

Dear P5/6 Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the new academic year! I hope you and your child(ren) have enjoyed a restful holiday.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Gary McKenna, and I am delighted to be your child's teacher for this school year. In the P5/6 classroom, I will be supported by Karen McLaren, Catherine Campbell, Charmaine Kelly and possibly another adult later in the term.

We have an exciting year ahead, filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and exploration. In Primary 5/6, we will be covering a wide range of subjects, from Mathematics and English, to World Around Us topics such as Reach for the Stars, Raiders of the Lost Tomb and Back to the Future. Our ICT and Art will also be linked to these topics. My goal is to make this year both engaging and enriching for each child, helping them to build confidence, independence, and a love for learning.

Here are a few important points for the year ahead:

- **Classroom Environment:** We aim to create a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment where every child feels valued. I encourage open communication and a strong partnership between home and school. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. You can do this by contacting the school office or via SeeSaw. I therefore strongly recommend downloading and logging into the SeeSaw app as it is our primary way of communicating information about what is happening in our class/school.

On Friday past, your child(ren) should have taken home a letter about their SeeSaw log in. For those children who weren't in my class last year, you may have to log out of last year's class and reconnect using the new QR code attached to the letter.

- **Homework & Assessments:** Homework will usually be posted on SeeSaw on a Monday, and this will detail the homework for the week. Children should keep their books in their bags and we will aim to mark them each morning. We will complete weekly assessments on spellings, mental maths and numeracy to track your child's progress. We will make sure that the tasks are manageable and reinforce what we learn in class. If your child ever feels overwhelmed, please let me know and we can adjust work accordingly.
- **Class Timetable & Special Activities:** The class timetable has been uploaded onto SeeSaw, but this may change, depending on when sports' coaches can come in. At present we will do PE on a Thursday and Friday afternoon, so please send PE gear in on those days. We also have a few exciting projects and events planned throughout the year and I'll keep you informed of all upcoming activities.
- **Communication:** I believe in a strong partnership between home and school, so I will send home regular updates about class activities, progress, and any

special notices. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. You can reach me ideally via SeeSaw messaging or via my email which is gmckenna707@c2ken.net or by calling the school office.

- **Important Dates:** Please mark these upcoming events on your calendar:
 - Homework will begin on Monday 8th September.
 - Mrs Sweeney's weekly music lessons begin: Monday 15th September.
Please ensure your child brings their whistle and notes to school for music each week.
 - If your child is on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), I will try to arrange a meeting with you in the next couple of weeks.
 - PE is Thursday & Fridays (Send PE gear in bags)
 - Parent teacher meetings will be held in the week leading up to Halloween.
These will take place after school at a time that suits all parties.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to share any important information about your child, whether it's a learning need, interest, or anything else that can help me support them better in class.

I am looking forward to working with your child and building a positive, productive, and enjoyable year ahead. Thank you for your support as we work together to make this year a great success.

Warm regards,

Gary McKenna

Primary 5/6 Class Teacher