

Farewell to Mrs. Gill

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The end of this school year also marks the end of Mrs. Gill's time here in Holy Rosary School. We congratulate Mrs. Gill on her retirement but words can't express just how much we are going to miss her!

Mrs. Gill came to our school in 1985 and has remained here ever since. She has taught so many children in Wicklow Town over the years and she has made an indelible mark on this school.

In 2010 Mrs. Gill became the Deputy Principal in Holy Rosary School. Every day since she has used that platform to develop the school and improve the quality of teaching and learning for every child that has come through the doors. Not only has she been an advocate for all of the pupils,

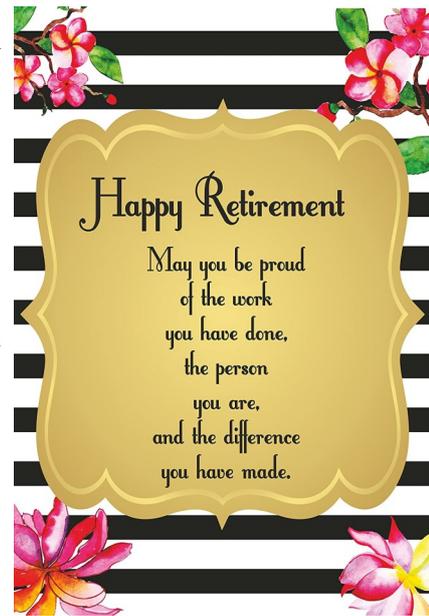
she has supported and helped countless staff and parents over the years too.

Over the last 16 months she has been central to the school's success in implementing strict health and safety measures, adapting to online learning and keeping everything going through such an extraordinary time. Every day this year she has been at the blue gate welcoming our pupils with a smile and a cheery 'Hello'. She has been a pioneer for the 'meet and greet system' in the mornings and ensured it was successful. When we continue this system next year, we will be thinking of her and her belief in children first!

Holy Rosary School owes a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs. Gill and we will be forever grateful for the gift of her

service to this school community.

Heartfelt congratulations Mrs. Gill: we hope you and your family enjoy every minute of the exciting new chapter ahead!



Special points of interest:

- School closes early for summer on Wed. 30th June: details of staggered times have been emailed.
- School re-opens on Tuesday 31st August for Senior Infants to 6th Class
- School will re-open with the Covid-19 Response Plan in place: updates will be sent later in the summer.

The Year That Was!

And so we come to the end of another school year: a year that we won't forget in a hurry, and one we hope never to repeat!

Congratulations to our staff and all our families who once again embraced online learning and worked together to help see our school through another extended closure.

In a year that saw Covid take over every element of life, we are very proud of our school's response and the commitment every staff member, student and family gave to ensuring safety at our school.

We have learned resilience and endurance, and we have worked together to keep teaching and

learning operating to a high standard in our classrooms every day.

Congratulations to everyone for working together and making this a successful school year against all the odds!

We are hopeful that next year we will be back stronger than ever!

Happenings Around The School



Our school has been a hive of activity during the last term. All of our classes have worked hard, online and in school, and have packed as much activity in as possible.

We couldn't go far on school tours this year, but we embraced the resources around us and had lots of fun along the way. Classes have been out and about around Wicklow visiting the church, the convent gardens, the Abbey grounds, the beach and the Black Castle. 6th Class

were lucky enough to do orienteering with Sr. Colette. Our younger classes had a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Some classes completed a heritage trail around town and some even managed a stop at the chippers on the way back!!

Covid has taught us that keeping things simple has just as much value as bigger events: we can have just as much learning and fun on our own doorstep!

Since returning after Easter we have managed to get our library open to 2nd-6th classes again. Just in the last week we also managed to open our 'Into The Quiet Room' for 2nd and 6th Classes. It was such a positive thing for our school to see signs of normal school life returning. Our hope is that in September we can continue to follow all public health advice, but also have a little more freedom to use all the wonderful resources in our school.

"The D.E.N. stands for Delivering Educational Nurture"

The D.E.N.

In our last newsletter we showed you the work that was beginning in the old kitchen in Holy Rosary.

We can now report that work is complete and we have finished our new nurture room!

A nurture room is a safe, comfortable and home-like environment. Children work in groups with the teacher to

develop their social and emotional skills so that they are better equipped to engage with curriculum learning.

In a year that has tested our wellbeing and our resilience, we are delighted to have this warm, inviting space in our school where we can support children and help them to flourish and grow.

Thank you to everyone who

has helped make this happen. We had lots of involvement from staff, parents and students, and all their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Our nurture room has been named **The D.E.N.** (Delivering Educational Nurture).

We are looking forward to using it and updating you on how we're getting on next year!

Farewell to 6th Class

Their journey in our school has come to an end, but we will never forget our 6th classes: our graduating Class of 2021!

On Friday we celebrated individual class graduations where we saw the uniqueness of each of these special groups. We also came

together online with staff, parents and our students to celebrate the successes of this great group of pupils. They have become great ambassadors for our school and have shown themselves to be very good role models for our younger students.

Huge congratulations and well

done to our Class of 2021!

We are so proud of every one of you and we know that you all have bright futures ahead of you! Go forward and chase your dreams, and always remember that the community of Holy Rosary School will be cheering you on!



Active School Week/Green Schools News

A few weeks ago we held our Active School Week and everyone had a chance to get out, get active and have some fun. It was just the tonic we needed after returning to school following another extended school closure. Throughout the week we had lots of activities like Drop Everything and Dance and the ever popular Hula Hoop Challenge.

Apart from all of the activity, it was great to hear the joy and laughter in everyone's

voices echoing throughout the school. A huge thank you to the staff who worked hard to make this event happen!

This year also saw the successful return to the Green Schools programme. Ms. Byrne's 6th Class took the lead on the committee for this and led the entire school community towards achieving our first Green Schools Flag in over 12 years. This is a fantastic achievement and we

hope to continue this work next year. We are looking forward to having representation from more classes on our committee next year and starting the work on our next Green Schools Flag!



'Into The Woods'

Not everyone knows, but we have a class for children with autism in our school. Even less people know that we have an Early Intervention Class for children with autism. Children as young as 3 years of age attend our school as part of this programme.

We don't celebrate these classes enough in our school. Next year we are going to change this. Our first step is

to make sure everyone knows about our classes. We are going to call our classes for children with autism 'Into The Woods' and we are going to teach our pupils about this important branch of our school. Just like the library, the 'Into the Quiet Room' and 'The D.E.N.' are all integral parts of our school, so too are our classes for children with autism.

Our Early Intervention Class is known as Willow Room. Our school-age class is Holly Room. All other classes in our school have an associated tree. We will use these next year to teach all the children that while we all have different names, we are all part of the same welcoming school.

"While we all have different names, we are all part of the same welcoming school"

Outdoor Classroom

With thanks to Healthy Ireland's Small Grants Scheme we were able to develop our outdoor classroom this year and we are delighted with the result. Thank you to Ms. Murray and Ms. Van Rooy who led this project and helped create such a wonderful space.

Throughout this difficult year,

we were so lucky to have this space, and every class embraced the outdoors on a regular basis. We have learned that a little bit of drizzle and wind is ok...and we continued learning through it all!

Having this outdoor space meant that students and teachers could take a break from the constraints of life in a Covid classroom. It was an

oasis during times of difficulty. The positive side of Covid is that we have learned to see the value of embracing the outdoors and using it more to support our teaching and learning.

We are looking forward to continuing this practice next year and we already have plans for how we can enhance this outdoor space!



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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Breaking News!

Our new website is under construction!

We hope to send details before we return for a new school year!!

The challenges of 2021 didn't stop us having a jam-packed year. Against the odds, we managed:

Class Calendars, monthly No Uniform Days, Christmas Cards, Panto & Popcorn Event, NPC information talk for parents of new junior infants and a pizza party for 6th Class graduation.

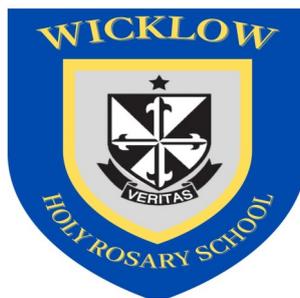
We also managed to complete PA training sessions with NPC to develop how we work as a group and two of our members took part in an NPC run Parents' Association Clinic to liaise with other PAs for ideas during this difficult year.

We started this school year not knowing what to expect. All our usual events that we hold could not happen, but we were determined not to give up and tried to come up with some alternatives. It was not easy, but the events mentioned above were widely supported by families within the school. We were amazed and delighted with all the contributions that families made...thank you!

Overall, we have had a very successful year and are looking forward to what the new school year will bring.

Claire McVeigh, Parents' Association Chairperson.

Find us on
Facebook!



Road To Tokyo Fundraiser

One of our biggest success stories of the year was our 'Road To Tokyo' Fundraiser. This event came about as an alternative to the activity day that the Parents' Association organise every year. We needed something whereby we could generate funds for school, but also inject some fun into our school day and include families!

With thanks to Ms. O'Hara, our school joined the Road To Tokyo project which ticked all our boxes. We had lots of fun in school with regular activities and the opportunity to track our progress as we made the trip

to Toyko. Families joined in the fun by taking part in activities at home and sharing them with us.

We sent a sponsorship card home to each family and were amazed with the donations and the support you showed to our school. We raised over €8000 which will be used to support IT development in the school.

Thank you to the PA and to Ms. O'Hara who organised the sponsorship cards. They were provided to us by Colin O'Brien of Wicklow Print Solutions and we thank him sincerely for his continued support.

Having completed this project, every child in our school was presented with a bag and a special Olympic pin. This is the same pin that the Irish Olympians will wear in Tokyo and we are one of only two schools of pupils who were given one of our very own! How lucky we are and what a way to finish another good year in school.

Well done to everyone. Enjoy the summer holidays! Everyone has earned a wonderful, fun-filled break!

