



Autumn- Winter Newsletter 2018

We welcome our Junior Infants and we hope they have a happy and memorable time in St Kevin's Girls' School.

Junior and Senior Infant Classes are really engaging with the variety of subjects but most of all they enjoy their time in the Aistear Room. In September they worked on the theme "At School". They built a school, worked with Bee Bots and played with imitation school characters. They even did Recounts (writing genre) on their experiences.

The theme in Aistear for October was "On the Farm" and both Junior and Senior Infants enjoyed this rural theme. The pupils learnt a lot about life on the farm. They engaged in role-play and pretended to be the farmer, the farmer's wife, the vet, the cook and the farmer's helper. The pupils also learnt about some of the fruit and vegetables that are grown on the farm.

Aistear provides enriching, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

Demonstration Project for In- School Therapy Support

St Kevin's School has been selected to take part in this project. It will concentrate on the provision of Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy in School. Supports and guidance from the disciplines of Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy will be provided to the school. The school will also be provided with training for school staff and assistance with identification of need and support on the deployment and utilisation of the therapies provided. These therapies will be helpful in order to best provide for all pupils who require such support.

Science Week

The 11th – 18th of November was Science Week across Ireland and to celebrate classes in St. Kevin's took part in lots of Science-related activities! Here are some examples of the wonderful activities that took place during Science Week in St. Kevin's.

Junior Infants and Senior Infants baked cupcakes in Aistear, examining the change in food when exposed to heat. They also got to eat the cupcakes!

First Class explored magnetism and experimented with magnetic materials in the classroom.

Second and Third Class participated in a Science Week carousel, taking part in three experiments. They learned about up thrust in boats, chemical reactions with Coca Cola and Mentos and how sound travels through objects!

Fourth Class took part in a presentation about Diabetes devised by Aimee Kelly -Nolan and she did a follow-up with a table quiz based on the presentation. It proved to be a very informative and enjoyable activity. The class used the opportunity to ask really interesting questions and were fascinated to learn about all the celebrities who live successful lives with this condition including a very topical Theresa May!

Fifth and Sixth Class participated in inter-class debates on Climate Change. It was attended by classes from Fourth to Sixth. The standard of debate was very high among the eight participants and it was a fitting finale to our Science Week activities.

Coding with IT Tallaght

As part of Coding Week and Maths Week, we were delighted to welcome Roisin and Amanda from IT Tallaght to St. Kevin's GNS over three days in October and November to facilitate coding sessions using circuit boards called Microbits. The girls in 3rd to 6th class coded the Microbits to display a variety of words and displays and even made pedometers and thermometers! Thank you to the Mathematics and Computer Science Departments in IT Tallaght for facilitating these sessions and exposing our students to computer science in fun ways.

After-School Coding Club

An after-school coding club in St. Kevin's GNS took place in the first term of the school year for 3rd & 4th class students. The girls involved learned the basics of block code, circuits and robotics and learned to use Scratch, Microsoft MakeCode, Microbits and more! The aim of the club was to promote STEM in the school and give students a basic understanding in computer programming language in a fun and interactive way. The After-School Coding Club is now taking place for 5th and 6th Class students for six weeks. Any enquiries about the club can be directed to Ms. Forde, Ms. Collins or Ms. Garvey.

Maths Week

There were many hands-on mathematical activities and games to encourage the learning of maths and the development of problem-solving strategies to build strong foundations for Maths for future learning!

Throughout the week, the different classes in the school participated in a range of Maths activities including Maths Station Mornings, Maths games, coding activities, using Beebots and participating in daily problem-solving tasks. There was a whole school 'Problem-Solving Poster Competition' and a Maths Week table quiz for 3rd – 4th classes. The 6th Class students participated in an inter-school Maths Table Quiz with the 6th Class pupils in St. Kevin's B.N.S. and the Ms Forde's Third Class entertained us with their Maths Week 2018 in St. Kevin's G.N.S. took place in October. All classes took part in a variety of daily 'Cheesy Maths Jokes of the Day' on the school intercom.

Thank you to all pupils, teachers and parents for their support during Maths Week.

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

As you may already know, one of St. Kevin's GNS's chosen School Self Evaluation areas is 'Improving Problem-Solving Skills in Mathematics Through the Use of Digital Technologies in Teaching and Learning'. Stage Two of the School Self Evaluation process (Gathering Evidence) has now been completed. Standardised test data, along with pupil, parent and teacher surveys were used as the data collection methods. There was an excellent response across these surveys and we would like to thank parents and pupils for their participation. The next stage of the S.S.E. process is Stage Three (Analysing and Making Judgements) and that is expected to be completed by Christmas holidays.

School Excellent Project: Digital

Along with St. Kevin's B.N.S., we are delighted to have received funding for our Schools Excellence Project in Digital from the Department of Education and Skills. Our project is linked to our School Self Evaluation process and aims to improve creative problem-solving skills through digital technologies in teaching and learning practices in our schools. This funding has allowed us to purchase digital technology equipment such as Beebots, Microbit circuit boards, Izak Cubes, tablets and more, which pupils are already enjoying across all class levels. It has also allowed us to fund travel to various Mathematics and Science events for pupils in the coming three years and we hope to fund staff professional development in teaching and learning also for the implementation of the project. This is the first year of the project and it is hoped that we will also receive funding in the second and third year of the project cycle. We will keep you updated as the project progresses throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

Writing Genres

The first seven weeks of the term were spent recalling the different genres learned last year. These were recounts, reports and narratives.

Using the writing genres framework all pupils will be involved in activities to revise, discover, learn and experiment with the three writing genres procedure, explanatory and persuasive. Each class will focus on one writing genre per term. Pupils are currently writing procedures. They have worked on a many different ideas such as making butter, how to play hurling, making jelly and fairy cakes. They have really enjoyed the experience. Samples of the pupils' writing are displayed on the writing noticeboard.

eTwinning – Christmas Card Project

Ms. Forde's Third Class have been participating in an eTwinning project over the last few months. eTwinning is an online community for schools in Europe and offers a platform for children and schools across many European countries to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and, in short, feel and be part of an exciting learning community in Europe.

Third Class' project involves sending handmade Christmas cards to other classes of a similar age group in 10 different European countries, learning about how children in other countries celebrate Christmas and sharing how Christmas is celebrated in Ireland. Third class will in return, receive 10 Christmas cards from other classes in Poland, Spain, France, Italy, Ukraine, Serbia, Romania, Denmark, Greece and Latvia. They will also be participating in quizzes and games with the other classes through the eTwinning online platform in December. This is Third Class' first eTwinning project and they are looking forward to participating in another project in the new year. It has been a worthwhile and rewarding educational experience so far.

WW 1

The children in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth commemorated the centenary of the 1918 armistice marking the ending the First World War on Friday 9th of November. In a presentation to classes from Second to Sixth they explored the war through the following topics - historical background and causes, poetry, art, music, communications, Christmas truce, the 1916 Rising and the role of animals. Sixth Class paid a moving tribute to an Irishman who had fought in the war and who had been awarded the Victoria Cross. There is an exhibition of all our WW1 resources in the school library for classes to visit over the coming weeks.

Students' Council Report

The Student Council have been busy working on several initiatives since September. They have helped to formulate our revised Healthy Lunch Policy and are delighted to note the lovely healthy lunches pupils are eating but they would also like to remind all pupils of the following points:

* treats on Friday only

*** chocolate milk and chocolate yoghurts should be considered as Friday treats**

*** treats should be regular size**

*** just one treat on Friday please**

The council are hoping every pupil will write or draw her favourite healthy recipe to be included in our school cookbook!

The Student Council would also encourage everyone to stay active during the dark winter evenings and our Active School Committee are working on introducing new games to the yard. Dance on Friday is also a Student Council initiative which the whole school gets involved in. The Student Council have also worked with the junior classes as reading and art buddies.

The council are hoping to get all classes playing board games and are currently gathering board games from around the school. Board games offer a great opportunity to develop language and social skills. They are also appealing for any games which your family may be prepared to donate to the school.

Sport

Gaelic Football.

We were delighted with our first ever Gaelic football team who qualified to play in the final of the Corn na Laoch Competition in Croke Park. We had a large panel of talented and determined players from 6th, 5th and 4th class who played in six games along the road to Croke Park. We owe a great deal of thanks to our local club St Kevin's Killian's for all their help and of course we must mention all our wonderful supporters who were there to encourage the team in the final in Croke Park and previous games. Thank you to all involved.

Camogie

Once again, we are delighted to have Coach Tony from Faugh's G.A.A. Club training different classes throughout the school this year. We have also begun planning our Cumann na mBunscol Camogie campaign! Matches start in the new year. Watch this space!

Soccer

The day after our Croke Park adventure we set off again. This time with a team of soccer players from third and fourth class participated in a soccer blitz run by the F. A. I. in the Spawell Leisure Centre. The girls competed well. They were the only team from the six schools which participated to win all their matches. We were very grateful to Kilnamanagh Football Club mentor Mrs Curtis who helped with coaching and transport to the venue.

Badminton

We have been successful in our application to participate in a new badminton school initiative. Two teachers will attend a training course to help implement the coaching programme and the school will receive equipment to the value of €500. Two teachers will attend the course and will help roll out the new programme in the school.

Gymnastics

On Thursday 15th November two coaches from The Olympian Gymnastics' Club gave taster sessions to several classes. It was a great experience for the girls who really enjoyed trying out the routines.

Cricket

We will welcome our cricket coach back to the school in December to give cricket taster sessions to a number of classes throughout the school. Cricket has always been a favourite with our pupils in the past. We have participated in cricket blitzes for primary schools and look forward to competing in further competitions early next year.

Active School Flag

We have begun work on our Active School Flag application. We use programmes such as Go-Noodle and active transitions to build more activity into the school day. Different classes choose the track for the Friday Drop Everything and Dance slot during lunchtime.

We will soon have some Christmas themed activities with the help of our Active School Committee.

World Championship Martial Arts

Congratulations to Erin O Hara who won a bronze medal for Team Ireland in Martial Arts World Championships 2018. She competed in the Under 35kg/ 10 year old category.

Debates

Debating season is here again! Following on the success of our Fifth and Sixth Class teams on reaching their respective semi-finals last year, we are building up a strong panel of young debaters. Our Fifth Class team took on the Sixth Class team on Friday 16th November on the motion "Climate Change Is Not Our Problem". It was a lively debate and really put the persuasive genre into action for the audience in the hall. The school team will debate against other school teams in the Concern Primary School Debate Competition and we wish them the best of luck.

Revised Language Curriculum

The D.E.S. introduced a Revised Language Curriculum for Primary Schools two years ago. Staff have received training in the New Curriculum over the past two years and implementation is now well advanced.

In order to further train teachers in the new content the DES has instructed schools to close for a second training day during this school year. As per the note which was sent home on October 8th our school will close on Monday 26th November to allow teachers attend training. The full school staff will attend the course in D.W.EC. for a full school day on 26th November. The closure applies only to the pupils.

National Children's Choir

All pupils in our Fifth and Sixth Classes are participating in our National Children's Choir and are busy learning the new repertoire. Our first practice with schools in our cluster group was on 8th November in St. Ultan's N.S. in Cherry Orchard. It was a great day and the girls were very well behaved as always. The first seven songs in the National Children's Choir have been learned and practised. Well done to all involved.

Homeless Volunteer Charity

The girls will be asked to bring in shoe boxes for the Capuchin Day Centre. A note will be sent home outlining suggestions for items to be packed into the boxes. Final date for collection of the boxes will be 12th December 2018.

Credit Union Art Competition

The Credit Union organised an Art competition which all classes entered. To our delight we received €100 and many individual winners. The pupils received generous prizes.

Congratulations to the winners:

7 and under category

1st Place Holly Judge

8-10 Category

1st place Amelia Gorszczyk

11-13 Category

1st place Nela Kanclerz

2nd Place Elizabete Krivenoka

The entries who came first in their age category are going forward to the next stage of the competition -the regional competition

The Credit Union also organise the annual Primary School Quiz for under 11 and 13 in Spring.

Dublin Bus Children's Art Competition

Dublin Bus thanked our pupils for participating in the Dublin Bus Children's Art competition. A number of pupils were awarded prizes during the summer. A selection of the winning pictures have been chosen to be published in the Dublin Bus Children's Art Calendar 2019.

Elizabete Krivenoka and Leah Coughlan have been selected for inclusion in the calendar and they are invited to attend the launch of this year's Children's Art Calendar on November 22nd at Dublin City Gallery- The Hugh Lane, Charlemont House at 11 a.m.

Sundries

Many thanks to the vast majority of parents who have fully paid sundries' money. It is really important that all parents pay the remainder of their bill for sundries as soon as they can as this enables teachers to buy the necessary materials for their pupils. Some bills have to be paid by the school in September so your prompt response is appreciated in this matter.

Enrolment Policy: St Kevin's Girls' School enrolment policy has been updated to include the new guidelines issued by the D.E.S..

SEN Policy: A new policy For Special Educational has been ratified by the B.O.M.

Enrolment for Junior Infants has taken place for 2019-2020.

We look forward to welcoming them in September.

Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony

An enrolment ceremony for 6th class pupils has taken place. At a mass of enrolment the candidates will be formally admitted to preparation for the sacrament. There will be special masses as part of You Shall be Witness confirmation programme in the parish.

Dates to remember

Confirmation will be in St Kevin's Church, Kilnamanagh at 11 o'clock on 2nd April. The celebrant will be Bishop Eamon Walsh.

First Communion will be on 11th May in St. Kevin's Church, Kilnamanagh at 11 o'clock.

St. Kevin's G.N.S. CD -Released due to popular demand!

Singing has always been an important part of school life in St Kevin's School and this CD stars all the amazing singers from Junior Infants to 6th Class. On the CD you will find fourteen tracks including three whole school songs. Let them rock the world! Don't miss this once-off opportunity to purchase the most sought after Christmas present! Well done to all our very enthusiastic singers!

CDs are available for sale in the school.

One CD -€10

Two CDs -€18

Three CDs- €24

Sensory Area

We are very fortunate to have a sensory area which helps to both calm and stimulate the senses. It provides relaxation and enjoyment by eliminating distraction and facilitates communication and mobility for pupils who require such support.

Fire Drill

Our pupils exited the building in a quiet, timely and orderly manner according to our Health and Safety Policy and Procedures.

Parent –Teacher Meetings

We were very pleased with the high turn-out at the recent parent –teacher meetings. These meetings are so important not only to inform parents of their children’s progress but also to inform teachers how pupils are coping outside school. They also establish the ongoing relationship between home and school and they help pupils realise that home and school work together for their benefit. Thank you to all parents for your on-going support.

Wood Turning

John Doran, a member of the Irish Woodturners’ Guild visited the school in October. He taught the pupils all about wood turning. He displayed toys he made using a chisel and lathe. The pupils later worked on a piece of procedural writing explaining how to make a spinning top!

Australia Projects

The girls in both Fifth Classes have also been researching Australian history, geography and culture for their projects due November 30th. They've had so much fun designing Aboriginal art and learning about all aspects of life 'down under'!

Lotto

Sincere thanks to all who help with running our weekly lotto together with those who purchase lotto tickets. The proceeds are a tremendous help to fund many worthwhile projects in our school.

The lotto on Wednesday is worth €1,400.

Christmas Card templates have been completed by all the pupils so we are looking forward to beautifully designed Christmas cards. The pupils loved designing their template. They will be available shortly.

Annual Carol service in St. Killian’s Church

Our two Third Classes have been invited to sing at the annual carol service in St. Killian’s Church in Kingswood at 6p.m. on Sunday the 16th December at 6 p.m.

Carol Service/ Nativity Play

Our annual carol service and Nativity Play will take place in St Kevin’s Church on December the 19th at 11 am. Junior Infants will be re-enacting the story of Christmas and the choir will be singing carols. It is always a memorable and festive occasion. Teas and coffees will be provided by the Parents’ Association in the girls’ school hall afterwards. We hope you can attend.