**Update 25th June 2021**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have managed to get to the end of this year safely (just!). While the year was broken with lockdown, we feel it has been a successful year. Our pupils have worked so hard in school and at home and as a result, they are happy, settled and making steady progress.

The last eighteen months have been a steep learning curve for us all but by working together and combining our efforts, we have ensured our children’s education has not been a casualty of Covid-19.

For my own part, I want to pay tribute to our staff, teaching, non-teaching and kitchen staff, for their energy and commitment to St Malachy’s P.S. Everyone stepped up and went the extra mile, doing everything that was asked of them and more.

You, our parents, have been outstanding in your constant support of and commitment to St Malachy’s P.S. As a school, we are extremely fortunate to have such a loyal and hardworking parent population.

The stars in all of this have been our pupils. They have truly shone this year by bouncing back after lockdown and very naturally, resuming their education in their classroom without fuss or fanfare.

We will pray that September brings normality and the opportunity for us to re-open our doors to parents, grandparents and our community.

There are just a couple of things I want to mention –

As soon as we know the teachers for P.4/5 and P.6/7 for next year, we will contact the parents of each class to let them know. Hopefully, this will be early next week.

The results of the parent/staff/pupil surveys will be analysed over the summer and I hope to have information evenings in the autumn term to share these results with you, and to discuss our way forward.

Please remember that all pupils start back to school on Wednesday 1st September. Nursery and P.1 will have staggered intake and the parents have been informed of their start dates and times. Should there be any changes to these arrangements, they will be communicated to you via our website.

All pupils in P.4 – P.7 are to wear their full school uniform to school with proper black school shoes. The P.E uniform with trainers, is to be worn only on the days the children have P.E.

P.1 – P.3 are to wear the P.E uniform each day along with proper black school shoes. Trainers can be worn on their P.E day.

Nursery children wear the P.E uniform and can wear trainers every day to school.

Trainers drag in grit and stones and significant damage has been caused to the floors. Wearing school shoes will reduce this.

The surveys suggest that there is an appetite for a review of the school uniform. This decision won’t be made without further extensive consultation with our parents.

Everyone has earned a relaxing break. Please enjoy your summer, remembering to keep safe to help ensure an unbroken school year beginning in September.

***‘Dia idir sinn agus an t-olc.’***

Le meas,

Pauline McEvoy

Principal