

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

Autumn/Winter Newsletter

December 2022



Community Garda

We recently had an opportunity to meet our new community garda and welcome him to the area. Just before the midterm break, Garda Shane spoke to all our classes about safety at Hallowe'en. He had plenty of practical tips to ensure everyone could have lots of fun while staying safe at this spooky time. Needless to say, the girls had lots of ideas and stories to share with Shane too.

Cake Sale

We ran our "low key" cake sale on Wednesday 26th October and we were completely overwhelmed by the response. We can't wait for the next cake sale in February when we will have our different cake competitions. Well done to Sixth Class pupils who helped out and to Daiga Krivenokova and Joan McKeown who were on hand throughout the day. Indeed, a great big thank you to everyone who helped make it such an amazing success. We raised a whopping €1,314. We hope to use the funds to purchase indoor goal posts which can be used for a variety of sports.



Hallowe'en

It is wonderful to be able to hold whole school assemblies again. They are such an important way of helping all pupils feel they are part of their school community. Apart from all the amazing costumes, we also had lots of entertainment provided by a number of classes. Mr Fogarty's Fourth Class kicked off proceedings with their version of Monster Mash. It was great to see so many pupils with the confidence to stand up and perform for the whole school and a great reminder that Kilnamanagh's definitely got talent!

School Sports

GAA:

We are so fortunate to have Paddy Baker coaching our pupils each Wednesday. In September and October he looked after our senior classes and now he is looking after the middle standards. He was a vital member of the coaching panel who worked with our fifth and sixth class school team this year. The girls stormed through their group games and played an amazing semi-final match against Firhouse. Unfortunately it wasn't to be their year to lift the cup in Croke Park but it was a fantastic occasion for the school. We were delighted that classes from second to sixth along with the pupils from the Butterfly and Bumblebee Classes came along to support our team. We were extremely grateful to Dublin Bus who provided one of double decker buses for free which reduced the transport costs for everyone who made the trip.



Soccer:

In October we celebrated with the whole country when past pupil Katie McCabe and the Irish team qualified for the World Cup. We were so proud of how our present pupils handled themselves in the glare of the media spotlight. Damien Power and coaches from Kilnamanagh AFC have set up coaching sessions with the junior classes until Christmas and will extend the coaching to the rest of the classes in the new year.



Rugby:

We are delighted to welcome back Rob to coach the senior classes again this school year. Hopefully there will be more primary school tag rugby blitzes coming up in the new year.

Amber Flag

Ms McCarthy has spearheaded our school's application for an Amber Flag. Ms Byrne is continuing the process while Ms McCarthy is on maternity leave. It is an initiative by Pieta House to promote positive mental health. A committee is being assembled with pupils from every class and they will be meeting in January to discuss their ideas. Some pupils are already helping to create our Amber Flag noticeboard. Various mindful activities have been taking place in classrooms. Some classes have been on mindful walks around the school grounds. Anthony, our caretaker, has told the classes about the beautiful plants in our school borders and garden. Staff have held mindful morning sessions before school starts. As part of our application process, we decided to sell treat bags for The Late Late Toy Show as a fundraising activity for Pieta House. 380 bags were sold and we would like to thank everybody

who supported this venture. Pauline Maher and a group of senior students organised the bags so that everyone had their treats in time for the Toy Show. Well done to everyone involved!



STEM

Maths Week 17th – 21st October

All the classes worked really hard during Maths Week and lots of great work was achieved. We held our annual Problem Solving poster competition and the winners were announced during our Hallowe'en Assembly. Well done to all the winners and runners up! It was a super way to finish off all the hard work that went into our first two months back at school!



Science Week 13th- 20th November

All classes carried out a variety of experiments to celebrate Science Week 2022. Even Junior Infants became young scientists and discovered which objects float and sink, how jelly bears grow in certain fluids. We had a science trail around the school featuring posters and scientific equipment. All classes received prizes for their standout young scientists. Third to sixth classes finished the week with a science quiz in the hall.



Primary School Debates

This is the seventh year our senior girls have participated in this wonderful competition which is sponsored by Concern and facilitated by Dublin West Education Centre. Our team is drawn from a panel of sixth class pupils. They won their first debate on the motion in November. They met an excellent team from St. Cronan's B.N.S. Our girls ably opposed the motion "All Schools Should Be Gaelscoileanna". On Wednesday 14th December the team took Inchicore NS in their second debate. They proposed the motion "Fines Should Be Implemented for Households Wasting Food." It was a great debate and

the adjudicator complimented both teams. St Kevin's GNS prevailed, and the motion was carried. The girls now advance to the Dublin Quarter Finals. The motions are often complex and require a lot of research. Our girls are really enjoying the challenge.



Stepping Stones

The first part of an initiative to have a native woodland forest on school grounds was completed in October. Each of the classes got an opportunity to help the volunteers to set up the framework of the forest. They learned about the importance of native tree species to the biodiversity of our country. The second phase of the work will take place in the spring when the planting begins. The forest will feature a willow arch which will lead into two outdoor classrooms. All classes were presented with copies of beautiful nature study books. Part of this project is aimed at educating our young people about the flora and fauna of Ireland. By using this programme, we will ensure that every pupil will know about 48 native species by the time they leave for secondary school.

Laudate Choir

Ms Collins and Ms Garvey are taking the girls from Fifth and Sixth through the repertoire of a beautiful hymns in preparation for their participation in the Laudate Choral Performance in the new year. It is an initiative of the Dublin Diocese. Details of the concert will be announced shortly.

Aistear

Junior and Senior Infants have been enjoying their time in Aistear exploring different themes. Aistear provides the students with an opportunity to expand their vocabulary and engage in a wide range of strands from the curriculum. They started with the theme of 'Life on the Farm' followed by 'The Doctor's Surgery'. They took on different roles including the farmer, vet, doctor, nurse, patient and receptionist. Aistear will resume in the new year.



New Pupils

Junior Infants:

We have two classes of Junior Infants this year. The pupils of both classes have settled into school life very well. They have even performed at our assembly and are busy preparing the Christmas Nativity at the moment. Junior Infant photographs were taken on Wednesday 17th November.

New Special Class for Autism:

The Bumblebee Class opened its doors on September 12th. We were very happy to welcome our new pupils and we are delighted they are all settling well into our school.

Ukrainian Pupils:

Our school is becoming more multicultural all the time. As you all know, we have lots of new faces throughout the school because of the numbers of international students who have joined in recent times. Over the months of July and August we had lots of Ukrainian pupils enrolled in St Kevin's. The girls

are a very welcome addition to our school. We would like to thank everyone who helped out by donating uniforms and tracksuits over the summer.

Mobile Library

The library calls to the school once a week and classes from second to sixth are availing of this wonderful service. Ms O'Flaherty coordinates with the Mobile Library and will be organising visits from the younger classes after Christmas.

Drop-In Clinic in Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy

We had a great response to the offer to avail of the advice of the two therapists during clinics we hosted in November. OT Siobhán O'Shea and SLT Laoise Gilleece have provided the school with invaluable support and advice as part of the SIM Initiative.

Sacraments

The girls in our second and sixth classes have begun their preparations to receive their First Confession and Eucharist in the case of Second Class and the Sacrament of Confirmation for the Sixth Class. They had their Enrolment Ceremony recently during Sunday Mass.

Sixth Class Educational School Tour

Sixth Class took a trip into town to visit the Natural History Museum and the National Library. All the girls had a fantastic day and represented their school exceptionally. Their guides were delighted with the girls and were impressed with their level of knowledge and enthusiasm.

December and Christmas Activities

Panto:

On Friday 16th December the Olympia Theatre's pantomime visited the school thanks to Ella Grace's mother Joanne winning a competition run by Classic Hits FM.



Carol Service:

We were delighted to be able to hold our Christmas Carol Service in the church after a 3 year break. The whole school had been preparing for this for many weeks and it was a polished and accomplished performance by all. Well done to everyone's hard work and especially to our Junior Infant classes who stole the show!

Toy Show – The Musical

Francesca Europa in 3rd Class was selected to play Megan in 'RTÉ Toy Show – The Musical' which runs from the 10th to the 31st of December in The Convention Centre. A future star in the making – well done Francesca!

Junior Infants 2023/24

Enrolments opened in October and all the families of next year's new class have been notified.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Digi Print Ireland for the donation of good quality paper to the school. It will be put to good use for art and project work.

School Website

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

School will finish up for the Christmas break on **Wednesday 21st at 12pm**. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the girls and their families the merriest of Christmases and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in the New Year on **Thursday 5th January**.

