeing many of you next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mind yourselves. Mind each other. Stay well and stay safe.

Le gach dea ghui,

Geraldine Casey