



## ST. JOHN'S P.S GILFORD

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15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to thank you most sincerely for all that you have been doing with your children over the past few months during these unprecedented times. We greatly appreciate the support that you have shown to continuing your child's education, despite schools being closed during lockdown.

I would also like to thank all of our staff, who have been working away in the background preparing packs and organising online activities, as well as taking the opportunity to engage in further professional development opportunities, learning new skills and just being there to engage with the children through Seesaw as well as answer email and telephone queries. Believe me, the school building may have been closed, but school has not stopped throughout all of this time. None of us could ever have fully planned for the way our school year has ended, but I think it is fair to say that we made the best job we could of an almost impossible situation.

As we move towards the end of June, I would like to make you aware that we are planning to hold a 'Virtual Prize giving' which traditionally would have taken place in our school hall, with the whole school present along with parents, grandparents and members of the wider community. This was always an important event for our Primary 7 pupils. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to invite everyone into school for this and so it will be recorded and made available online. The Primary 7 children will then be asked to come to school on **Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> June** between **10.00 - 12 noon** to collect their awards as well as their end of year school reports and perhaps pose for some photos! Reports for all other classes will be available for collection on **Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> June** between **9.00 - 12 noon**. We would ask in all instances that social distancing within the school grounds is strictly adhered to.

As you will be aware from the media, there is a lot of speculation at present as to when schools will be reopening and what the new school day will look like. Unfortunately, we do not have these answers just yet and as you know, everything that is being planned for at present, is subject to change should the R infection rate rise above 1 at any time. We currently are awaiting guidance from the Education Authority and when this is received we will be in touch again.

As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Mrs Sorcha Lyness  
Principal