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| **Messages for 6th class**#Messagesfor6thClass

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Children's writer, Sarah Webb, has invited well known people to record short inspirational videos for 6th class students to mark the end of their school year. Writers, actors, sports people and scientists have all come on board to help the 6th class of 2020 graduate in style. The videos will go live on Saturday, 23 May at 10am on the [Children's Books Ireland website](https://into.newsweaver.ie/163n485tnp/1n3iic2tqo9sr8nxzohx6d/external?a=6&p=57057344&t=31098659). Some of the names confirmed include: Amy Huberman, Paul Howard, Sinead Burke (an ex-primary teacher herself), Eoin Colfer (another ex-primary teacher), Robin Stevens, Dave Rudden, Marita Conlon-McKenna (the grandmother of a 6th class child), John Boyne, Onjali Q. Rauf, Gordon D'Arcy, Dr Sindy Joyce, Sinead Moriarty, Derek Landy and the new Laureate na nÓg, Áine Ní Ghlinn. The videos will be available free of charge via the Children's Books Ireland website and You Tube channel from the launch day on Saturday, 23 May at 10am. There will be Irish language messages for gaelscoileanna delivered by Sadhbh Devlin, Patricia Forde and Muíreann Ní Chiobháin, and a message in ISL (Irish Sign Language). As a creative writing teacher with many 6th class students in her writing clubs, Sarah understands how difficult this term has been for all children, parents and teachers. The 6th class of 2020 will miss celebrating this important transition – from 6th class to senior school. There will be no in-person graduation ceremonies, no parties, no sports days, no confirmations. As the oldest children in the school, the students in 6th class are often given extra responsibilities as they move towards the end of their primary school days and they will miss this privilege. Sarah wants to make sure 6th class children (and their parents and teachers) feel special and seen. That's where the idea for Messages for 6th Class came from. She hopes it will help celebrate the achievements of 6th class children all over Ireland and will also thank the hard working Irish teachers and principals for their eight years with the children. Many of the people recording messages have children or grandchildren in 6th class. Marita Conlon-McKenna's granddaughter, Holly is in 6th class and Alan Nolan’s son, Sam is also in 6th class. Eoin Colfer, Sinead Burke and Judi Curtin were primary school teachers and Deirdre Sullivan is currently a primary school teacher.

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