



Dear Parents/Guardians and Children,

Welcome back to (virtual) school everyone! While it isn't the start to 2021 we had hoped for, through our Seesaw app the atmosphere of fun and energy for learning still remains. I appreciate that the challenges distance learning presents are significant for children, parents and school staff alike and want to remind everyone that, as was the case last March, if school work is causing anxiety in your household please let your child's teacher know. It is vital to remember that our children are attempting to continue their education in the midst of a pandemic and that while education is, of course, important to your child's development, health and wellbeing is the priority. Teachers will, as they did in September, adjust curriculum when school reopens to cater for each child's need so please don't worry about this. Primary school children learn in a variety of ways and through your daily interactions of play, sharing stories together, going on walks, chatting, baking, time on iPads and even watching TV the children are learning all the time.



As I mentioned on Seesaw each week we will have two overall '**Students of the Week**' nominated by Ms Lannery and myself as we look through the children's work throughout the week. The prize will be €15 Smyth's e-vouchers and they will be emailed to the children's parents when announced.

Winners of €15 Smyths vouchers for outstanding work on Seesaw this week

Millie Norman – Ms Ward 6th Class

Grace Connelly – Mr Mac Sweeney 2nd Class

Reopening of Lighthouse/special education

As I am sure you are all aware the Minister for Education has made a commitment yesterday to reopen special classes and supports for SEN next Thursday. We are delighted that progress is being made in this regard, as the Lighthouse had all arrangements ready to reopen last week when the original announcement was made. Our staff are all committed to the children of St Mary's and were completely on board with our plan. We remain ready and willing to reopen, however I am reluctant to give a definitive start date as it seems the minister's announcement came ahead of an actual agreement with all stakeholders. I will let parents know as soon as there is any clarification on this matter. In the meantime, I am delighted that our staff have made such a significant effort in supporting our children with additional needs through distance learning and can see the great efforts being made at home too.

Plans are underway to continue our **school assemblies** while the children are learning from home, we hope our first assembly of 2021 will take place next Wednesday. Student of the Week/ Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine certificates and prizes will be posted out to the winning children's homes.



Michaela's Talent Show

Michaela's Talent Show is held annually in memory of Michaela Gonda, a past pupil of the school. It is a fantastic opportunity for the boys and girls in St Mary's NS to showcase their many wonderful talents. One winner from each class will be chosen to represent their class in the final. The final will be available for all of you to view at home. We are very excited to see your magnificent talents. Don't forget to send them to your teachers before Monday 18th January.

Parent teacher meetings will take place in the second week of February. In order to keep our school community safe, these will take place through scheduled phonecalls this year. The parent teacher meetings will be scheduled through the Aladdin app where parents can book their phonecall at a time that suits. This feature will be enabled through Aladdin next week – please keep an eye on your notifications.

Reminder - Admissions Policy: Our new enrolment policy is available to view on our school website at the following link <https://www.saggartns.ie/admissions-policy/> and closing date for applications is the end of January. Forms and supporting documentation should be emailed to admissions@saggartns.ie .

Contacting the school: As the school building is closed for the next while the phones in the school will not be answered. You should contact your child's teacher via Seesaw app directly. If you need to contact the office the email is stmaryssaggart2@gmail.com or my own email is principal@saggartns.ie .

Kind Regards
Ms Olwill
Principal

Ms Lannery
Deputy Principal