

# St. Mary's Parish Primary School

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Dear Parents

As you are aware the Dept of Education and Skills has given us a grant to build an extension to allow us to cater for the expected enrolment in Junior Infants over the next number of years. This entails the addition of 2 extra classrooms and 4 Special Ed rooms.

With the money received we propose to convert the existing library into 2 classrooms and then replace our existing library with both a 48m<sup>2</sup> purpose designed library and a separate 160m<sup>2</sup> assembly space. We also hope to fund fitting out a sensory calming down room for special needs children, and we plan to extend our hard play area.

The large assembly space will be used for PE for some younger classes and for many other school gatherings such as choir practices, talks from visiting speakers as in science week, anti-bullying seminars, class masses, parents meetings, class assemblies etc. Since the school opened the current library has been used for all of the above. Indeed this is such a busy space that its use as a library has been minimal. The building of a new purpose built library will improve this situation, and a separate assembly space will enhance our facilities and give us a lot more flexibility. This is very important given the size of our school population and the many demands on our non-classroom spaces. The additional space will serve the school community well in the years ahead and it will cost less to carry out the work when there are builders already on site.

To allow us to do this work we will need to fundraise to top up the grant from the Department. To do this we propose to carry out a number of fundraising events between now and Christmas. We would welcome your ideas and input into proposals for how best to do this.

In any event this 6 week draw gives us an opportunity to get off to a good fundraising start and thereby reduce the balance that will have to be raised later in the year. **Each card has 6 lines. A full card is worth €90. If every family filled a card by selling to friends, relations and neighbours we would raise all that is needed to carry out this work.**

We look forward to both your suggestions and your support.

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Philip Ward