31 August 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians

The long awaited return to school is almost here, thank God! Tomorrow, your children and thousands across the country will carry the hopes of the nation that the beginning of better times has dawned… but still the caution is all around us and rightly so.

May I say a couple of things on behalf of the Board of Management:

Firstly, to welcome our new families to St Patrick’s and wish you every happiness in the great adventure of school and life amongst us. Your children are our life blood and we will treasure them. To all our parents and children we say the same, welcome back.

Secondly, to say a huge ‘thank you’ to Rachel Harper, our Principal, Dee our Secretary and all the wonderful staff for knocking it out of the park in setting the school up to comply with all the restrictions and regulations on top of the heavy work load normally involved at the start of a new school year. I believe we are a model of good practise and will also be a busy, fun, welcoming school at the same time.

A special thought for parents as you leave your little darlings at the gate and especially for our Junior Infants … I include this excerpt from a poem by C. Day Lewis called ‘Walking Away’, he wrote it when reflecting on leaving his son Sean off at school for the first time. I know on Tuesday many hearts will be similarly touched when you will all discover the power of letting go …into the hands of our wonderful staff!

*“Behind a scatter of boys. I can see*

*You walking away from me towards the school*

*With the pathos of a half-fledged thing set free*

*Into a wilderness, the gait of one*

*Who finds no path where the path should be.*

*That hesitant figure, eddying away*

*Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem,*

*Has something I never quite grasp to convey*

*About nature’s give-and-take – the small, the scorching*

*Ordeals which fire one’s irresolute clay.*

*I have had worse partings, but none that so*

*Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly*

*Saying what God alone could perfectly show –*

*How selfhood begins with a walking away,*

*And love is proved in the letting go.”*

Yours in Faith,



Canon David Mungavin