**Update 22nd April 2021**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please find below information relevant to the coming weeks.

**Confirmation**

P.7 pupils will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 23rd April at 3.30pm in The Good Shepherd Church. The children do not have to report to school that day or they can leave school at 12 noon.

**First Holy Communion**

P.4 pupils will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 15th May at 11am in The Good Shepherd Church. First Confession will be made in school prior to this. A date has yet to be confirmed.

**School Dinners**

As you will have noticed, there is a new school menu in place. This has been sent to all schools by the Education Authority with the instruction that it must be followed. We are noticing that some of the dishes are proving popular while others are not. Hot desserts are also on the menu three times per week. This is extremely difficult to manage in the time allotted to each class due to the Covid arrangements we have in place. We are trying our best to tailor the menu to make it more manageable and we are asking that you bear with us while we adapt to the new selections**. Please send dinner money in on a Monday only. Money sent in on another day will not be collected. It is very helpful when parents send in the right amount.**

**Assessment**

Our school will be carrying out its end of year assessment procedures during the week beginning 7th June. This applies to P.3 – P.7 and a detailed schedule will be sent to you nearer the time. It is important that your child completes these assessments as they give us essential information for planning next year.

**School Trips**

School trips are being organised at the moment. Educational visits are permitted as long as the current Covid regulations are adhered to and thorough risk assessments are carried out. Your child’s teacher will be in touch soon with details.

**Sports Day**

We will not be able to have a sports day this year where all of the children come together to enjoy a day of outdoor competition and activities. However, each class will spend a ‘fun’ day outside, competing against their classmates in a range of events. We won’t be able to have parents at these days but we will, of course, post photographs on our website.

**P.7 Farewell**

Alternative plans will have to be made for this year’s Primary 7 pupils before they leave us in June. Their school trip takes place on June 18th and we will also organise other events to make their final weeks in St Malachy’s P.S special and memorable.

**Holidays 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022**

Please remember that there have been a couple of changes made to our holidays between now and the end of the year. We have also arranged our holidays for next year but as with everything else at the moment, they are subject to change. Please see attached.

**Staffing for 2021-22**

Mrs McAnulty will be finishing school on Tuesday 27th April to begin her maternity leave – we wish her well. Miss Emily Goss will be covering Mrs McAnulty’s class until the end of June and will continue to cover her maternity leave in September.

Parents will also be informed of their child’s class and teacher for next year before the end of term.

**Nursery/P.1**

Parents will receive notification of the outcome of Nursery and P.1 applications on Wednesday 28th April. You will receive a letter from the school or you can access the information via the EA online portal.

**School Development Plan**

All schools plan in three year cycles. St Malachy’s current School Development Plan (SDP) comes to an end in June of this year. Parents will be asked to complete questionnaires before the end of term. These questionnaires will inform our future planning. We need to know what you think works well in St Malachy’s P.S and what you think needs development. It will cover areas such as homework, curriculum, pastoral care, uniform, home/school links etc. We hope you will take the time to complete the questionnaire as it is vital that your voice is heard when we are planning for the future. Your child (P.3 – P.7) will also be asked to complete a questionnaire as their voice is also crucial in this process.

**School Return**

The children have adapted very quickly and very happily to being back at school. We have found them to be motivated and positive about their learning. Teachers have reported that the children are showing real readiness when meeting new topics and they are grasping these concepts with confidence. This is, in no small part, due to the work that was done by you at home. Our teachers worked extremely hard in preparing and delivering the curriculum through remote learning and your engagement as parents, has been invaluable. We feel confident that the children are ‘bouncing back’ and making very steady progress. We thank you for all of your efforts. It is a joy to see the children thriving in school. Please God their time here will remain uninterrupted until the end of June.

Should you need clarification on any of the information contained above, please don’t hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Le meas,

Pauline McEvoy

Principal