



ST. PATRICK'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Greystones, Co Wicklow

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Principal: Rachel Harper

Chairperson of the Board: Canon David Mungavin



Summer Term Newsletter 2019

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received from you all, which has meant a lot and made my first few months as Principal of St. Patrick's National School so enjoyable. There's no doubt it is a special community and I count myself privileged to be working in such a great school, alongside a wonderful hard-working team. The children of our school are impressive, with their easy smiles and ready charm, they've been very patient and encouraging as I'm learning all of their names. There may be some teachers-in-the-making here already!

Your support and kindness is much appreciated.

Rachel Harper

Some new initiatives:



Positive Behaviour Whole School Initiatives

As always, we are praising and encouraging positive behaviour where possible. Following our recent staff meetings, as a school we have decided to implement a few things in order to further promote this. Please support us by asking your child about these initiatives and encouraging them:

Stamp Books

Each child received a new stamp book following the Easter holidays. They will get a stamp each day for positive behaviour. When they complete a page with 20 stamps, their teacher will give them a reward which has been carefully decided between teachers to ensure these are age appropriate e.g. bring in a teddy or a homework pass etc.....



Fuzzy Jars

Every class started off the Summer term with an empty jar. When a child in the class shows an act of kindness to their peers or someone in their school community the teacher will highlight this and praise the child and will place a fuzzy ball in the jar. The important thing is that each member of the class has to have a fuzzy ball of their own placed in the jar before it is full – this is to promote team work. Once the jar is full, it will be announced at assembly and the teacher will give the children a whole class reward e.g. choose a whole class activity of their choice eg. watch a movie or extra P.E.



Friday Assembly – 8:45am

This is an extra assembly for the children to share our good news and achievements with one another. It also gives us the opportunity to talk about things that are topical or things that are happening around the school. We have lots of great public speakers within the children. This assembly is to further promote our school community ethos while building on the children's confidence and appreciation of themselves and others.

Golden book in the office

This book is to highlight and celebrate the children's great work, kindness, achievements etc. When nominated by their teachers, the children are given the opportunity to come and share this important news in the office and we write it into our book. This is read out at our Friday assembly each week. The children have taken a special interest and pride in this.



Monthly dates for your diary poster

As you know we have introduced this in the last few months - something for you to stick on your fridge to keep you up to date with all the activity in here.

As ever, the school calendar has been full of great activities and events, it has been a busy second term.

Here are a few highlights....



Engineers Week

Ms Morrissey arranged for 2 guest speakers to come in to the school. They were engineers from SSE Airtricity and they spoke to the children from 3rd to 6th class in the hall about what an engineer is, the different types of engineers that there are and about engineering and sustainable energy (solar power and wind turbines). This linked well with our Green Schools initiative. The engineers also organised an activity in class with 3rd class where the children were set a challenge to build something using simple materials. Here are some comments from the children...

"I really enjoyed doing the spaghetti-marshmallow challenge!" said Sebastian, and Luke enjoyed eating the marshmallows afterwards!

"My favourite part of Engineer's week was winning the free pens and other prizes!" said Blaise.

"I found the information which the guest speakers told us, about wind energy and turbines really interesting" said Pearl



Seachtain na Gaeilge

The children experienced a wide variety of activities throughout the week to encourage and promote the use of the Irish language (e.g. nuacht on lae - children reading out news as Gaeilge over the intercom), Irish music was played in the yard at break time, tráth na gceist, prizes for gaelgoir na seachtain etc). Here are some comments from the children.....

"Thaitin mé trá na gceist!" arsa Fiachra.

"I loved doing the haka in the yard!" said Maeve & Peyton

Active schools

We are well underway with our renewal application for our second Active Flag. So far we have had a term of *Active Lines* practicing lots of new exercises. We are also competing the *LAYA Healthcare Super Troopers* Active home-work journals. You may have also noticed our new *125 metre Slí na Sláinte* painted in the senior yard and it's already proving very popular with the students. They are busy figuring out how many laps they must run to complete a full kilometre.



Stream of Conscience

The children decorated fish to be put back up on the railing along the beach walk way. We were delighted to be a part of this project and that Marie and the Greystones Tidy Towns Team invited us to take part. This project encouraged the children to be made further aware about the importance of keeping our waters free of pollution. 'Stream of Conscience' is an education and community based art project where children learn about the part we all need to take in caring for the precious resource that is water, its habitats and inhabitants.

"A couple of weeks ago we painted fish templates that are going to go on seafront wall. We used special paint and plastic templates that were given to us and we painted different patterns on the fish with lots of colours. It was really fun and we can't wait to see them on the wall." Axel, Fourth Ash

Mini Marathon

On the 2nd of May the school had their sponsored walk which was kindly organised by the parents of Fourth Class Ash and Oak. The event was organised to raise money for new interactive boards for our school. This was a great success with the children raising 2000 euro which was amazing! A huge thank you to Geoff Langrell for leading this alongside 4th class parents and for making the day so much fun. We would also like to thank all those who donated prizes for our raffle and most importantly our sponsors for their extremely kind donations It is very much appreciated. Many thanks to all the parents who walked with us on the day too.

Here are some comments from the children...

Prior to the event we got to decorate selfie boards which were made by Geoff Langrell. Samarah, Abigail and Emily from Oak reported *"we really enjoyed getting to paint the selfie boards and posing with them on the day"*. Our class were very engaged in the tasks organised for us to conduct during the walk. *"We particularly liked matching the baby pictures to the staff in our school. It generated great excitement amongst us as we tried to figure out who they were and encouraged us to*

work together” remarked Isabelle, Ellie, Sarah and Jack. “Upon reaching South Beach some of the helpers were there with refreshments for us, which we thoroughly enjoyed” reported Elodie.

“I loved painting the selfie boards. They looked amazing on the day!” Abigail (4th Oak)

“The sponsored walk was great because we got to exercise” Cian (4th Oak)

Here’s what Junior Infants have to say:

Euan says *“it was so fun”*, while Ellen describes it as *“so so much fun”!... “we got lots of exercise”* says Harrison & Sam says *“we saw lots of different things on the map”*.



Junior Entrepreneur 2019

This year 5th class participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. They created a product called County Cards which is an educational trivia game about Ireland. It was a huge success under the leadership of Ms Ryan and Ms Creed and Jenny. They secured sponsorship from local businesses in Greystones. In order to get this sponsorship the children had to go and pitch their idea. From this, they received over 900 euro which allowed them to increase the number of card games they planned to produce. Some local businesses even agreed to stock the cards such as the Happy Pear, Centra and Supervalu. The County Card game was very popular and was enjoyed by both adults and children. The showcase day for their fantastic work is May 20th in the RDS.

Some feedback from the class was *“we learned lots of about entrepreneurs and became more confident in ourselves”*, *“it was a great experience and everyone enjoyed it”*, *“we loved splitting into groups and coming up with ideas”*, *“ the team building activity was really fun!”*



School Trips

On the 27th March 4th Class Ash and Oak went to the Gaeity Theatre to see Madagascar the Musical. Here are some of our comments:

Cameron thought *"It was very good, I would give the show 5 stars!"*

"It was a brilliant show, the songs were amazing and the characters played their roles very well" remarked Lucy.

"The scenery and staging was great" Cael.

"It was a really great experience. I really liked the songs!" Katie.

Fifth class attended War Horse in the Bord Gáis after reading the book as their class novel. The children said: *"it was a fun night out with the class and the sound effects were very realistic!"*, *" I loved going in and singing on the bus with my friends"*. *"The horse puppets looked and moved like real horses!"* *"I give the play 10 out of 10!"*



Here's what the kids have to look forward to:

- 1st & 2nd Class – Mill Theatre to see The Twits - 20th June
- 3rd Class – Clara Lara – 7th June
- Junior & Senior Infants – Kia Ora Farm – 6th June
- 6th Class trip to Petersburg Outdoor Educational Centre – 12th June

Aistear

Junior Infants currently have the theme of food for their Aistear. They have "opened" a restaurant and are busy cooking up a storm!!

"I like getting the money" Kiki

Sam says *"I do the clumsy waiter because I always fall"*

"It's really fun & I really like being a chef" Euan

"I like being the customer because I get all the food" Nina

"I like writing the orders for the customer" Sophia

"I like being the computer guy because I can pretend to be calling my family from America" Harrison



Senior Infants

Are busy planting seeds!

"We germinated the seeds" Harry

"We gave them soil and water and kept them in the Polytunnel " Ava

"We are going to give our seedlings their own pot and bring them home" Beatrice



- We had nearly 50 children represent us at the Interschools Athletics Competition in Shoreline on Tuesday 14th May. Once again, I was very impressed with the children's team spirit and encouragement with one another. We even managed to win a few medals which is fantastic. As a school we should be very proud.



- It was a huge achievement for our Senior Boys hockey Team to win the Leinster Hockey Final. It was a nail biting exciting match which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Here's the reaction from Tom in 6th Class our team captain:

"We were all so nervous. It was very hot and we played against Sanford Park. It was a very close game but in the last 5 minutes Toby ran down the pitch and scored. We were all so happy and celebrated a load."



Board of Management News

- We would like to welcome back Janet Roper after her maternity leave & Jennifer Wilkin after her operation. It is great to see them both back.
- congratulations to Rosie Mulligan who recently got married. We wish both her & her new husband every happiness.
- We are delighted see the delivery & installation of Anto's new shed.
- Congratulations to Heather Jordan on her appointment as Deputy Principal.
- The Board, PTA & Staff are all very keen to go ahead with the plans to try and purchase the Promethean Interactive Boards.

Upcoming Events

◆ **Transitioning to Secondary school talk - 29th May**

This is a talk by Graham Richmond who will give plenty of points and tips for preparing your child for Secondary School. This is organised by the PTA

◆ **Summer Social Evening - 14th June**

The event will include an afternoon of golf, followed by a social evening of dinner, table prizes, raffle, auction and dancing til late, please support.

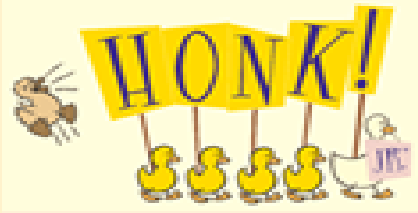
◆ **Active week - 17th to 21st June**

This is a fun & active week to get the kids moving in & out of the classrooms!

◆ **Fun Day - 19th June**

Lots of fun sporting activities on this day

◆ **School Closes - Friday 28th June at 12pm**



Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice & point this out despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry Cat. Along the way Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters & finds out being different is not such a bad thing to be.

Honking in with an update!

This delightful adaption of the award-winning story 'The Ugly Duckling' is a heart-warming celebration of what makes us special.

Rehearsals are in full swing in preparation for our two shows next week. We are so excited to showcase all of our hard work and hope to see as many faces as possible there to support us! You are guaranteed a quacking good time.

We are delighted to announce that nearly all of our tickets have sold out.

Please contact Wendy Thompson to enquire about remaining tickets.

Thank you to Catherine Creed, Lynne Cashell, Rachel Flynn and Jamie who are organising this.