



Dear Parents/Guardians and Children,

Science Week was a great success this week, from visiting the classrooms I was so impressed with how the children were able to describe their investigations. It was also fantastic to see how children continued to explore the subject at home with many interesting experiments sent in through SeeSaw to share with classmates and teachers.

School Council – This term we are in the process of establishing St Mary's Student Council. This will give the children a chance to contribute to the running of the school through a class representative. Over the next week the children can volunteer to run for election to the council.

As Christmas approaches it is timely to think about internet safety as children may receive devices as Christmas presents. Ensuring your child is safe online is a new layer to parenting and can be really difficult as technology progresses so quickly. If you need any help in this area please visit <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/covid19-online-safety-advice-for-parents/> where you can access lots of supportive materials. **We are also asking parents not to send Christmas cards in for children in their class as the distribution of cards in class would mean there was increased risk of transmission of Covid19.**

We are delighted with the huge support from parents for our school calendar. The calendar is currently with the printers and should be ready in early December. Taking photos while remaining socially distant was a challenge but we look forward to seeing the final result. Many thanks to the PA and the companies who sponsored the calendar making the production possible.

Assembly: This week we were treated to a performance by Ms Kelly's Senior Infant class of Wonderful World. The song has such a lovely message and I know it was really enjoyed by the other classes on Wednesday during the online assembly. Ms Ward's class did a fantastic job organising and presenting again.



There was big excitement in The Lighthouse this week with the arrival of our new play equipment. This playground, which was created this year at the side of the school is used all day every day. It meets the children's sensory needs, some occupational therapy needs and fills their days with fun. It also provides children with the opportunity to socialise and develop really important interpersonal skills. We are incredibly fortunate with the facilities here in



our Lighthouse which currently includes two outdoor play areas, a sensory room, an indoor swing room, an activity hall, sensory paths and even a 'Luas' room which the children love.

***As we approach Christmas and there is an easing of restrictions we are still conscious that we are very much living in a pandemic. The last thing we want for any child, parent or staff member of St Mary's is to be asked to restrict their movements over the Christmas period. On behalf of the Board of Management I am appealing to all families and staff members to very closely follow the government guidelines in relation to your movements and socialising in the weeks leading up to Christmas. With that being said I am aware that this virus is highly contagious and can be contracted even when strictly adhering to all recommendations.***

Kind Regards  
Ms Olwill  
Principal

Ms Lannery  
Deputy Principal