



Re: Standardised Testing - Polling Station - Parental Questionnaire – Green Schools – STEM Room

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would be grateful if you could please take note of the following.

**Standardised Testing – Third to Sixth Class**

Standardised testing in Mathematics will be conducted tomorrow (Wednesday) Paper 1 and Thursday Paper 2, it is important that your child is in attendance for this testing. We will continue to use the SIGMA-T test.

Online testing in literacy will take place next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday it is equally important that your child is in attendance on these days. Online testing will involve the use of the new Drumcondra Primary Reading Test in Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class. The online test was piloted in St. Mary's last year and was standardised on a nationally representative sample in spring 2018. Please note the following information re: this new test from the Educational Research Institute and please refer to attached letter.

*The standardised tests previously available for Irish primary schools were normed over ten years ago. Tests generally become easier over time as familiarity with content increases. Additionally, achievement levels nationally have improved significantly over the last decade ... If you see an overall pattern of slightly decreasing scores when pupils transition from an older test, it is likely that this may reflect the shift from outdated norms to current (and more accurate) norms, rather than reflecting an actual change in pupil performance or teaching outcomes. (ERC)*

This online literacy test is not available for Second Class. Second Class teachers have made their own arrangements re: testing and will use a paper version of the same test.

**Polling Station – Clarification- St. Mary's will not be used on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May** -St. Mary's was used as a polling station for the presidential election and referendum in October as St. Patrick's Hall, Church Sq. was unavailable on this date. St. Patrick's Hall is available and will be used for voting this Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> St. Mary's will not be used and will be open for school on this day.

**Parental Questionnaire – School Self-Evaluation – Pupil Questionnaire**

We are currently evaluating teaching and learning in the school in relation to literacy. A parental questionnaire will be circulated to a sample of classes next week. We would be grateful if those parents who receive a questionnaire could please return it their child's class teacher at their earliest convenience. We will also be issuing pupil questionnaires in a selection of classes.

**Green Schools Award**

We are pleased to inform you that St. Mary's has been awarded its fifth green flag on the theme of biodiversity. Congratulations to Ms Mc Entee, Ms Deery and the Green Schools Committee and all classes for all of their hard work.

**Seomra Spraioi – STEM Room** – We are currently developing the Seomra Spraioi as a STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) Room for September. If any parents are able to help us with this project, we would be delighted. If you can help in any way, please contact the school office.

Is mise le meas,

Colm Mac Cinna