

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

Summer Newsletter



June 2023

Goodbye 6th Class!

A huge thank you to our 6th Class girls who will be leaving St Kevin's GNS this year! They have been a tremendous help with all of the additional activities this summer term. It is truly a pleasure to see how they have grown and matured over the year.



Sacramental Classes

On April 29th our Second Class girls made their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful ceremony celebrated by Fr. Frank. Each and every girl played her part to make it a very memorable occasion. Many thanks to the girls who sang in the choir on the day and to Sr. Liz for all her help.

The girls decided to donate some of their Communion money to charity. They chose to divide their money equally between The LauraLynn Children's

Hospice, The Jack and Jill Foundation and to Mèdecins San Frontières for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. They donated a staggering €620 and we couldn't be more proud of them. Maith sibh.

6th class made their Confirmation on 13th June - the weather couldn't have been better as the sun shone brightly for the occasion! The girls looked stunning in their amazing dresses and they all rose to the occasion and participated in a beautiful ceremony of prayer and singing. Thanks again to Fr. Frank and Sr. Liz for their continual support throughout the year.

Amber Flag

On June 21st St Kevin's G.N.S. proudly raised our Amber Flag. The Amber Flag is an initiative run by Pieta House to promote positive mental health in our young children. We are very aware of the importance of creating an environment that supports mental wellbeing in St Kevin's and are working hard towards embedding this into the ethos of our school.

Receiving the Amber Flag is the culmination of a tremendous team effort by staff and students alike.

We will continue to work hard to retain the Amber Flag over the coming years. Well done to everyone for their hard work.



School Tours

Junior and Senior Infants:

Junior and Senior Infants went on their school tour to Zoom Adventure Centre and Glenroe Farm on 22nd June. It was a lovely day, and both Zoom and Glenroe were great fun. The girls all had a ball, and the day was a resounding success.'



1st and 2nd Class:

The school tour for 1st and 2nd Class was on 27th June to Lullymore Farm and Heritage Park. The children got to spend time in the playground and visiting animals along with taking a trip on the bog train to visit a hedge school, a crannog and a famine cottage. Afterwards, they learned all about Ireland in the past and they visited the fairy forest for some fairy spotting. A wonderful day was had by all!



3rd and 4th Class:

3rd and 4th Class went to Emerald Park on the 14th June. The children had an amazing day going on lots of thrill-seeking rides (and dragging the teachers with them!) and we were blessed with beautiful weather too. A fun day was had by all!



5th and 6th Class:

It is always a highly anticipated tour for the older classes and this year 5th and 6th Class travelled by coach to Baysports on the Hudson Bay. They were really lucky with the weather and there wasn't a cloud in the sky- even the water felt warm! The girls had great fun taking part in team building activities and having a go on the amazing inflatable obstacle course. After the tour they stopped at McDonalds in Athlone for delicious food and drinks.



St Kevin's Got Talent!

On the 25th of May St Kevin's GNS held its first talent show competition. The stakes were high as each class held heats in advance of the big day. The finalists got the chance to strut their stuff and perform for our panel of expert judges who had the difficult job of deciding on the winner. Bonnie Ball from Ms Farrell's 1st Class took home the first prize at the Junior end of the school, with Mia Desay from Ms Collins' 1st Class coming in in second place. The Gymnastics Girls, Róisín Loughnane, Lola Rae Gaynor and Sadhbh Seville from Ms Byrne's 2nd Class followed in third place.

At the senior end of the school Alana Fitzpatrick from Ms Kenny's 5th Class won the top prize for her wonderful singing. Yeva Sumets and Evelina Biezhenar from Ms O'Flaherty's 5th Class danced their way to second place while Yumna Mohamed wowed us with her gymnastics routine and took the 3rd prize. The atmosphere on the day was amazing and we hope to make this an annual event. A huge thank you to our judging panel, Alice Shaughnaessy-Hynes, Ann Malone, and Alan Ó Riada.



Sports Stars in the Rising!

Hannah Cullen from 4th Class travelled all the way to Sao Paulo, Brazil recently to take part in the biggest Brazilian Ju Jitsu martial arts competition in the world. Hannah came in first place, winning a gold medal and becoming the number one female ranked Brazilian Ju Jitsu martial artist in the world in her age group. Well done, Hannah!

Megan Dalton, Jessie Barrett, Lily Power, Ciara McGuire, Lily Cleary, Kacy Dowling, Holly Judge and Ella Byrne made history when the Kilnamanagh under 12 girls' team won the All Ireland Cup beating Lucan United 2-1 in the final.

Gabreilla Rogers from 4th Class recently won star of the show in a 'Smash It Dance Academy' show and came away with a huge trophy.

Sports Day

This year saw the return of our usual annual fun day at St. Kevin's on 16th June and we were so lucky with the lovely weather. All classes worked their way through a series of eleven different activities which saw the return of the much loved inflatable slide and obstacle course. Many thanks to all volunteers and helpers on the day. Special thanks to all the coaches from Kilnamanagh AFC, Paddy Baker from St. Kevin's Killian's, Keith from Daly Fitness and the basketball volunteers who ran amazing sessions with our pupils. The day was made even more special by a visit from former pupil and Ireland soccer captain Katie McCabe who took the time out of her busy schedule to meet our students and answer their questions. It certainly was a day to remember!



Mobile Library

We continued to have regular visits from the Mobile Library service. The junior classes have made use of this excellent service this term. We are very lucky to be able to avail of this service.

A huge thanks to Sorcha O'Connor and South Dublin County Library who donated lots of lovely books this year and also gave in 'Starting School' library packs for the new Junior Infants starting in September.

Active Schools Week

We celebrated Active School Week from 24th-28th April with a wide range of fun and inclusive activities for the pupils in our school. Glen Daly from Daly Fitness provided the girls with an energetic 'H.I.T' session, Mark Sheridan showed us some karate techniques, Paddy was around to further develop fundamental GAA skills, Ann taught all classes new moves in hip-hop and our senior classes got to experience the fun of archery at Greenhills Archery club. Lisa from Active Academy came and delivered wonderful activities for the Bumblebee and Butterfly classes which were fun and engaging. 'Wake Up, Shake Up' songs were played twice daily throughout the week and each class were given sports equipment boxes to use during yard times. On Friday 28th April all classes participated in a table tennis tournament to finish off a week of fun!



Sponsored Walk

Lions and tigers and bears were seen prowling around the streets of Kilnamanagh on Wednesday the 21st of June for the St Kevin's Fun Walk fundraiser. Staff, students, and even some pets got dressed up in circus fare to wave a fond farewell to Mr Murray in the lead up to his retirement. Ms Dignam and Mr Murray had their work cut out as the Ringmasters of the St Kevin's Circus, leading everybody in chanting and singing their way around the neighbourhood!



Women in Engineering

On Friday 23rd of June, our 5th Classes welcomed Miriam, Michelle, Akriti and Ananya from Fidelity Investments to their classrooms to learn about the importance of women in engineering. The women outlined the various roles and responsibilities in an IT engineering company and gave the girls some tips on choosing relevant subjects in secondary school if they are interested in a career in engineering. The ladies from Fidelity Investments were extremely impressed with the girls' participation, enthusiasm and their interesting ideas. They very kindly gave lots of stationery to the girls at the end of their presentation.

Graduation

The girls worked really hard in preparation for their graduation ceremony on Tuesday 27th June. It was a very special event where they had the opportunity to display their work and say thank you to their parents, teachers, SNAs, Ann and Anthony for all their support over the past 8 years.

31 girls will be leaving us this year to move to secondary school and we wish them well in the next stage of their education.



School Improvement Plan

We have been working on our School Improvement Plan by updating our school's English Plan to incorporate the new Primary Language Curriculum. We attended training webinars, updated resources and purchased new reading material. We collaborated as a staff to draw up our new plan and will give greater detail in the information letters class teachers will be sending home in early September. We will be seeking feedback from parents and guardians in the new term by carrying out a survey on literacy in September.

We also focused on SPHE as part of our School Improvement Plan. We embedded new practices as part of our successful application for our Amber Flag. We have worked hard to help improve the emotional literacy of the pupils. We would also appreciate feedback from home in the new term when we will complete a review of our SPHE School Plan.

Teacher Allocations

The following are the teacher allocations for the next school year.

Junior Infants	Adrienne Byrne
Senior Infants	Clare Norton
Senior Infants	Christine O'Sullivan
1 st Class	Emily Lennon
2 nd Class	Emma McCarthy
2 nd Class	Mary Clare Collins
3 rd Class	Eleanor Cullen
4 th Class	Claire Hennebry
5 th Class	Laura Farrell
6 th Class	Caoimhe O'Flaherty
6 th Class	Stephanie Connell
Bumblebee Class	Laura McDonnell/Helen O'Connor
Butterfly Class	Michelle Stone
SET	Máire Kenny
SET	Emma McEnroe
SET	Shane Fogarty
SET	Emma Garvey
SET (EAL)	Elena Barba Ramos
SET (EAL)	Katerina Borodai

And Finally...

We would like to wish all the pupils and their families the most wonderful and restful summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Wednesday 30th August 2023.

