



April 2024

Charity number: 20116453



Dear Parent/ Guardian,  
It is hard to believe we are in the final term of school. As always, it is a busy time. I would like to thank all the parents and staff for their continued support and effort throughout the many events this term.

### **Sacraments**

Confirmation was celebrated on 19th of April. Congratulations to all the boys who were confirmed. It was lovely to celebrate this special occasion with the boys and their families. Sincere thanks to Fr. Ultan and to the teachers and SNAs who supported the boys in their preparation. Thanks also to the P.A and the 5th class parents for the wonderful refreshments afterwards in DCU's auditorium. Everyone appreciated the wonderful



## HOLY COMMUNION

We look forward, with the 2nd class boys, to the First Holy Communion, which will be celebrated on the 25th of May. Thanks in advance to the 1st class parent committee who will provide a reception afterwards!

### **Ethos**

This year, we continued our work in "Understanding and Living the Ethos in a Catholic Primary School." Our target this year was for the school to work in close partnership with another Catholic primary school in the same geographical area. We worked with Corpus Christi on our programme for Confirmation preparation, where the pupils came together for events, and both groups of pupils attended a retreat prior to Confirmation.

### **Trocaire**

Thanks again to all who took part in this year's Trocaire lenten campaign. Trocaire collected the boxes last week.

## Punctuality and attendance

A reminder to parents/ guardians that the gates open at 8:30am to receive children. A parent/guardian should wait with Junior and Senior Infants until the bell rings.

In the senior building, there is yard supervision from 8:30am.

Access to the 1st-3rd class yard is from the astro area. Please do not access the 1st-3rd class yard, via the 4th-6th class yard.

We place an emphasis on being punctual to school. Our expectation is that pupils arrive between 8:30am and 8:40am for yard gathering time. At our April assembly, everyone was reminded of the following

- Don't be late, aim for half past eight
- Try to be in the line for twenty to nine, and to
- Strive for five (days a week)

## School news

### Enrolment for next year

If any families will not be returning to school next year, could you please let the office know as soon as possible. It is important that we have this information to help us plan our classes for the coming year.

## Swimming



3rd and 6th classes have started their swimming lessons, as part of the aquatics strand of P.E. Their swim lessons take place every Friday in Westwood swimming pool.

## Soccer

The 6th class soccer team had a great win recently against Sacred Heart, Ballygall. Their most recent match against Holy Child BNS this week, resulted in a 3-0 win. Well done boys - and coaches! (Mr Ryan and Mr Tubridy)

## Chess final

Two of our 6th class teams made it through to the Dublin finals of Comórtas Fichille, along with 16 other schools. The tournament took place in Esker ETNS on 12th of April. One of our teams was winning going into the final round, but unfortunately were defeated and missed out on medals. We were delighted to have made the finals and receive certificates on the day. The boys can be very proud of their performance.



## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Conor from Ms. Baxter's 5th class, and to Dimitri from Mr. Tubridy's 5th class, who represented the school in the Eason Spelling Bee and the North Dublin Spelling Bee, respectively. Both boys did so well, with both getting as far as the 4th round of their respective competitions – an amazing achievement. Well done to Conor and Dimitri, for representing us so well. Thanks also to Ms. Duffy and Mr. Duffy who organised the qualifying Spelling Bee event in the school.



## Credit Union Quiz

The quiz team represented the school so well at the Credit Union National Finals, which took place in the RDS on the 7th of April. The boys can be very proud of their achievement in what was a very tight competition amongst 45 teams. Thanks also to Mr. Carey and Mr. Duffy for their help with the quiz teams.



## Table tennis

After a very successful league campaign, St Pat's enjoyed a great cup run, getting to the semifinals of the Leinster Minor (U13) Cup, when they were beaten by a very good Castleknock team made up entirely of first year boys. The semifinals and finals day was held at the UCD sport centre, Belfield, on 1st of May. Despite it being their first year in the competition, the Pat's boys were far from overawed by the experience, with Ronan getting the school off to a great start with a win in his singles match. This was followed by narrow defeats in the remaining singles and doubles matches. At Belfield, too, St Pat's A team and B team were presented with medals for winning both the Leinster division II and division III leagues! Thanks to the coaches, Mr. Skelly and Mr. Carey.





### **Athletics**

The athletics team is training hard for the annual Cumann na mBunscol schools athletics finals, to be held in the Morton Stadium, Santry, on Friday 24 May. As well as fielding relay teams at U12 and U14 age groups, St Pat's will also be entering individual events such as the 100m, shot put, long jump and 600m. The team was chosen following trials held last month and, as usual, competition for places was very stiff. Well done to all the lads who tried out for the teams and to those on the team who are showing a brilliant attitude by getting up very early for the pre-school training sessions. Thanks to Mr. Skelly, Mr. Tubridy and Ms. Joyce for giving generously of their time to help coach!

### **Hurling**

In April the senior hurling team played some challenging matches and competed in their Cumann na mBunscol division. It was great to see over twenty boys taking part and some great hurling was played. Unfortunately, we didn't progress past the group stage this year, but

all the boys can be proud of the skills shown in their matches. A special thanks to Martin Tynan all at Na Fianna for allowing us to use the main pitch on Mobhi road for some of our matches.

The junior hurling team is off to a great start in their Go Games campaign and are now two from two after excellent wins against St Brigid's Killester and St Fiachra's. The team has talent throughout- in the backs, midfield and the nippy forward line. Their last match will be away to Belgrove, to be played in St Anne's Park later in May. Thanks to all the hurling coaches - Mr Moore, Ms Power, Mr. Skelly and Ms. Holmes!

### **Cycle Right**

Our 5th classes are taking part in a seven session Cycle Right course in the school grounds. CYCLE RIGHT is the National Standard for Cycle Training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists. It is produced and supported by the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Authority and Cycling Ireland. The 5th class boys are taking bicycle and road skills training, mixed with theoretical and Rules of the Road instruction.

### **C.O.W**

National Bike week events take place from 13th-19th of May this year. National Cycle on Wednesday takes place that week, and we invite pupils, 4

parents and staff, who can, to consider cycling that day. Events for National Bike Week are listed here:

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/bike-week-2024/>

<https://www.transportforireland.ie/getting-around/by-bicycle/bikeweek/>

### Reminder

For those who cycle, please remember your helmet and lock.

### Earth Day

Earth Day takes place each year on April 22nd. This year Ms. Gallagher's class promoted an awareness around the school, of Earth Day. They made and displayed fabulous Planet v's Plastics posters to highlight plastic pollution, and the need for reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040.



Thanks to the classes in the senior building that have recently been on the litter picking and recycling rota. It helps remind all of us to keep the school litter-free and to try to reduce waste.

### Traffic

A reminder to please drive and park responsibly when dropping and collecting pupils from school.

Please park at a safe place away from the school zone and the school car-park gates.

### Grandparents Day- 3rd class



We were delighted to celebrate Grandparents Day with 3rd class last week. On Grandparents Day, we paid tribute to grandparents and the important role they play in shaping the character and values of our young people. It was lovely for the boys to share their work and lovely singing with our visitors. Mr. Skelly, Mr. Ryan and Mr Doyle, along with Ms. Gallagher prepared a short prayer service and blessing for the occasion. Sincere thanks to the Parents Association and 3rd class parent volunteers who provided the lovely refreshments and helped decorate and prepare the hall. Some photos follow:



## Student Council



The student Council will be meeting with former Taoiseach, and past pupil, Bertie Ahern, in May. The boys will have the opportunity to hear about the role of politicians, in particular the role of the Taoiseach, and they may also hear some of his school day memories of St Pat's!

Following the S.C fundraiser, which raised over €800, new P.E/ active yard equipment was purchased, including foam sponge footballs, foam javelins, match footballs and handpumps, basketball hoops, unihoc pucks, bibs and ball bags. Thanks to the Active Committee for their help with this.

## Active Committee



The staff and pupils of the Active Committee will be discussing and planning events for Active Week, which will take place in the last week of May. As part of Active Week, we will be holding our annual Sponsored Walk. Hopefully the weather will be fine! More details to follow!

## Summer term

Hopefully we see some sunny weather in the weeks ahead. A reminder that navy or grey shorts may be worn in May/June. Alternatively, Lynches stock shorts with the school crest.

The HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), in collaboration with Healthy Ireland, and aligned to the implementation of the Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026, recommends the use of wide-brimmed hats for when children are out in the sun. A wide brimmed hat shades the face, ears and neck. They note that children and young people are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of UV radiation from the sun, and recommend the important primary defences of clothing, shade, hat and sunglasses, along with sunscreen. In sunny weather, please try to remember to provide a sun hat and to apply sunscreen before coming to school school.

## Tours

Tour season will soon be starting. We hope all the classes enjoy their tours this year. Details of tours will be on Aladdin.



## Solar Panels

Our application for solar panels was approved and we are now engaging with the contractors to undertake the work.



## School Self Evaluation in Wellbeing

Parents/guardians received a link to the parent/guardian questionnaire, through Aladdin, and through the P.A class whatsapp groups. If you have not yet responded, please do so, the link is still available here:

[parent survey](#)

## School closure reminder

A reminder that May mid-term takes place next week, the week of the Bank holiday. School is closed from 6th-10th of May.

## School Closure 7th of June

There is no school on Monday, 7th of June, as the school is being used as a polling station for the local and European elections.

## Board of Management

The Board of Management met on the 15th of April. The Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Oversight Reports were provided. Correspondence was taken and discussed, and electricity contracts were considered.

Proposals for after schools clubs were discussed, and the policy on the Hire and Use of School Premises was reviewed and approved. The Board noted a letter from the Archbishop of Dublin to schools, regarding the need to establish special schools in the diocese. An update on the Autism Classroom and the capital project for co-ed facilities were discussed, including a contingency plan if there is a delay with work. The Principal's Report, and Teaching and Learning Report were shared. The high number of applications for Junior Infants for September 2024 were noted. The Treasurer updated the Board on school accounts, and an update on recent P.A activities was shared. The next meeting takes place on 20th of May.



## Parents Association

The P.A. organised the annual Family Quiz, which took place on Sunday, 14th of April, in the senior school hall. There were some lovely treats, music and dancing, in between the rounds!  
Congratulations to the winning families, and thanks to all who helped on the day.



Sincere thanks to the P.A for their support and help, and a wonderful spread of refreshments on Grandparent's Day and on the day of Confirmation.

Fundraising, through this year's activities, has helped with the following projects:

Heavily subsidised fees for the term of tin- whistle classes from 3rd-6th class, and an additional month of lessons were fully funded. (Next year we will be continuing tin whistle from 3rd-6th class)

Two new flag poles for the Active and Cinealtas flags.

The Junior school rooms will be painted over the Summer, and with the new Maths Curriculum in place from September, we are investing in new and additional Maths resources.

## Podcast of school news

Finally, Mr. Tubridy's 5th class has been busy making their school podcast! Here, you can listen to some of their news, reviews and interviews! We hope you enjoy listening to it, as much as they enjoyed making it! Well done, boys!

## [5th class podcast](#)

We hope everyone enjoys the Bank holiday break!



Kind regards  
Natasha Bassett  
Principal