Good afternoon Fr Neil, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I welcome to you all to St Andrew’s Roman Catholic Primary School Prize Giving.

This special event is an opportunity for parents, children and staff to reflect upon our learning journey this session. We are here to celebrate our hard work and effort and our determination to succeed. Much of what we celebrate today is founded on the efforts and perseverance of our young learners.

It is too easy to say that that girl or that boy is cleverer than me – in St Andrew’s Primary School we know that success is built upon the amount of time and effort we put into our learning. To learn something new takes time and effort and very often we fail in the beginning. But we know that if we keep trying we will have success in the end.

Please bear with me whilst I give you a brief flavour of some of our school achievements this session:

* We have improved our attainment levels in reading with ABC and Beyond in our nursery and building on this in primaries 1 to 3 with RWI phonics, reading and writing programme
* We have identified evidence of clear improvements in mathematics across the school and will continue with the maths setting arrangements next session as staff and pupils acknowledge the positive impact on attainment and achievement
* Children have been given a range of opportunities to learn out with the classroom –
  + Primary 7 pupils working with Police Scotland and a range of partners learned how to manage their personal safety in the community and understand risk taking
  + Primary 6 pupils took part in the Dundee Picture Book Award scheme working with our Primary 1 classes to read books and help them select their favourites – they were then selected to be the presenting school at the citywide event in the Whitehall Theatre
  + Primary 5 participated in a design project run by the V&A working with one of the world’s top young designers
  + Primary 4 and 4/3 undertook a study of our food and its journey from the farm to the plate and visited a local farm to further understand what is involved in food production
  + Primary 3 learners studied the Egyptians as part of their social studies this session wowing us all during their assembly with a display of Egyptian culture and life in ancient times
  + Primary 2 classes learned about healthy lifestyle choices during this session with a focus on healthy eating – they visited Rosemount Farm to learn about the journey from farm to fork – in addition they learned how to take care of their bodies by keeping fit and taking exercise
  + Primary 1 classes have also had a strong focus this year on wellbeing and their outstanding assembly celebrated one aspect of this – road safety; they also developed outdoor learning over the course of this year and on many a dull day they cheered me immensely when I heard and saw them working outside at mathematics and PE – they developed this further at the end of the session with a successful and popular visit to “Muddy Boots”
  + Children in our early years class worked with parents to learn how to cook and prepare health meals and live healthy lifestyles –they were rewarded with well-deserved certificates and goody bags
* Thanks to school staff and Dundee Active Schools there has been a wide range of extra-curricular activities across the school
* At our first ever Christmas Fayre we raised in excess of £1000
* We have contributed to a range of charities including SCIAF, Mary’s Meals and Macmillan Cancer Care
* The parent council continues to support the school through fundraising and help across a range of school activities and today has supplied the secondary school ties for our Primary 7 pupils as they make the transition to St Paul’s
* The whole school has benefited from a Science grant of £500 which has been used to purchase equipment to support learning

One of the most important initiatives we aim to develop across the school with staff, children and most importantly parents is that of Growth Mindset:

With a growth mindset - people believe their abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for succeeding in life. People with a growth mindset strive to achieve their full potential through continually developing themselves and facing new challenges.

**Success is the willingness to outwork and outlearn everyone… And if it fails, you learn from what happened and do a better job next time.**

**Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.**

With these words I now invite you to sit back and enjoy our presentation of prizes:

**Vote of Thanks**

I am proud to be the Head Teacher of St Andrew’s Primary School and never more so than on an occasion such as this. St Andrew’s is a wonderful school filled with enthusiastic, hardworking learners and staff and on your behalf I would like to thank all of our invited guests today, Fr Neil, Mrs Sharkey/Harte-Carroll, Matthew, Eve and Mrs Batchelor for giving up their valuable time to help us celebrate our school year and its successes.

To parents, thank you for your support and involvement in the life and work of the school. Thank you for sending your children to school ready to learn and for supporting them in their learning throughout the year.

To staff, thank you for working so hard to improve the outcomes for our young people, for inspiring them, challenging them and setting high expectations for them throughout the school year.

To pupils, thank you for working hard, for inspiring the adults who work with you, for showing respect and kindness to others and for your sense of fun and joy in learning.

I would like to wish everyone a happy summer break and would urge you all to keep safe and to enjoy each day with your family and friends.

Fr Neil may I ask you for a final blessing to close our celebration today.