

# St. Kevin's G.N.S.

## Spring Newsletter 2021



### Well done!

Well done to all our school community for a seamless transition back to the school building since March. Everyone is playing a vital role in keeping us all safe. Well done to all!

### Debating

Congratulations to our school debate team who are the Concern Primary School Dublin Debating Champions! They fought off tough competition from Scoil Mhuire G.N.S. in Lucan in the final. The motion was that Irish people do not care about the Third World and St. Kevin's were proposing the motion. One of the advantages of this being a virtual final was that the other classes in the school were able to see the persuasive genre in action. We are very proud of the three girls who represented the school and they were supported by a wider group of 6<sup>th</sup> class girls who helped with research, time keeping and chairing these debates. They now go through to the Leinster Primary School debates.

### Incoming Junior Infants (2021 – 2022)

An information meeting (virtual) for the parents/guardians will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. Further details will be sent to all incoming families before then.

### Earth Day

On Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, St. Kevin's GNS celebrated Earth Day, learning about protecting the planet from pollution and deforestation.

Many classes took an active approach to Earth Day.

- The Butterfly Room planted courgettes in the school garden.
- Junior and Senior Infants went on a nature walk and looking for signs of Spring.
- First Class went on a nature walk and learned about Earth Day.
- Second Class planted sunflowers and even painted them from observation.
- Third Class planted flowers and weeded the school garden. Some students even did a litter pick around the school grounds.
- Fourth Class planted radishes in the school garden.
- Fifth Class planted lettuce for later in the summer.
- Sixth Class are planning on creating a wildflower garden in the corner of the school grounds to help biodiversity and make our school more eco-friendly.

### Outdoor Classrooms

The school is now well set up for outdoor learning. We have purchased benches and seating made from recycled plastic for around the school grounds. We even have a little fairy garden for our younger pupils. We hope to make the most of the good weather over the coming months with our pupils.

### **May Holidays**

Please note, St. Kevin's GNS and St. Kevin's BNS are closed next week on pre-scheduled school closures (3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May) for the May Bank Holiday. See you all back on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **School Tours**

Unfortunately, no school tours involving buses will take place this year. Instead, we hope to organise fun events or local trips for our classes in the month of June. More details to follow!

### **Sixth Class Graduation**

The Sixth Class Graduation is planned for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Graduation will be celebrated in line with Covid-19 restrictions this year but we can ensure it will be a creative and memorable one! More details to follow.

### **Sacrament Classes Prayer Services**

Just before the Easter holidays, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes participated in a lovely prayer service with the boys' school to help in their preparation for the sacraments. It was led by Fr. Murphy and Natalie and conducted over Zoom.

### **Fun Sponsored Walk**

We hope to continue with our yearly sponsored fun walk this year. As you know we haven't been able to fundraise at all this year so this is an opportunity for the school to have a bit of outdoor fun while raising much needed funds. The walk is planned for the month of June. The date will be decided closer to the time when we can plan for fine weather.

### **Booklists**

Booklists will be sent home by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. We are hoping to offer the ordering of books through the school again this year.

### **End of year student reports**

End-of-year school reports will be sent out to families by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June via email. Please ensure parent/guardian and contact details and email addresses are up to date.

### **Sixth Class Education Passport**

An education passport for each pupil in Sixth Class will be sent to the relevant secondary school following confirmation of enrolment. Parents will fill in the parent passport form for their daughter in the coming weeks and the pupils will fill in the student passport form.

### **Testing Schedule**

It is important that pupils attend school during the weeks 17<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May as our testing schedule is in place for this period.

### **The Lunch Bag- a trial period**

We are currently trialling school lunches from [www.thelunchbag.ie](http://www.thelunchbag.ie). Students are able to order lunches for delivery the following school day or in advance. The food is all in line with

our Healthy Eating Policy and packaging is fully compostable. Download the app for more information.

### **Half Marathon for St. Kevin's Killian's**

Well done to Ms. O Flaherty, Ms. Cullen, Ms. Lawless and Ms. McDonnell who represented the school by running a half-marathon with St. Kevin's Killian's GAA Club. We are delighted to receive some of the funds raised. Well done to all involved.

### **GAA Coaching resumes**

We are delighted to welcome back coaches from St. Kevin's Killian's who will help train the girls during the months of May and June.

### **Active Schools' Week**

We are going to run our Active School Week throughout the month of June this year. We hope to have a number of outside coaches giving the girls taster sessions. So far, we have a Tug-of-War event, skipping, and ultimate frisbee activities lined up, with more to follow. Keep an eye on website and Twitter page for updates.

### **Active School Flag**

We are still working on our application for our first Active School flag. All classes will soon receive their certs to mark the completion of their Land PAWS programme (water safety programme). Our Active School Walkway is proving really popular with staff and pupils alike.

### **Helping Hands**

The Helping Hands programme has been adapted into St. Kevin's G.N.S. as a proactive way to develop student relationships and prevent bullying. In combination with online training, it allows schools to intervene early to prevent bullying, to develop inclusive classroom, and to create conditions that make it safe for bullied students to tell. More information can be found at <https://cooperation.ie/>

### **School Website and Twitter**

Keep up to date with school news, events and more through our school website [www.stkevinsgns.com](http://www.stkevinsgns.com) and our school Twitter page [www.twitter.com/stkevinsgns](https://www.twitter.com/stkevinsgns)