

26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear parents/ carers,

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for another amazing year in St. Mary's on the Hill. Building on last year we have;

- Trialled the Seesaw app now in P1,2,3,4,
- Introduced School Money,
- Been awarded a second Green Flag,
- In Numeracy we have continued to work on developing the children's problem solving skills and Bar Modelling,
- In Literacy continued with Accelerator Reader in P4 – P7 with a whole school focus on developing the children's comprehension skills using the V.I.P.E.R.S strategy,
- In Using ICT the pupils in P5 and P6 have been introduced to coding,
- The P6's have continued to trial – Learning by Questions,
- P3, P4 and P7s have all celebrated their respective Sacraments,
- Beginning to review our Anti Bullying Policy.

Further highlights have been, winning the North Belfast Niamh Eánna Schools Cup in Hurling, being awarded Overall School winner of Féis Bhéal Féirste. The P7 play, 'The Wizard of Oz', went down a storm. P3, P4 and P5 parents took part in a Problem Solving Mental Maths evening. We had presentations from C2K and the children attended workshops on staying safe online. Again our choir sang in the Odyssey at the Peace Proms with 10,000 people. These and so many other activities add to the life of the school and provide special opportunities for our children to grow and develop.

Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team - Mrs Niblock Literacy Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer, Mrs Thompson Numeracy Co-ordinator, Mrs Carey Acting ICT Co-ordinator and Deputy Child Protection Officer. To Mrs Mc Intyre, Head of Foundation and Key Stage 1, for all that they do in supporting me, the children and the parents of St. Mary's on the Hill.

To the school's middle management team, Mr Mc Evoy Arts Co-ordinator and Deputy Child Protection Officer, Mrs Magee Religion and Publicity Co-ordinator and Deputy Child Protection Officer, Mrs Birt World Around Us Co-ordinator and Mrs Carey PE Co-ordinator, for all that they do in providing opportunities for the children to excel and achieve through their strong leadership.

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Our gratitude goes to all the teachers who volunteer to take on roles throughout the school year. To Miss Taggart, Miss Johnston, Mrs Ross, Mrs McCluskey, Mrs Reddick and Mrs Mc Convey for their participation and support in curriculum teams. Without their dedication to the school we would not be able to provide the varied range of opportunities that we are able to offer. Thank-you also goes to Mrs Keers for her work this year supporting the Parent Teacher Association. To Ms Walsh and Mrs Nolan for organising Play Ground Pals and thank-you to Mrs Dempsey for all her work with the School Council who have gone from strength to strength and this year supported the development of Problem Solving resources.

Also, to the non-teaching staff who, on a daily basis, support and provide not only an education but look after the emotional well-being of the children in our care. To Mrs Thompson and Mrs McAllister for running the Breakfast Club and Mrs O Hagan, Mrs Beggan and Mrs Kennedy for the Waiting Class.

To the lunch time supervisors, Mr Martin the building supervisor, the cleaning staff, Mrs Mason, executive officer, the patrol people, Mr Carter and Mrs Jones, the kitchen staff, a huge thank you.

On behalf of the school, thank you to the members of our Parent Teacher Association. They have given their time so generously to raise funds, which will go directly towards supporting the pupils in school. Not only do they raise much needed funds for the school they help to develop the sense of community for the children and parents in St. Mary's on the Hill.

As you can see it takes a huge team of dedicated, caring and motivated professionals to make St. Mary's on the Hill a success. Included in this team are you, the parents and carers, who work in close partnership with school to ensure that we are all doing everything we can for the children in helping them achieve their best. Thank-you for your continued support it is very much appreciated.

A special word of thanks to Fr. Darren. Thank you for the class visits and children's spiritual guidance that is offered in a fun and engaging way.

To our Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs Meyer, along with all of the Governors in doing all they can for the good of our pupils.

On behalf of all the school staff, I wish our parents, carers and pupils, an enjoyable, restful and fun filled summer.

Yours Sincerely,

Principal

*This letter is available on our school website*