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6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils who received their First Communion on Saturday. Congratulations also to our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who celebrated their Graduation mass last night.

Report cards will be posted on Monday. These include standardised test results for children from 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> class. We urge you to read the whole of the report and not focus solely on the results. We believe your child is so much more than a number on a Maths or Reading test. Of course, if a parent is concerned about any test result, please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. This year we have switched from the traditional Micra T and Sigma T assessments to Dromcondra assessments. These are known to be slightly more difficult but a more comprehensive assessment than the Micra T and Sigma T tests. Results may have changed slightly compared to other years as a result of this. A document below this newsletter explains STEN scores to parents who may not be familiar with them. The last page of this document has important information for parents of children in 1<sup>st</sup> class about their standardised test results.

School tours will be taking place next week. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, baseball cap, etc. Both tours will be engaging in water activities. The water activity for our junior tour is a waterslide which is based on a tennis court. Mrs Moloney and Ms Gleeson's classes will need: a towel, flip flops (spare change of shoes), spare t-shirt and spare shorts. Ms Lee and Mrs Leahys classes will need a towel, flip flops (spare change of shoes) and togs. Ballyhass will provide wet suits as well as life jackets. Children can bring their own wet suit if they have one. A rainproof jacket might also be necessary depending on weather. Children do not need to wear school uniforms and will not need to bring any money with them for the tours.

Mrs Moloney and Ms Gleeson's classes will visit UL on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. We will be leaving the school at 8:15am sharp. Children should be dropped to school for 8:05am. We hope to return to school shortly after 4pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class will be leaving school at 8:10am sharp on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Children should be dropped to school by 8am. We hope to return to school from Ballyhass shortly after 5pm.

A reminder that children going to Ballyhass must have the online waiver completed by a parent. This is available at <u>https://www.ballyhass.ie/sign-</u> waiver&id=160228&k=40609611BC794957E35BFBC845DDE0CB

## The school bus will not be running next Monday due to school tours.

On Tuesday our Coiste Gaeilge travel to Roscrea to collect an award for our participation in the Gaelbhratach scheme. We have been working on promoting and speaking Irish throughout the school day as much as possible and look forward to our continued involvement in this next year. Unfortunately, as numbers are limited at this event, we can only bring 6 members of the Coiste Gaeilge. Ellie, Eoghan, Logan, Tom, Connor and Emma will be attending on the day. We will be leaving the school at 9am sharp and hope to return to school by 3pm.

Weather permitting, we hope to go for a walk to Paradise Hill on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. This is part of our Wellness Week initiative. We will be holding a variety of other activities throughout the week. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing, footwear, suncream, sunhat on Wednesday. Your child will also need a small packed lunch for this and we will have our hot meals when we return to school later in the day.

As you are aware, last January the school was successful in its application for the Digital STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) grant. There were less than 25 schools in Limerick that received this and we were delighted to receive €5,000 as part of this to go towards promoting STEM activities in school. A big thank you once again to Mr Maloney for leading our application for this grant and putting together a very detailed application. After carefully researching how this money can be best utilised, we have decided to invest in VEX robotics for all class levels. We have bought VEX classroom kits which are age appropriate for each classroom (VEX 123, VEX Go and Vex IQ). We look forward to using these in our learning next year. Our Senior classroom will get a taster session of this where we will have a coding and robotics building workshop next Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Going forward our senior

classroom will enter the DELL VEX IQ robotics competition every year where they will build a robot to compete in an interschool competition.

Thank you also to Mrs Moloney who secured €1,000 through the BLAST scheme. As part of this we have organised 4 days of art lessons with Yvonne Esmond. These will take place this next Thursday and Friday through Zoom classes and Yvonne will visit the school on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June for 2 days of workshops as well.

Classroom allocations and arrangements for next year will be shared in our end of year newsletter next week.

Is mise le meas,

Seán Kearney