

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

## Autumn Newsletter

October 2023



### New School Year and New Beginnings!

A big welcome back to all our pupils and a special welcome to our new Junior Infants this year. We have had a busy September and October and the girls have settled back into school life extremely well.



### Sacramental Classes

The girls in 6<sup>th</sup> Class are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Both classes are attending mass together every fortnight in preparation for this. There is great excitement surrounding the Confirmation already, and the girls are looking forward to it.

The girls in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class have eagerly begun their preparations for making their First Holy Communion. The children have attended weekly family masses as well as 10am mass every second Wednesday. They received Rosary beads at last week's family mass. Preparations and planning will continue over the coming weeks. Well done to the girls so far.

### New Sensory Garden

We are absolutely delighted to unveil a new sensory space in our school in the walled garden. All pupils are enjoying the opportunity to relax, be with nature and use some of the sensory tools that are dotted around this wonderful space. As a school, we are committed to improving the wellbeing of all pupils and this garden, along with our sensory room and sensory circuit space allow pupils the opportunity to have sensory breaks when needed.



### Fighting Words

5<sup>th</sup> Class attended the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to take part in a 'Fighting Words' writing workshop. Fighting Words was founded by Roddy Doyle, award winning and internationally renowned novelist, dramatist and screenwriter from Dublin. 5<sup>th</sup> Class were so lucky to be chosen and their keen writing skills and creativity was put to the test. They created a whole class story titled "Will Coral Save The World" and had fun writing a story of Coral's adventures with plenty of twists and turns! The class even had their work illustrated by a professional illustrator. It was a day to remember for the authors of 5<sup>th</sup> Class.



3 Will Coral Save The World?

St. Kevin's GNS  
Kilnamanagh  
12th September 2023

So, we're in Spain. Coral is in Laguna Beach playing on the beach. She is digging a hole for the time capsule. Steve the dog is helping her. But what is in the time capsule? In the time capsule is a load of stuff from a thousand years ago, a pet rat, a photo of a peculiar girl, and a letter from a girl called Jane who lives in the sewers.

While digging the hole, she found another time capsule with a carrot in it. Then some man with a briefcase started chasing her!

Coral jumped into the water to try and escape the man, and tried to swim to New York.

## Sports

Trials were held at the start of September for students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class who wished to participate in our school GAA team with the current 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils. There was a huge interest among our pupils and so Monday training sessions were offered to all pupils who tried out. The GAA team made it to the quarter finals but unfortunately lost out to Gaelscoil na Giúise. We are so proud of all who were involved. Our team was a credit to the school and showed great teamwork throughout the competition. Special thank you to all the parents who helped to get pitches ready for our home games and who came to support the team.

### Basketball Ireland

Basketball Ireland have been coaching our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils for the past four weeks. Our pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The coaches kindly donated a set of 16 basketballs to our school which is very much appreciated. Thank you to all involved.

### Cricket Ireland

Naomi from Cricket Ireland coached our junior classes on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The girls really enjoyed learning some new skills relating to this sport. Naomi will be back in the school again in the coming weeks to provide sessions for our senior classes and the Special Classes for Autism.



### Rugby

Grainne from Leinster Rugby will be working with our third- sixth classes over a four-week period starting on the 7th November. We are sure the pupils will enjoy this new experience.

## Maths Week 2023

This year's Maths Week took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October. Classes did lots of Maths Talk activities, outdoor Maths Trails and a poster competition while as a whole school we listened to daily maths facts, guessed the answer to a daily maths problem and used estimation skills to guess how much pasta was in the jar!



Ms Connell and Ms O'Flaherty's 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls were very busy over the week organising the questions and answers for all the daily problems, counting a lot of pasta as well as running the show for the cake sale! They did a super job and showed great maturity and initiative - well done girls!

Ms Cullen's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class were also excellent at reading out the daily maths facts and all spoke so clearly – well done!

Below are the winners of the poster competition and guess the pasta in the jar – well done everyone!



Lastly, thanks to all the teachers and SNAs for helping make Maths Week a huge success this year. It was a super team effort.

### Debates

Trials for 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils wishing to participate in our school debate team were held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. The first debate will be in November – watch this space!

### Cake Sale

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual Hallowe'en themed cake sale. As always, this is a huge success in our school, and we were delighted with the excellent response from all. The quality of cakes was second to none and the winners of the cake competition were difficult to call! Well done to all!



### Mobile Library

The mobile library service from Tallaght Library visited the girls from Senior Infants to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class this term, providing them with riveting reading material. Each Tuesday the girls had great fun selecting their next page turner for Drop Everything And Read time. The school really appreciates this service from our local library and we will continue to avail of it next term too.

### Spooky Movie Night!

We hosted our first Movie Night in St. Kevin's G.N.S. on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. The junior pupils watched their spooky movie first and later, the senior girls arrived. The girls sat back, relaxed and enjoyed some tasty treats while watching the movies. It was a great success, and we look forward to hosting another movie night before Christmas.



### Food Dudes are back!

Food Dudes will return on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Information has gone home to each household and we are looking forward to receiving our daily fruit and veg! It is a great incentive to encourage children to eat healthy and we are keen advocates of a healthy lifestyle here in St. Kevin's G.N.S.

### Curriculum News

We recently had a visit from a representative from Oide (previously known as PDST). She met with teachers to advise on the new Primary Language Curriculum and its implementation. She will return in 6 weeks for another session.

We also began training for the new Primary Maths Curriculum. Two teachers attended a training day in the Dublin West Education Centre and further guidance will follow over the next few months including a full day closure for staff training. We were able to implement some of the new concepts during our recent Maths Week and it was a great success.

We are continuing with our genre writing and have proudly displayed some samples from all classes our Genre Notice Board.

## Aistear

The Junior and Senior Infants have been having a lovely time in Aistear this term. So far we have visited the Doctor's Surgery and the farm. The girls have enjoyed role playing, constructing hospitals and farm buildings and coding with Bee-Bots. We experimented with floating and sinking, made clay gourds and delicious chocolate apples. Aistear is always a firm favourite with the pupils and it plays a vital role in the infant curriculum. We are looking forward to visiting a new theme when we get back after midterm break.



## Choir

We are delighted to say that our school choir is now in full swing. The girls have received beautiful badges and are excited to be representing the school at various celebrations and events during the school year. We look forward to starting our Christmas setlist after the midterm break. We know the girls will do St. Kevin's G.N.S. proud.

## Laudate

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class have begun learning a selection of songs from the Laudate repertoire. We have weekly practice in the hall in preparation for the festival in early 2024. The girls are really enjoying the music and have almost mastered their first 3 songs!

## Fundraising

We have already completed a number of fundraising events this term and we are so grateful to all the families and friends of St. Kevin's G.N.S. who have donated so far. We are planning to use the funds on I.T. and sports equipment for our school, and further information on these will be given soon.

We are also delighted to announce that a Parent's Association has now been set up for both St. Kevin's G.N.S. and Boys' School. Watch this space for more events!

## Board of Management News

St. Kevin's G.N.S. Board of Management are now looking for volunteers in the following roles: Parent Representatives both male and female and a Community Representative. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – further information about this will go out to all families after the Hallowe'en break.

## Lastly...

Community Garda Shane has visited the school to remind all the children about staying safe over this Hallowe'en.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful and safe mid-term break and we will welcome all our pupils back to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

