

St. Mary's Parish Primary School

Bryanstown, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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5th May 2016

LIBRARY BUILDING FUND APPEAL

Dear Parents,

As you may already know, we have received funding from the Department of Education and Skills to build two mainstream classrooms, one WC for assisted users and four learning support rooms.

Having appointed a consultant architect late last year the Board of Management discussed and explored many options for the proposed extension. Teachers and the Parents Council were also consulted. All agreed that it would be best to convert the existing library/multipurpose space into the two required classrooms, and to then build a replacement multipurpose space that would provide a better shaped and more suitable area for large gatherings. This will be used for many purposes: class assemblies, choir practices, talks from visiting speakers as in science week and anti-bullying seminars, class masses, parents meetings, and many other school gatherings. The large new assembly space will also be used for PE for some younger classes as our two PE halls are not sufficient to fully meet the needs of the school.

We would like to be in a position to include a separate library in the extension because one combined multipurpose space/library is simply not sufficient for a school with over 1100 pupils. However as this is not part of the project sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills we would need to fundraise an amount of €55,000 within the school community.

We are appealing to all families to make a donation of €50 to help build a new school library. If possible we ask that this would be paid in the month of May, but we realise that some families might prefer to **pay in instalments** over a longer period of time. All amounts received at any time will be most welcome and will help us to achieve our goal. Donations can be paid through the school online payment system. A payment request will be sent to all families in the school. Thank you to all parents who contributed to the 6 week draw. Funds raised through that draw will also go towards the building fund.

Reading is vitally important for children. While they may be “learning to read” in the early years of primary school, they will be “reading to learn” for the rest of their lives. We also appreciate that reading for enjoyment is one of life’s greatest pleasures. Therefore we want our children to have the best possible supports and facilities to help them become great readers. Given the size of our school population, and the many demands on our non-classroom spaces, we feel that a separate library is essential to achieve this aim. As we will already be operating a building site on the school grounds from July until almost the end of 2016, we feel that this is the only practical time to build a separate library.

If you have any questions about the proposed building work you are most welcome to contact the school. We hope that you will join with us to help provide a much needed new library for the school, and we thank you in advance for your support which is always greatly appreciated.

Yours gratefully,

Anne Phillips

Chairperson Board of Management

Philip Ward

Principal

Stuart Connor

Chairperson Parents Council