



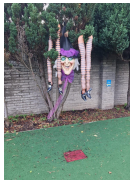
# October



Dear Parents/Guardians,

October was a busy month in St Pat's, between teaching and learning and fun in between, with an exciting lead up to Halloween.

Once again we were overwhelmed by the remarkable support and resounding success of the Halloween Fair. We would like to again shout out a massive THANK YOU to all who supported the Fair i.e parents/guardians, pupils, staff, sponsors, local businesses, members of our community, the P.A and the Fair Committee. Our school is fortunate to have an amazing team of volunteers who give so graciously of their time. The fair raised €18,000, and this money will enhance the children's education and environment during the year. This would not have been possible without your support. Míle buíochas!





## Maths Week and Climate Action Week

Maths Week took place in October and classes were busy with various fun maths activities, games and puzzles, using maths talk and looking at maths in the environment. We also marked Climate Action Week, with many pupils recording their Climate Action pledges, which were then placed on display for other pupils to see.



## DLD Day

In October, we celebrated DLD Day (an awareness day for Developmental Language Disorder). It was great to see pupils and staff wearing yellow and purple. Special thanks to the pupils in our DLD classes for their wonderful display about “Growing with DLD” and for sharing some facts about DLD over the intercom!



## Garda visit

Our community Gardaí, Garda Laura and Garda John, visited 3rd and 4th classes to discuss fire safety and the dangers of Hallowe'en. They were very impressed with the pupils responses.



## Artist in Residence

A resident artist, through TAP (Teacher and Artist Programme) will be working with the two DLD classes. Artist, Brenda Mohan, will start after the mid-term break and we look forward to hearing more about, and seeing, their wonderful creations.



## **Creative Clusters Initiative**

Ms. Gallagher has met with other professionals working on the Creative Clusters programme, and her class will be researching and designing their project over the coming months.

## **Peace Proms 2024**

Ms Baxter's 5th class will be participating in the Peace Proms 2024 on Saturday, 3rd of February. Each year, 35,000 children from schools throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland participate in Peace Proms. Ms.

Baxter's class will join 3,500 children for a performance with a full symphony youth orchestra in the RDS. This will be a fantastic experience for the class, and the boys will be busy practising the songs over the next couple of months.



## **6th class French**

The 6th classes have been learning French as part of the "Say Yes to Languages" programme, funded by the Department of Education. The new primary curriculum framework will have modern languages as part of the language curriculum, from 3rd class.

## **Tin-whistle**

All classes from 3rd to 6th class have been busy this term, learning to play the tin-whistle. Well done on all the practice!





## Links with DCU

The history elective students from DCU met with the 6th classes to work on the strand unit of “local studies.” They plan to take a tour of the local graveyard on Church Avenue to learn some local history.

The PE Elective students in DCU recently worked on orienteering lessons around the grounds of the campus with the 5th classes.

Deans of Education from universities in Shanghai and Cape Town visited the school for a meeting with Ms. Bassett, and had an opportunity to visit some classes for a St Pat’s welcome. The pupils had many questions, and learned some interesting facts about China and South Africa



## Assemblies

Our Junior Infants had their first assembly, when Junior and Senior Infants gathered in the Junior hall.

1st-6th class assembly took place in the senior hall and Mr. Skelly’s class led us in a lovely rendition of Ireland’s Call. The football and athletic teams received a round of applause, and the new Student Council was introduced to everyone.



## Sacraments

We recently held parent meetings with the Communion and Confirmation classes. Two parent committees were established to help with some family masses throughout the year. The family masses will support the home, school and parish preparation for the sacraments. Many thanks to the parents/ guardians who have joined the committees.

Fr. Seamus celebrated the Mass of Enrolment for the Communion class boys, and will soon celebrate the Mass of Enrolment with those making Confirmation.



## Sport

Well done to our senior football team, who were so disappointed to lose their quarter final match against Belgrove by just one point. They showed great sportsmanship, and were gracious with the loss. They can be very proud of their achievement; as a school we are so proud of them. Thanks to their coaches Mr. Carey and Mr. Tubridy for all their help.



Well done to our three teams who participated in the Clonliffe Harriers cross-country event at the start do October. All three teams did very well, and our 5th class team came 2nd place, bringing home silver medals. Thanks to Mr. Skelly and the parents who helped on the day!



## Active Schools

The Active Committee continue their work in reminding us to be a physically active school community. Everyone enjoyed last month's table tennis "takeover day" and we look forward to similar days during the year. The Hallowe'en disco and parade got everyone moving at the end of the month. We will have three new members from 1st class joining the Active Committee this year. Thanks to Mr. Skelly, Mr. Maguire, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kealy and Ms. Power for helping to coordinate Active School events.



## Student Council

The new Student Council members are: Macdara, Mobhi, Louis, Seán, Cole (6th class/ Ms. Savage's class), Oliver, Harry (5th class), Seán DB and Sean F (4th class), and Patrick, Bobby, Daniel and Dom (3rd class/ Ms/ McCabe's class). They met with Ms. Bassett to discuss their roles and responsibilities, i.e to represent the student body at events, to channel pupil's voice, to assist with school policy and to contribute to policy development, and to assist with the organisation of events in the school. The Student Council had a very informative meeting with Lisa and Sean from Dublin City Council, to compare and contrast how the two Councils operate!



## Uniform Committee

The Uniform Committee met to discuss the uniform from 2024 when we become co-educational. The uniform committee members are pupils Katie, Emma, Kira, Sarah, Brendan and Ali, staff members Ms. Duffy, Claire and Ms. Bassett, BoM member Cliona Kernan and P.A member Karina Hull. The Committee passed their recommendations to the Board of Management. From next year, Junior Infants will wear the the school tracksuit for the first two years, after which they will use the tracksuit and the uniform.



## Green School Committee

This year, we continue to work on our sixth flag, Global Citizenship - Litter & Waste. *"This theme enables schools to discover how work on Green-Schools has positively influenced our global community."*

The new committee members from 2nd-6th class are: Rúairí, Harry, John and Tom (6th class), Samuel and Alex (5th class), Ming, Darragh, Kira and Sarah (4th class and Ms. Savage's class), Callum, Daniel and Austin (3rd class), and Joshua and Féilim (2nd class).

The Committee has been busy updating class recycling bins and restarting the Yard Litter Picking Schedule in the Senior Building. They also met with Sean and Lisa from Dublin City Council to make their plan for the year. We look forward to achieving our goals of further reducing litter and waste over the year. Pupils also made Climate Action Pledges in October for Climate Action Week. Thanks to Ms. Gallagher, our Green School Coordinator, for her help in promoting a "Green School"



## School Zone

A reminder that we are in a Dublin City Council School Zone. Please park or stop away from the school and walk the remainder of the way. There should be no parking or drop-offs in the yellow zone area on Millbourne Avenue, or at the staff car-park gate on the DCU campus.

We are delighted to see many pupils cycling and scooting to school. Please remember that the boys should wear helmets and have a lock. Please also consider a high-vis jacket for the dark winter mornings.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Meetings will take place on Wednesday, 22nd of November, from 2:35 pm-5:45pm, and on Thursday, 23rd November, from 2:30pm-4:30pm. As with previous years, classes will go home a little earlier, at 2.05pm, on the longer day, Wednesday 22nd November (Normal hometime for the Junior and Senior Infants) Hometime is as usual on Thursday, 23rd November. Teachers will advise if it is possible to have a mutually agreeable time on another day, if needed. Booking times will soon be made available through Aladdin. We look forward to this opportunity to discuss your child's progress and growth.

## Catholic Schools Ethos Review Committee

This is year four of the review, and the committee recently met to review our goals in line with the document "*Understanding and living the Ethos in a Catholic Primary School.*" Over the past few years we have focused on developing our Ethos and Religious Statement, and in promoting opportunities for adult members of the school community to engage in spiritual support and growth. Last year we established the parent/guardian committees to help with sacramental preparation. This year, we hope to further promote the Catholic ethos by establishing more links with other local schools.



## School Self Evaluation

We have decided to use the School Self-Evaluation (SSE) process to initiate a wellbeing promotion review and development cycle. This will be over a three year period.

## Maths Curriculum

The staff will receive training and engage in webinars over the school year to become familiar with the new areas of focus in the curriculum. We will advise of the one day school closure when we receive the date from the Department. More information is available in this link:

[primary curriculum details](#)

## **Parents' Association**

The P.A was extremely busy in October in preparation for the Halloween Fair. All their time, effort and support with this were greatly appreciated. Their AGM took place on Thursday 26th of October. The P.A is also coordinating the sale of the Christmas cards this year. More information will follow.

## **Board of Management**

At the meeting on the 9th of October, the Board received the Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying oversight reports.

The annual review of the Ethos Committee and the update on the chaplaincy were discussed.

The Board was updated on School Self Evaluation, the autism class and coeducation, and it approved the uniform from next year.

Reports were provided by the treasurer, the principal and the P.A, and the Charities Regulator Report for 2022/2023 was adopted.

It was noted that the new Board takes up term from 1st of December.

## **Election of Parent Nominees**

Following nominations at the AGM held on 26th of October, Deirdre Lee was elected as mother nominee, and Eamonn Byrne was elected as father nominee. We are grateful to all who put themselves forward for election and thanks to all who joined on the night.

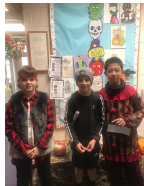
## **Halloween**

Following the Halloween Fair, there were plenty of other festivities in the run up to the Hallowe'en break.

Our Halloween Dress Up Day took place on the day of the mid-term break. It was great to see all the Halloween costumes during the yard parade. In addition to the yard parade, we had a halloween yard disco. The Junior and Senior Infants enjoyed halloween stories and some sensory toy play. The Halloween Art Competition was a big hit again this year. Well done to all the entrants for their wonderful, creative and scary designs that filled the reception area of the Senior Building.

Ms. Gallagher and the judges selected some for special merit and prizes, and all those who entered received merit certs.

2nd class and 5th class visited the Botanic Gardens for a guided tour to learn about magical plants, and to see Halloween display. It was a great end to the mid-term!



As we start the next part of the term, we thank you for your continued support,  
Regards,  
Natasha Bassett  
Principal