

April 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break but it is good to be back for the last term of the school year.

Special Education Teacher

As Ciara Gibbons is designated very high risk of contracting Covid, the HSE has advised that she remain at home. Gemma Wiley has been kindly lent to us from St Cronan's SNS for the last few weeks. I am delighted to confirm that Áine Duffy will be joining us on Monday for the remainder of the term.

The government has announced that no extra resources will be made available to schools for Special Education in the coming year.

Marina

After many years of loyal service, Marina has secured a new position. Unfortunately, she will not be able to come to The Old Borough on Friday mornings to look after the junior classes in the Computer Room. She will be sorely missed as Marina was great at fixing our old machines. We wish her all the very best.

Carla McCarthy, a former pupil of The Old Borough, will look after our younger pupils in the Computer Room for the remainder of the term.

Testing

Each year pupils from First to Sixth Classes sit standardised tests in both Maths and English. With schools closed last year, these tests were not taken. The Department of Education has directed that all pupils sit these tests this year. These tests, which happen over several days, will be taken by our pupils during the fortnight beginning the 4th of May. There is no advance preparation done for these tests. Given the upheaval over the last two school years, an impact on scores would be expected. Each parent will receive their child's results in their end of year report.

Reports

Reports will be issued to parents on Wednesday 2nd June. If parents have a

specific concern about their child, they can email the teacher to arrange a suitable time for a phone call.

IT

The pupils in 5th and 6th are delighted with the touchscreen TV installed in their room before Easter. It is our intention to eventually replace all our interactive whiteboards with these TVs in the future.

An upgrade to our Wifi is currently being explored so that the building can cope with all the new technology coming on stream. If any parent has expertise in this area please contact [Julie Moffett](#).

Some Fun Events

The staff are planning some fun events to celebrate the end of the year:

Our school will be taking part in the **Olympic School Challenge** next month. The aim of this initiative is to virtually travel to the Tokyo Olympics with Team Ireland by engaging in physical activity every day for the month of May. More details to follow on how to log daily activity.

The PTA is organising a **Sponsored Walk** during May and this will be incorporated into the Olympics School Challenge.

We will also have our **Ice-Cream Day** and **BBQ**. If parents have any suggestions for events that can be celebrated locally, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you

A big thank you for all the support you give to your child and the school. A special thank you to those who help hear the children's reading in the morning and to Gillian and Melissa who helped tidy the children before their photographs were taken.

The teachers are under enormous pressure to do their best for our pupils given the upheaval of the past two years so any practical help is always greatly appreciated.

Anne-Marie Woods