

March 2024

Charity number: 20116453



The school year is certainly moving along at pace, and in this March newsletter, you can read about recent activities and events. We hope everyone enjoyed St Patrick's Day, and are looking forward to the Easter holidays.

Punctuality/access to yard

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, Pupils are asked to "strive for five" days of being punctual. Pupils who arrive a few minutes late (and whose classroom does not have its own external door should come in the door by Ms. Bassett's office. Once that door is closed, they should come in the front door at the secretary's office. Lateness is

formally recorded by the class teacher on Aladdin when pupils arrive after 9am.

Ethos and Sacraments Ceremony of Light

The 6th class boys celebrated the Ceremony Of Light this month. It was a lovely evening with beautiful singing. Well done to all involved. The boys have been continuing their preparation for Confirmation Day, recently attending a class mass with Fr. Ultan.



6th Class Retreat

The 6th class pupils attended the monastery on St. Alphonsus Road for a retreat day, facilitated by a member of the Ruah Team. They enjoyed a day of reflection, fun and prayer in a relaxed and spiritual environment. The emphasis was to become attuned to ourselves and to others, and to be aware of a

spiritual dimension in today's world.

First Penance

The 2nd class boys celebrated their First Confession this month. Fr. Ultan, Fr. Seamus and Monsignor Martin joined on the evening. Thanks to Ms. Doyle for conducting the music. The boys' singing on the night was beautiful. We were very proud of them!



St. Patrick's Day

Classes learned about our Patron Saint, and Fr. Ultan joined for the ceolchoirm, a very special performance to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí ceolchoirm againn ar an Aoine. Bhí na buachaillí ag canadh, ag damhsa agus ag seinm uirlisí ceoil. Bhain gach duine taitneamh as. Maith sibh go léir agus go raibh maith agat, Ms Baxter, cé a bhí ag eagrú agus ag cahbrú gach duine. To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, we enjoyed listening to Irish music, and all classes took part in the

traditional ceolchoirm in the halla for Lá Glas. There were some very talented musicians, and classes performed a collection of Irish songs and poems.





The Junior and Senior Infants were treated to a brilliant performance by a trad band, while the classes of the senior building were lucky to see a high-school marching band practicing ahead of the St Patrick's Day parade!



The 6th class boys visited Corpus Christi for "Caifé Gaeilge", to converse as Gaeilge with the girls. They also took part in a *an tóiríocht taisce!* Thanks to Corpus Christi for the lovely welcome! Maith sibh gach duine!



Credit Union Quiz

Round two of the Credit Union Quiz took place on Friday, 1st of March. Pictured is our winning team which goes through to the National Finals in the RDS on Sunday the 7th of April! We are very proud of the team, Louis, Ruairi, Tom and Aodhan! Best of luck to the boys!



Chess

Two of our teams, The Midnight Maestros and The Dark Horses, made it through to the Dublin finals, to take place in April! Well done to Conor, John, Sean, Haoyun, Oisín, Alberto, Tom and Matthew! Also, to Sonny, James, Louis, Alex, Elliot, Oisín, Domhnall, and Alex!



World Book Day

World Book Day took place this month, and it was great to see extra excitement around books and reading. Some classes paired with younger classes for shared reading. We all enjoyed wearing pyjamas or dressing as our favourite book character as we “snuggled up with a book.”

We were also lucky to welcome two very well-known authors that week. Brianóg Brady Dawson met each class from Junior Infants to 3rd class. Many pupils have read Brianóg’s books in the Panda series, featuring the irrepressibly naughty Danny Brown. e.g Granny Makes a Mess, Danny’s Sick Trick, Danny’s Smelly Toothbrush.

4th-6th classes met author Alan Nolan, to hear about life as an author, and to hear readings from some of his interesting and entertaining books. Thanks to Mr.



Mr. Doyle's boys were each gifted with a copy of *The Wonder Brothers*, by author Frank Cottrell Boyce. Frank himself generously sent the books to the class after they were unable to attend his book reading due to the snowy weather a few weeks ago.

World Book Day tokens were distributed for World Book Day and are valid until March 31st. These book tokens can be used in all participating bookshops and can be exchanged for specially priced books at €1.50 or to get a discount of €1.50 off other books on sale.

Science Blast

Mr. Carey's 6th class and Ms. O'Dwyer's class attended the ESB Primary Science Blast in the RDS. They had a great day demonstrating and discussing their projects and findings, and learning about the other investigations too.



5th class Science

Ms. Baxter's class completed their programme of work using STEM in a Box. Here are some more of the photos of their fabulous and engaging work.





Spelling Bee

The final of the St Pat's Spelling Bee 2024 took place recently. 5th and 6th classes battled it out to see who would progress to the The North Dublin Spelling Bee, and the Eason's Dublin County Final. With a few tough words along the way, and a final battle between eight remaining pupils, two winners were eventually crowned. We wish Dmitri and Conor from 5th class the very best of luck in the competition. Louis from 6th class is the sub.



Thanks to Ms. Duffy and Mr. Duffy for running the challenge. We also thank all the 5th and 6th class participants for taking part. They were superb! Congratulations to each and every one on a job well done! Pictured below are the eight finalists.



5th class at Hugh Lane Gallery

Mr. Tubridy's class visited the Hugh Lane Gallery to see a collection of modern and contemporary Irish and international art. Following discussion of the artwork, the boys attended an artist-led workshop. This workshop included the use of green screen animation to document the artwork made.



Swimming for 3rd and 6th class

Our 3rd classes and 6th classes will be developing their swimming skills and water safety knowledge every Friday, for six weeks, as part of the aquatics strand of P.E. A note has been sent to parents/guardians of those classes. The lessons are to commence the week we return after Easter holidays!



Na Fianna

Mark has been working with Junior Infants this term. They will be finishing their programme this week. Thanks to Mark for helping all the pupils develop their skills over the year. We are fortunate to have had the use of the DCU for this activity.

Soccer news

The sixth class soccer team began their league campaign with a great win over Belgrove NS in St. Anne's Park last week. The game finished 5-2 and it was a super team performance. The boys now face Sacred Heart NS in their next game.



FAI five-a-side

Some of our sixth class boys participated in the FAI national five-a-side competition which was held in the Irish National Stadium. The boys performed exceptionally well, making it all the way to the finals. Unfortunately our boys lost out on penalties in the final game. They had five wins along the way, and didn't concede a goal through the entire tournament.

Well done to all involved, and thanks to Mr. Tubridy and Mr. Ryan for their time with the soccer team.

Hurling news

Hurling season is underway. The 6th class boys have been attending training and trials ahead of the matches. Their first match was a friendly against St. Canice's. Other matches will take place after the Easter holidays. Thanks to Mr. Moore and Ms. Power for giving their time after school to train the hurlers.



Table tennis news

St. Pat's table tennis "A team" continued their successful run in the Leinster Schools Table Tennis Cup 2023/4 with an emphatic 5-1 win against Gonzaga.

St. Pat's took an early lead when Nathan Tunney and Carlo Scardaccione won their singles matches in straight sets. After Ronan O'Sullivan went down fighting against the talented Gonzaga number one, Alex Tynan snatched an exciting victory to leave St. Pat's three games to one ahead after the singles. Needing to win only one of their doubles matches to seal overall victory, St. Pat's wasted no time putting the tie to bed thanks to a superb straight sets win by James Greenan and Ryan MacDonald. Ronan and Alex rounded off a memorable team performance with a hard-fought five-set win. Overall score: St. Pat's 5: Gonzaga 1.

The win was all the more impressive given their opponents were all first years in secondary school. St. Pat's now march into the semi-final where they will face an even sterner test. But given the team's form and talent, it's all still to play for. C'mon St. Pat's! Pictured, are the boys from the winning team.



Links with DCU

Ms. Walsh's 4th class has been working on the Games strand in P.E. They've been using the DCU hall for P.E. in recent weeks.



The 3rd classes will be working on media, advertising and film making, with the help of some of the digital specialist students. We look forward to seeing their work!

Trocaire Boxes

Trocaire boxes can be returned after the Easter Break, to the class teacher. We will forward them to Fr. Ultan to return to Trocaire on our behalf. Alternatively, you may wish to return the box to your local parish church over the Easter break.

Green News



While "Litter and Waste" continues to be our current Green theme, we are also committed to promoting sustainable ways to get to school. We look forward to again promoting "Walk on Wednesday" (WOW) and "Cycle on Wednesday" (COW) in term three when the weather is nicer. This was a huge success last year. We hope lots of people will get involved again this year. We really rely on participants to help make these days a success.

Cycling workshops for 5th class

Like last year, our 5th classes will be taking part in a seven session Cycle Right course in the school grounds, commencing after Easter break. 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 will take bicycle and road skills training, mixed with theoretical and Rules of the Road instruction. A note has been sent to 5th class parents/guardians about this.

Reminder:

For those who cycle or scoot to school, please remember to have a helmet and lock.



Active Committee

The Active Committee met recently with Mr. Skelly to discuss active events in the school. They also discussed receiving our Active Flag and the raising of it. We will hear more about this when we return after Easter holidays. They also met to identify improvements to our active yard games.



Student Council

The Student Council's Charter for Anti-bullying is now posted in the the yards of of the senior building. The Student Council will contribute to the Active Committee's plan for Active Yard. The money raised from "Break the Rules Day" will go towards replenishing equipment. The Council wishes to thank everyone for their voluntary contributions on Aladdin.



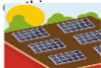
School improvement

A new gated fence has been erected in the Junior building, to help make the yard space more defined. Thanks to everyone for their patience while the work was carried out.



Solar Panels

An application was for solar panels made under the government's Climate Action Fund. We are awaiting an update.



School Self Evaluation in Wellbeing

Pupils from 1st-6th class have now completed and returned their pupil surveys. Parents/guardians have received a link to the parent/guardian questionnaire, through Aladdin, and we ask that you complete over the Easter holidays, by Monday 8th of April. This will help us as part of our whole-school reflection.

School closure reminder

A reminder that Monday the 15th of April is a maths curriculum training day for staff, sanctioned by the Department of Education. It is a school closure for pupils.

Calendar for 2024/2025

The calendar for next year, 2024-2025 was sent as a message on Aladdin last week.



Parents Association

The P.A. has been very busy organising the Easter Raffle. Everyone has been enjoying the excitement of the raffle which takes place today. Classes will be viewing the proceedings in the hall, from their classroom using Google Meets. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to everyone who has supported. Funds raised will be directed into the upkeep and resources of the school.



Sincere thanks to the P.A. for sourcing Easter eggs for everyone!

We look forward to the Family Quiz which will take place on Sunday, 14th of April, at 2:20pm in the senior school hall. It's always an enjoyable afternoon. More details to follow!

Thanks also to the P.A. for their help with recent policy review, including the Attendance Strategy and the Attendance Policy, which are now

available on the school website. They also organised a recent parent talk by Professor James O'Higgins Norman, on bullying, which was well attended.

Board of Management

The Board of management met on the 11th of March. It continued its review of the Anti Bullying Policy and Code of Behaviour, and the Child Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Oversight Reports were provided.

The Attendance Policy and Strategy were approved.

Correspondence was discussed and the Principal's Report and Teaching and Learning Report were shared. Spanish and French after-school classes were approved. A note has been sent to 3rd-6th classes regarding this. The Board received an update on solar panels for the school, and designs for the autism classroom were discussed. The treasurer updated the Board on school accounts, and they were approved. An update on recent PA activities was shared. The next meeting will be on the 15th of April.

Easter break

School reopens at 8:40am on Monday, 8th of April.

Happy Easter from all in St Pats!

Kind regards

Natasha Bassett

Principal