

Blessings for the Beginning of the School Year

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our staff and students. I hope that the summer was peaceful and restful, and everyone is refreshed and renewed for the school year ahead. I extend greetings also to all our parents and guardians and to the extended school community - all the many people who support our work here in Gorey Community School.

As we begin this new school year we acknowledge, and offer gratitude for, the spirit of resilience, innovation and courage that our students, teachers, school staff, parents and administrators, have shown over the 18 months, which has helped to continue the mission of education and to keep everybody safe. This spirit has been seen in every facet of school life over the past year; in the classrooms, the quad, the corridors, the gym and on the playing fields. We have endured the restrictions with patience and strength to protect ourselves and those we love. This spirit of care, cooperation and mutual support has brought us all together and helped to make us stronger.

As we return to school, we do so with a renewed sense of hope that we have left the worst of the pandemic behind us. The news from the past week has been very hopeful with the announcement by the government of a road map for a return to normality. There are high numbers of people vaccinated in our country and this has helped to lessen the anxiety that we feel and allows us to begin to return to normal.

We pray a blessing this coming year; for the safe return to classrooms; for the health of students, teachers and school staff and administrators, and our extended community. We move forward with a spirit of hope of better days to come and an end to the Covid19 pandemic. We hope that this blessing, as John O'Donohue says so beautifully, will be a circle of light to protect, heal and strengthen all of us.

May God bless all of us in the school year ahead.

Mary Redmond

School Chaplain

September 2021

A blessing is a circle of light
drawn around a person to
protect, heal and strengthen.

Ireland Calling

John O'Donohue

www.irelandcalling.ie/john-odonohue-quotes

