Mercy Primary School,

Chapel Lane,

Birr,

Co. Offaly

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As we come to the end of a very unusual term and year, I want to thank you all for your continued support of our school.

Over the past 12 weeks, we have all worked extremely well together to support the girls in their learning and to ensure they continued with their studies. The interaction and response from the girls to the work set for them was incredible and we are very proud of them. You as parents/guardians supported them greatly and we thank you for this. We look forward to being back together in Mercy Primary School in the new school year. At the moment all schools are waiting for guidelines to be issued by the Department outlining the procedures for the opening of schools in September. With these, we will hopefully have a clearer idea of when and how this is to happen.

At this stage, we feel that it is time to pull back on the work being sent to the girls. We would normally be in the throes of school tours, visits to Birr Castle, the playground, Sports’ Day and Outdoor Classroom. Therefore, we have decided to have an “Active Week” next week. Your class teacher will send an email with a list of suggested activities for each day. The following week, we will have a “Home Sport’s Day” and you will be sent a link to a virtual school tour, if your daughter would like to take part. We hope you will send photos/short videos of the girls during Active Week and Sports’ Day to your daughter’s teacher. We will make a compilation of all and post it on Facebook. You can continue to contact your daughter’s teacher by email until June 26th. On that day you will receive a text on that date telling you your daughter’s teacher for next year.

It is time for us now to collect the Book Rental books that the girls have at home. We will do this in accordance with social distancing rules. Each class will have a timetabled slot to return the books and we ask parents to adhere to these times so as to ensure the safety of all. **Please put books (no copies) into a tied plastic bag with your daughter’s name on the front. You can include workbooks if you wish, for the teachers to see all the work they have done. There is no pressure on anyone to have workbooks completed.**  We will have a system similar to the system we used when giving out the books – there will be staff members there to direct you. You will be given your child’s end of year school report and booklist when you return the books and any certificates she may be due to receive e.g. attendance. **It is very important that we follow Covid-19 rules so please do not bring children with you.**

Please see timetable for returning of books etc. below:

**Timetable for Tuesday June 16th:**

Second Class – 10.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Third Class – 10.30 – 11.00 a.m.

Fourth Class – 11.00 – 11.30 a.m.

Fifth Class – 11.30 – 12.00 p.m.

Sixth Class – 12.00 – 12.30 p.m.

**Timetable for Wednesday June 17th – Infants & First Class to collect reports and bring back workbooks if they wish:**

Junior & Senior Infants – 10.30 a.m.

First Class – 11.15 a.m.

**If you have children in multiple classes, please bring all books at the same time.**

It is with sadness we say goodbye to our lovely 6th class – they have been a fabulous bunch of girls. It is a difficult transition at any time, but it has been made harder this year. We fully believe these great girls are ready for their new school and will achieve great things! Good luck girls.

I hope you all have a lovely Summer and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Kindest Regards,

Barbara Hanamy