



Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

River Valley, Swords, Co. Dublin, Charity Number 20119300



December 2023



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to our Term 1 newsletter. Thanks to Ms Ginty for co-ordinating and producing this. We had a great start to the school year and I would like to give a special welcome to our Junior Infants who settled in very well. We have had a very busy first term with National Tree Day, Trick or Treat, Maths Week, Parent – Teacher Meetings and the Shoe Box Appeal. We also held our Annual Book Fair.

Each term, the 2nd Classes are invited to contribute to the newsletter in an initiative called **KidsView**. These children choose a topic and write their piece – this process allows children to purposefully engage with writing. These contributions will be denoted with a binocular symbol. Well done to the children who have contributed this term and special thanks to their teachers who facilitate this.



Our Christmas celebrations have been very eventful with our shows/plays, a visit from Santa and our trip to the cinema. We also visited Anova and Care Choice Residential Homes to sing carols. I would like to acknowledge the contributions and support of staff, parents and children of HFJNS through the year. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas with best wishes for 2024.

Mary Mc Nally



Farewell & Goodbye

On behalf of the school community, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Mrs Angela O'Toole our outgoing Chairperson of the Board of Management. In her capacity as a valued member of our Board for over 20 years, Angela has held the position of Parent Nominee, Community Nominee and Patron Nominee. As a volunteer, Angela has always been very supportive to the growth and development of our school. She was generous with her time and we extend our grateful appreciation to her for her many years of hard work, commitment and dedication to Holy Family J.N.S.



National Tree Day

Many classes enjoyed our Tree Trail this year to celebrate Ireland's National Tree Day on 5th October. The school grounds are home to many varieties of Native Irish Trees planted over the past 40 years. Many thanks to Ms. Power for running this Digital QR Code Trail.



Parents Association

The Junior and Senior Schools would like to express our gratitude and delight at the wonderful redecoration of the hall which took place last summer. It looks fantastic! Our appreciation to all involved in the Parents Association and to those who attended the AGM on 24th October 2023.

GAA & Tennis



The children have been enjoying sessions of tennis and GAA this term. Our thanks and best Christmas wishes to Sean Motherway (GAA) and Daniel Patton (Tennis). Here's to a happy & healthy 2024!



Maths Week HFJNS

The Department of Education has published a new Maths Curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths. Maths helps us to learn & think creatively and critically. HFJNS celebrated Maths week from 14th to 22nd October. Maths Week brings numbers to life and promotes a positive attitude towards numeracy. Maths Week Ireland is an annual all-Island celebration of mathematical thinking. Well done to all the pupils for taking part. Thank you to Ms. Corr, Maths Co-ordinator and Ms Ginty, Gaelige Co-ordinator.

Digital Learning

This year, the school invested in 74 iPads to support the children's learning using Digital Technology. Our thanks to Ms. Mc Cabe, IT Co-ordinator for driving this initiative.



KidsView by Aoife

We are using the iPads to learn about different things. They are really fun! I really like Pic Collage. I even have it on my own iPad. We also use Kahoot. It is an app where we can take part in a quiz - it's so much fun. Teacher splits us into groups and we compete against each other. We also use Book Creator – an app for creating your own books. You can make as many as you want! My favourite app is Pic Collage - I use it almost every day. I will rate the iPads 4 and a half because I love using them to learn – both at home and at school!



KidsView by Valentina, Alice & Addison

We did more maths that week than any of our other subjects. It was a really fun week. We visited the infant classrooms to play maths games with them. Every class went outside to do a maths and Irish trail with a secret code that we had to break. We also did lots of maths worksheets and maths sums in our classrooms. The best part was making maths posters that were put up around the school. Bhain gach duine taitneamh as na gníomhaíochtaí go léir!

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

On Friday 28th, we held our annual fundraiser for Trick or Treat for Temple Street and raised €929. Thank you to all for your donations. Visit our website for photos of the day!





Book Fair HFJNS

From the 14th to 18th November, the children of HFJNS showed their love and enthusiasm for reading – the annual book fair delighted and encouraged the children to engage with books! We are as ever grateful to the members of the Parents Association who setup, organised and helped the children make their important purchases. Many thanks to Ms. Fadden - Literacy Co-ordinator JNS and Mr. Duffy SNS for facilitating this year's fair which raised sales of €8,260 – 60% of which goes to fund library resources.



KidsView by Celine and Ronan

The Book Fair was held in November. At the Fair, they sold all sorts of things to boost up your education! The hall was split in half for the Senior school and the Junior school. The children brought in money to buy a book. You can also buy rubbers, pencils and rulers. You can even visit after school! It is really fun for kids and adults. If you are not sure about a book, you can read the blurb. And if you don't like it, you can put it back.

Season of Love



In December, the children of Second class paid a very special visit to local residential homes.



KidsView by Conor & Ingrid

We went on the bus to sing carols for the residents. We were very excited. We sang songs like "Away in a Manger", "This is the moment" and "Molly Malone". The residents loved it so much - one person was crying with happiness. We felt really happy after too.



Santa Visits HFJNS

The Big Man himself visited the school this week soaking up the children's excitement! All the boys and girls should expect a visit on Christmas Eve as they have worked hard in school and been very good at home!



KidsView by Everlie & Grace

Santa told us to leave out ginger cookies instead of normal cookies. He also told us to just leave one carrot out for Rudolph and not to worry about the other reindeer as Mrs Claus had special carrots for them. He told us that our carrots were special as they helped Rudolph with his magic. Then he left and gave us jellies. Everyone was really happy!

Season of Giving



The school and Team Hope would like to express their gratitude to everybody who participated in this year's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – both online and offline. Our 236 gift boxes were very much appreciated. Our thanks to Mr. Murphy for co-ordinating this initiative.



Christmas Shows 2023

The school was filled with Christmas spirit last week as the Christmas Concerts took place. This is a huge endeavour for children and staff – the hard work beginning weeks ago! Many thanks to all for their cooperation in facilitating use of school hall & St. Finian's Church. Special thanks to Ms. Hayes for coordinating same.



KidsView by Conor and Zoe

Junior Infants did lots of practise for their show on the 14th December. They had their concert in the hall. They sang lots of songs and poems. Adam and Cara said their favourite song was "Mary had a baby" and "Bualadh Bos". They said it went really well. Well Done on your first show Junior Infants!



KidsView by Eoin & Maya

Senior Infants performed their Christmas Nativity on 15th December in the hall. Millie and Luis said it went really well because everyone in the audience was clapping and laughing during the show. They enjoyed acting for their parents and singing Little Grey Donkey and Angel. They said their teachers and parents were very proud and said "Well done, you were very good!"



KidsView by Chloe & James

First Class had their Christmas Concert on 14th December in the hall. They sang lots of songs which told the story of Baby Jesus. They also sang *This is the moment*, *Jingle Bells* and many more! Adam and Nicole thought it went very well because they saw their parents clapping. Their favourite parts were seeing their parents and saying their lines for everyone. Their teachers thought that they were brilliant - they were full of joy!



KidsView by Cayden & Cillian

Second class had our Christmas Show "Hosanna Rock" last week in St. Finian's Church. First, we all walked together to the church. Our families came to watch us. Then we sang lots of fun songs. As well as that, some people had parts to play. Our favourite songs were 'Hosanna Rock' and 'Snow is Falling'. It went very well. During the show, the whole audience was clapping and smiling. Afterwards, we got to watch the other classes performance in the church. They were fantastic. It was such a fun day!

Dates for the Diary

School Re-opens 8th January 2024

St. Brigid's BH	5 February 24
Mid-Term	15 & 16 February 24
St Patrick's BH	18 March 24
Easter Break	22 Mar–8Apr 24



The **Cinema Trip** was a great success – well done to the children for behaving so well during the movie "Wish" and for walking all the way! We put a smile on everyone's face with our singing and Santa hats! Huge thanks to Ms. Darby for organising this much loved, festive outing!