

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

Summer Newsletter



June 2022

Wellbeing Week: 13-17th Jun

We were delighted to have such an exciting and jam-packed Wellbeing Week. The girls took part in Zumba, Hip Hop, GAA and rugby. There were also plenty of wellbeing activities taking place in the classrooms such as mindful breathing, mindfulness colouring, team building exercises etc. The non-uniform day and ice pops at the end of the week finished it off nicely and the girls enjoyed a whole-school assembly to mark the week too. We look forward to making this a yearly occurrence in St. Kevin's.



Sports' Days

This year, Junior Infants to 2nd Class and 3rd Class to 6th Class took part in separate Sports' Day events. The Junior end had a super day – there was an obstacle course using the large, soft-play equipment, whacky races (egg & spoon, sack & space hopper race), skipping & hula hoops and the all famous rubber duck race! We had some super helpers from 6th Class too which helped make the day a huge success!

The Senior end had a sunny fun filled day and had 7 amazing stations to choose from. As always the duck race was the most popular station, especially that is has been tweaked for the senior end making it a little more challenging! The water was definitely needed in the heat! The other stations included tag rugby, whacky races, obstacle courses, penalty shoot-out against the teacher, basketball hot seat and dancing! We had such a fantastic day and the girls should be so proud of themselves for their great participation.

School Tours

One of the highlights for us this year was being able to go back to doing our school tours! For all the girls from Junior Infants to 1st Class this would be their first time going on one and for the older classes it was such a welcome return after a 3-year break!

Junior and Senior Infant School Tour:

On Thursday 2nd June, the Junior and Senior Infant classes went to Zoom Adventure Play and Glenroe Farm for their school tour. There was huge excitement among the girls as we took off on the bus. The girls loved all the climbing challenges in Zoom as well as flying down the numerous slides. From there we went to Glenroe where, first, we enjoyed eating our lunch outside in the sunshine. We then got to see a variety of animals and some girls even held a rabbit and guinea pig! It was a fantastic day for all.



1st Class, 2nd Class and the Butterfly Class School Tour:

On Thursday 23rd June, the girls from 1st, 2nd and the Butterfly Classes went to Tayto Park! The countdown to this tour had been going on for some time so to say the girls were excited would be quite an understatement!! The day couldn't have gone better! We had the run of the park to go on as many rides as possible, followed by a lovely hot meal and finally a tour of the zoo where we saw some amazing animals! The children, teachers and S.N.A.s couldn't have had more fun and we are so proud of all the girls for representing St. Kevin's so well.



3rd and 4th Class School Tour:

On Wednesday 22nd June, 3rd and 4th Class went on their tour to Tayto Park. It was a fabulous day for all and there were lots of brave girls (and teachers!) who went on all the rollercoaster rides! The girls had the run of the park and enjoyed a hot meal there too. It will certainly be a tour to remember for all of the girls!

5th and 6th Class School Tour:

The girls from 5th and 6th Class went on their school tour to Bay Sports in Athlone on Thursday 2nd June. They really enjoyed the inflatable water park especially the huge water slides. The water was lovely and refreshing! Well done to the brave teachers who got in the water too!! Unsurprisingly, one of the biggest highlights of the day was the Mc Donald's feast on the way home!

Sporting Partnerships

We had plenty of sporting events during the school year. We are fortunate to have great sporting partnerships with St Kevin's Killian's and Kilnamanagh A.F.C. We had soccer sessions provided by some of the club's coaches. Soccer at lunch time on the green space is a privilege enjoyed by the senior pupils.

We are also very fortunate to have the services of G.A.A. coach Paddy Baker throughout the school year. Every class has benefitted from Paddy's enthusiasm for Gaelic games. To conclude the school year, Paddy organised a friendly home match v Gael Scoil Inse Chór.

Rob Mullen from Leinster rugby provided coaching for many classes this year. We are very grateful to Rob for providing an opportunity for fifth class pupils to participate in tag rugby competitions. He included a team of fifteen fifth class pupils in a national tag rugby event in the Aviva and all the fifth class girls were invited to a tag rugby blitz in Tallaght Stadium.

We look forward to a return to more school competitions in the new school year. The pupils in 5th and 6th classes will be notified when trials for school teams will take place. The Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic football games will start in September so training and trials will begin almost immediately once school returns. We were very proud of this year's team who got into the Dublin semi-finals.

Finally, if you have been in the school yard recently you will have noticed the return of basketball to the school. Thanks to your support of the School Lotto, Ms Dignam ordered two permanent basketball hoops to be installed in the yard which had already had the court marked out. Basketball has been making a great comeback in Kilnamanagh so hopefully new generations of St Kevin's girls will enjoy shooting hoops in school again.

School Inclusion Team

Prior to the first school closure because of Covid, we had been involved in an initiative to give our school access to the services of a Speech and Language Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. The project was reinstated in the autumn and we are delighted that Laoise Gilece S.L.T. and Siobhán O'Shea Senior O.T. are assigned to the schools in our cluster group.

They have both spent time in school , observing some classes while getting to know some of our classes and have provided both the teaching and S.N.A. staff with practical ideas and resources. Members of the school team met with both therapists to review the project and to plan for the new school year. They will provide staff training during Croke Park hours and will hold drop in sessions for parents in November. Further details will follow in the new school year.

Stepping Stone Forest

St Kevin's G.N.S is going to participate in an initiative to promote native species of trees and shrubs. A Stepping Stone Forest is a small densely planted forest which allows native species to grow rapidly .It will increase biodiversity in our school environment by providing a natural habitat for Irish wildlife.

John Kiberd spearheads this initiative and we will have our first meeting with John at the beginning of July to plan for September and we look forward to getting some of the senior pupils involved in this worthy initiative.

STEM

St Kevin's G.N.S. continues to grow in the area of STEM. Lots of classes were involved in digital learning and as always, a huge range of digital technologies were used throughout the school.

5th Class enjoyed a trip to Microsoft Dreamspace where they were given the opportunity to explore one of the most advanced digital learning and working hubs in the country and hear about how Microsoft are encouraging all pupils, but especially girls, to have the opportunities to learn and work with STEM.

4th Class did some fantastic work with Minecraft this year and a couple of girls were chosen to talk about their experiences for a podcast that will be used for PDST training in Minecraft.

The Junior end of the school enjoyed the use of 8 new iPads in the school with which they were able to explore and use a number of different Apps and websites to aid their learning.

Sacramental Classes

The Communion was held on Friday 27th May. The day went off without a hitch and the girls from 2nd Class and the Butterfly Class had a wonderful day. They represented the school very well and both the teachers and S.N.A.s were very proud of them all. The rest of the school enjoyed a fashion show from the girls the following week when they came into school dressed up for their Communion photos.

The Confirmations took place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th June. They went really well and everyone played a part to make it a special day that we will all remember forever. The girls also enjoyed the fashion show on the day of the photographs.

Well done to all of the teachers and S.N.A.s who worked so hard to get the girls prepared for these Sacramental events. A huge thank you to Father Michael and Natalie for making the days so special for the girls – we wish them both all the best for their next adventure.

Sixth Class Graduation

The 6th Class Graduation took place on Friday 24th June. The graduation ceremony was fantastic, 6th Class sang and danced their way into secondary school! They brought a tear to everyone's eye with recitations of heartfelt poetry. At the end of the ceremony their parents met them one last time at the school gates, where they released a biodegradable balloon with their biggest wish for the future attached to it. We hope their dreams all come true. Congratulations and good luck girls!

6th Class also have designed an amazing yearbook which we got printed and published. It looks very professional! Everyone wrote a page on their memories, their hopes for the future and included a piece of artwork. It is something we can keep and cherish in the future.

The Butterfly Class

Ms Stone and the girls from the Butterfly Class have had a super end to the year. As well as a couple of trips outside the school, they enjoyed taking part in Wellbeing Week, Sport's Day and the School Tours. Well done for all your hard work girls!



School Reports

Reports are available to view on Aladdin Connect.

School Calendar

The school calendar for 2022/2023 is available to view on the school website.

School Website and Twitter

Keep up to date with school news, events and more through our school website www.stkevinsgns.com and our school Twitter page www.twitter.com/stkevinsgns

School will finish up for the summer on **Thursday 30th June at 12 pm**. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the girls and their families the happiest of summers and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Wednesday 31st August**.