



2nd June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin our final month of school we would like to thank you all for all your help and co-operation since last September.

June tends to be a very busy month every year in Good Shepherd- and 2021 is no exception. This year, however, we have received strict guidance from the Department of Education. This prevents us from holding many of our usual events in our 'normal' manner. Please bear with us- we have planned many enjoyable events for this year- they will not unfortunately take the usual format. Some of these are outlined below.

We hope everyone enjoys the last few weeks of term,

Ms. Veale



SCHOOL TOUR

Following notification from the Department of Education, school tours will not happen in their usual format this year. 6th class are the only class to use a bus for their tour. Our other classes will be visiting more local attractions on foot over the coming weeks.



Standardised testing has taken place this year in both English and mathematics across mainstream classes. We are pleased with the children's attainment levels given they have missed over 6 months of face to face teaching over the last year and a half. These results will be very useful to school staff when preparing lessons next September. The results will be included in your child's end of year reports which will be sent home later in June. If you have any queries about these results please contact your child's teacher then.



6th Class Graduation

6th class will graduate on **Tuesday 29th** of June at 11am. Unfortunately the Department of Education has instructed that parents cannot attend this event unlike previous years. However, rest assured, Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Murray, Ms. Hannigan, Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Horgan and Ms. Lynch are very busy putting together a memorable ceremony for the children. Parents will be able to view the graduation via a recording of the ceremony afterwards.



Second Hand Uniform Sale

We are hopeful that the PA will be in a position to host a second hand uniform sale at the end of term. More details to follow.



End of year Awards Ceremony

We are delighted to announce that our End of Year Awards Ceremony will take place via ZOOM assembly on Monday June 28th. We will still have lots of awards at the ready such as 'Student of the Year' and 'Spirit of Good Shepherd' award in each class.

There will also be specific awards of recognition for special efforts made with remote learning over lockdown.



Please contact the office if you will be relocating over the summer months. Many new families have moved into the Churchtown area and we are inundated daily with requests for school transfers. If you know that your child won't be here next September please let us know as soon as possible. Currently we are oversubscribed for every class next year.



Religious Sacraments

We have been in touch with Fr Brian about the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation and Communion. He is awaiting the removal of restrictions from the Government and Archbishop's House before these can happen. In the meantime, he has advised the school that the Parish Office will contact families of those who were due to celebrate sacraments in 2020 first to arrange dates when their Sacraments will occur.

If your child was due to make a sacrament in either 2020 or 2021 please ensure they are registered with the Parish Office.

sacraments@goodshepherdchurchto.wn.ie

He also suggested that families check the weekly parish newsletter for any updates.



Thank you, to all those who have paid **school fees for 2021/2022**. Next year's rental textbooks are ordered. Please note you will be requested to purchase the extra books & equipment for your child in September if fees are unpaid. Booklists are available on website.



The format of our annual sports day event will also be different this year due to Department of Education guidelines. Unfortunately parents/siblings will not be able to attend and watch Sports Day. Individual classes will have a 'day of sport' on different dates in June. These dates are weather dependent and your child's teacher will notify you in advance of specific dates.



Week of Fun

In lieu of school tours this year we are organising a week of fun for all classes from Monday June 21st - Friday June 25th. Some of the activities for the week include a Brazilian drumming experience, a visit from a pet farm, yoga and dance sessions, outdoor games and fun, an outdoor disco and a Teddy Bears' picnic and much more. Each class will be given their timetable of activities the week before. We ask that every child contribute €5 towards the cost of running the week of fun. **Payment can be made through Aladdin.** We are really looking forward to this special week where excitement, laughter and most of all FUN are guaranteed.



To celebrate the end of the school year we will hold a SENSATIONAL SUMMER RAFFLE via ZOOM on June 28th after our Awards Ceremony. Among the fantastic prizes is a top prize of a brand new **MOUNTAIN BIKE!!!!**

Tickets (**€3 each or 4 for €10**) go on sale on Monday 14th June from class teachers.

Please support this raffle as best as you can.



We were delighted to continue to successfully provide breakfast and homework club despite Covid restrictions this year.

Breakfast Club will continue until the end of term on **June 30th**.



Traditionally in June there is an easing of homework throughout the school as the evenings are longer with many children enjoying after school outdoor activities. With this in mind **Homework Club will finish up** for the year on **Thursday June 3rd**.



Kate & Maggie's Summer camp
5th July – 9th July

Sherpa Summer Camps

3 separate weeks from 12th July – 30th July

Contact 083 3632201 or managersouthdub@sherpakids.ie for details.

Star Camp

3 separate weeks from August 3rd – August 20th

Contact 021 437 7900 or info@starcamp.ie