

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past few weeks all children in the school have been working on The Stay Safe programme. This programme aims to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It is a very comprehensive programme and the content covered is available on www.staysafe.ie.

One of the most important messages for children is that they should tell a trusted adult if something has happened that they find upsetting or worrying. In a similar way here in school we try to encourage children to tell an adult if they are aware of bullying or unkind behaviour. Children sometimes find it difficult to tell, they don't want to 'rat' on their friends, they are afraid that things might get worse if they tell or that other children will blame them for telling. The message we would like to give to all children is that it is right to tell. It is the only way to stay safe and to fight bullying and unkindness.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and to thank you for your co-operation and support.

Sheila O Neill

Sacramental News

- Congratulations to our 6th classes who, having completed their preparation with a retreat, made their Confirmation on Thursday March 9th. Well done to all on their excellent responses, reading, singing and good behaviour. A big thank you to the school choir who provided the music for the ceremony.
- Congratulations also to 2nd classes who celebrated their First Penance on Saturday, April 1st. The best of luck to all boys and girls for May 20th, their First Communion Day.

Third Class Environmental Trip

Rms. 13, 14 and 17 went on a very exciting Environmental Trip to the Japanese Gardens and National Stud on Thurs. Feb. 16th. Despite the wet day, everyone had a great time and enjoyed the foals and other signs of spring all around them. It's great to have such a fascinating place of interest on our doorstep, which is a delight to visit in all seasons.

Maths News

There were lots of entries to the Maths Competition, based this time on Maths language and Number. Congratulations to all winners and keep watching the Maths board for another competition soon.

Sporting News

- 5th & 6th class Basketball league for boys and girls will conclude at Easter. Well done to all who took part.
- 6th classes have been enjoying Tag Rugby with Neil from Newbridge Rugby Club. On Feb. 15th thirteen lucky pupils took part in a blitz in the Club, which gave them a great flavour of the sport.
- Rms. 1, 3, 13, 15, 17 and 21 have been swimming in K-Leisure and are enjoying their lessons enormously.
- Boys' U-10 football season is under way. Well done on a great win against Monasterevin. The boys also played 3 challenge matches against Scoil Mhuire, Milltown and St. Conleth's Infant School. Maith sibh go léir.
- Girls' football training is also ongoing. Well done to all who turn out every week for training and matches.
- 4th and 5th classes have been benefitting from weekly volleyball sessions on Fridays. Pupils from 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th classes played in a blitz in the Holy Family Secondary School on Mon. April 3rd. Well done to all participants.
- Many children from 4th, 5th and 6th classes have been training over the past few weeks for the annual cross country competition, to be held in Hawkfield on Thurs. April 6th. From these, 8 boys and 8 girls (teams of 6 + 2 subs) have been chosen to represent the school at the event. We wish them the best of luck on the day.

6th class Extras

6th classes have completed 'Scratch' programming lessons. The programme is available to download for free online if pupils wish to continue to work on it. They have also taken part in a Stepping Stones Workshop which helps them prepare for the transition to Secondary School.

Green Team News

- Well done to all children on a very successful battery recycling drive in school.
- We're also recycling stamps. Cut them out and bring them in to school to support the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.
- Thanks to all who make the effort to support
 Feet First Friday, reducing traffic in town.
- The children learned all about the life cycle of a chicken while watching our eggs hatch into chirping chicks. (Video on website). Well done to 2nd class for all their help looking after the hatchlings.

'Maith sibh' to our school Green Team for all their hard work supporting these projects.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

We marked this annual festival of the Irish language with activities such as a céilí and Tráth na gCeist, in which all classes participated. Check out the school website for photos of pupils enjoying the Céilí Glas. Thanks to the Parents' Association, who provided welcome treats for the hungry and thirsty dancers.

Yarnbombing

5th class children have been learning to knit in preparation for this year's June Fest yarnbombing project in the Liffey Linear Park. We are knitting multicoloured strips, 20 stitches wide, with which we will bedeck a tree in the park. Thanks to the parents and grannies who came in to help us get started and to those who are knitting strips for us. All knitting gratefully accepted!

Quiz News

Well done to Maya Brogan, Seán Halley, Daniel Feighan and Nibu Rajan on their excellent team effort at the Cumann na mBunscol Chill Dara Table Quiz, which took place on Mar. 8th in Scoil Mhuire Senior School. They did both themselves and their school proud. Quiz Club is happening at Friday lunchtime and is eagerly attended by a huge number of enthusiastic pupils.

Don't forget the Parents' Association Quiz tonight in Johnson's at 8.30 p.m. Tables of 4 @ €10 per person. A fun night is guaranteed!

