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Dear parents

30th June 2023

June Update

The Governors wish to keep you updated and reflect on the month just past. June is always a busy month in school, and this year has been no exception.

Matilda was a resounding success and I'm sure you will agree that the children rose to the occasion and exceeded all our expectations! We recognise the importance that the Creative Arts play in children's development, helping enrich the whole child. We are all very proud of them and delighted they enjoyed it as much as the crowd in McKenna Hall, who were on their feet for standing ovations both nights.

As previously announced, the school was awarded the Green Flag for Eco-Schools in late May. We are also delighted to announce that Áine Dowd was awarded Eco-Pupil of the Year and Mrs Coleman and Mrs McAree were awarded Eco-Teacher of the Year. These are very prestigious awards and reflect the hard work and dedication put in this year, in conjunction with parent volunteers and the school Eco-Committee. The school had a Grand Opening Ceremony last week and this was attended by Deputy Mayor Hannah Irwin, Ald Adair and Cllrs Boyle and Wray. We thank them for attending, and also our parents/grandparents who came to join us on the day.

The staff and pupils dedicated a summer bench in the school grounds to our late teacher Gemma McCarthy. We agree this was a fitting tribute and a lovely way to commemorate her contribution to the school over 35 years.

We had many children achieve Grades in Judo with Sensai Peggy and Grades in Guitar with Gabriel; and many other children achieved individual awards outside school in Irish Daneng, Swimming, Ballet, Horse-Riding to name but a few. Please check out the website for individual celebrations.

We had the Coastguard in for Water Safety Awareness Talk and the children had fun dressing up whilst learning safety at sea.

The P7s in particular have had a busy month. They completed their Transition programme with Robert and then took part in the 'My Voice Education Programme' delivered by EAYouth Service. They have all visited their new schools and met key staff who will look after them when they Transition into Post Primary. They also went on their Residential Trip to Share Centre, Fermanagh, where they had a fantastic time and experienced lots of outdoor activities for the first time. Thanks



educating mind ♥ heart ♥ spirit



Eco-Schools



2017

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to the staff who accompanied them and looked after them so well.

The P7 Leavers' Mass was well attended by parents and friends. The P7 children were a credit to themselves, their families and their school. We wish them every success in the new chapter of their lives and are sure they will continue to be the caring, tolerant and compassionate children they have been for 7 years with us. Congratulations also to all the Award winners on the day.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our P7 children, we have welcomed our new P1s into Mrs McAree's class and we look forward to seeing them all in September.

Last Friday was also a day when the school community were able to celebrate Fr Alexander's Golden Jubilee with him, and say farewell, as he will retire over the summer before the children return. We wish him every blessing and continued good health in his retirement, and thank him for his years of support and guidance on the Board of Governors.

We are glad to announce the safe arrival of both Isla McMullan and Oisín Donnelly. We wish the McMullan and Donnelly families our sincere congratulations on their new additions. We welcome Miss Chelsea-Rose McCarthy to P4, where she will cover Mrs Donnelly's Maternity leave, Miss Faith McAtamney to SCU 2 to cover Mrs McMullan's Maternity leave, Miss Emily Paterson to SCU 1 for Principal Release and 1 day in P1, and Mrs Louise Wilson to P7, to teach until the appointment of the new Principal.

We say farewell to Miss Grainne Ennis who goes off to pastures new. We wish her well in her new job and have no doubt she will be a great success.

Finally, the Board of Governors would like to place on record their sincere appreciation to Mrs O'Neill, the Teachers, Classroom Assistants and Auxiliary Staff, who have worked tirelessly this Term and have gone above and beyond to ensure the smooth continued running of the school.

We wish you a safe and happy Summer Holiday and hope the sun shines! We look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kind Regards

Brendan McCarthy
On behalf of the Board of Governors

