



# Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



## March 2025

### Principal's Message

Welcome to our Term 2 Newsletter. We have had a very busy term with Science Week, Catholic Schools Week, Friendship February, all the activities that took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge and Spring Day. A huge thank you to all members of the PA for making the 10th Anniversary of Spring Day a massive success with a Whopping €13,000 raised. A great day was had by all.

Children from 2nd class have again been invited to contribute to the newsletter via our KidsView. These children have chosen a topic and have written their piece - this process allows children to purposefully engage with writing.

Kidsview gives children a voice - fostering independence, resilience and self-esteem. These contributions are denoted with the binocular symbol.



Well done to our budding journalists and special thanks to the teachers who facilitate this. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the break. Hope the Easter Bunny comes.

Mary McNally



Enthusiasm for all

things STEM was apparent in HFJNS this January 2025! Children had a wonderful opportunity to investigate and celebrate maths & science in our everyday lives. Experts from a variety of scientific, technical, and technological backgrounds shared their knowledge with the children during our Parent Talks. The kids engaged in a range of activities during the week, such as exciting experiments, studying interesting personalities & facts, and played in maths games with other classes. We are really grateful to Mr. O'Donoghue & Ms. Corr for organising such a great week and to our STEM parents for their time and assistance. For pictures and more, visit the website!



### Mindfulness & Wellbeing at HFJNS

Thank you to all the parents for taking the time to complete our recent questionnaires about Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) & Wellbeing. Our new Bí Cineálta Policy is now available for viewing on the school's website. We also had a recent visit from Oide to help us on our journey of completing an Improvement Plan in relation to Wellbeing in Education for both children and staff. Looking after our mental health is not something we should just do if we are struggling, anxious or stressed. According to Barnardos, outdoor play in natural environments provides children with opportunities to release energy, express strong feelings and think more freely. Getting close to nature, breathing deeply and engaging in regulating activities outdoors can calm children and can help to relieve any stress or anxieties they may be feeling.

Huge thank you to Ms. Carty for her hardwork and co-ordination across the school community and to The WellBeing Committee.



### KidsView by Matthew & Summer

From 27th to 31st January, it was Science Week. We did some experiments. We put baking soda, colouring and vinegar in a jar. It exploded and it was lots of fun. We also did the Colour Walk Experiment using cups, food colouring and tissue paper. A parent came to our class and talked about VR (Virtual Reality). When you play VR, you feel like you're actually part of the game - its really cool!



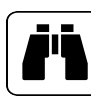
### KidsView by Eva & Lana

As part of STEM Week, we did really fun iPad games. We also did Loop card games and Maths About Me. All classes in HFJNS paired up and played maths games together. We visited Room 6 and had lots of fun playing with the Junior Infants.



### KidsView by Amelia, Amabelle, Jeremy, Kevin & Oliver

Gillian, from Aramark, came to our school for five weeks. She was our Junior Achievement Officer. She taught us lots of new stuff about "Our Community". We learned about the different jobs in the community. We also learned about taxes, the government and how people get paid for their jobs. It was great! Gillian was very nice.



### KidsView by Ely, Nina, Olivia & Odhrán



During February, we made Friendship cards for our friends. We wrote adjectives to describe each other. We went to Junior Infants to do a Palentine's activity with them. We drew portraits of each other. It was exciting! All classes teamed up to do this. We also did Love Heart Art. It was fun! The classes on the corridor did collaborative colouring and made a big Friendship picture. It is cool!

### Safer Internet Day

took place in Holy Family on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024. This day intended to develop and refresh the children's awareness of the strategies they need to use to stay safe online. The three, key messages were

1. Be kind online #BeKindOnline
2. Stop, Close & Tell (if they are unsure or scared by something online)
3. Don't talk or give personal details to strangers online





## Seachtain na Gaeilge '25

A celebration of Irish language, heritage and culture began in Holy Family on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The children embraced class and school-wide activities such as Wellness, art, songs and games through Irish for two weeks. A highlight of the festivities was the whole-school ceolchoirm featuring the exceptionally talented Teachers Band. The children once again enjoyed the bi-lingual play, Bean na Bróige (The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe) shown in the hall on 6<sup>th</sup> March. To close the week, the Céilí Mór and the Parade added a special atmosphere in the school and in the community. Thank you to Ms. Ginty & Ms Linnane for organising the events. Buíochas mór lena páistí agus na múinteoirí go léir. Visit our [website](#) for songs, photos & videos.



### An Damhsa Mór KidsView by Arlo & Gabby



On Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, we went to the school hall with all the other 2<sup>nd</sup> class' for our Seachtain na Gaeilge Céilí. We danced Shoe the Donkey, the Walls of Limerick and An Dreoilin. It was very fun dancing to these and listening to the music. We also sang along with Ireland's call and had free dancing. Our favourite part was dancing to Shoe the Donkey. At the end of the céilí we were very tired but happy.



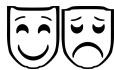
### An Ceoilchoirm KidsView by Enya & Treasa



We went down to the hall for the school concert. Treasa and Orla went earlier because they were going to play the tin whistle for us. The teachers showed us all the instruments they were going to play. The music they played was really good. We got to tap our feet to the rhythm. We got to sing songs like 'I'll tell me ma' and 'Molly Malone'. It was a lot of fun. We were really sad to go back to class. We go to the school concert every year, but this was the best year. We loved it.



### Bean na Bróige KidsView by Archie & Harry



For Seachtain na Gaeilge we watched a Bilingual drama in the school hall. The play was in English and Irish. Actors came and performed for the children in the school. The show was about an old woman who lived in a spaceship and had a wishing ring. The play was very funny and we sang along to songs. We all enjoyed the show!



### An Paráid KidsView by Ciara & Ellie



We had instruments and wore green as we marched around River Valley. Cars beeped for us and the children were singing 'Ole, Ole'. It was a lot of fun. We swapped instruments with our partners and whoever didn't have an instrument clapped their hands! People came to see us and they were cheering us on! We walked past Aldi and we could see the spring flowers grow. The cherry blossoms flowers were very nice too. We counted the cars that beeped at us. There were 35!

## Spring Day 2025



Spring Day was bigger than ever for its 10<sup>th</sup> year thanks to the Holy Family Parents Association. Parents from both the Junior and Senior schools organised and contributed to the delicious treats, flowers, and gifts. The Bumper Raffle was particularly successful this year, with winners expressing their excitement over their prizes. Mr. Clarke's class excelled in selling raffle tickets, earning every boy and girl an Chocolate Rabbit. The funds raised from Spring Day will be allocated to educational resources for both schools, and this year we achieved a remarkable total of €13,000. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported the event—parents who participated on the day, those who made donations and purchased tickets, our generous sponsors, and the SNS children who managed the tables with great skill. It was a truly delightful day for everyone involved. For those interested in participating, please reach out via email at [holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com).



### KidsView by Anna & Ellie

Spring Day was on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of March. There was a cake sale in the hall. Lots of children and their parents baked cakes. There was a raffle with so many great prizes. There were gifts for sale. There were competitions, like guess the teddy and doll's name and guess how many sweets were in the jar. 13,000 euro was raised for the school.



### Wellbeing through the seasons



Nature can generate many positive emotions such as calmness, joy, & creativity and can often facilitate concentration. As part of Green Schools & Wellbeing, we continue to maintain and add to our school grounds. This process, known as greening, can improve children's well-being, learning, and play while contributing to community engagement and climate resilience. All HFJNS children are encouraged to interact and become aware of changes through the seasons. Thanks to the Wellbeing Committee, Green Schools and our caretaker, Willie Kelly.



### KidsView by Connor & Leo

Spring is here! It is sunnier outside now. We went for a spring walk around the school. On our walk we saw lots of daffodils and tulips. Seedlings were sprouting. We saw trees with pink and white blossoms. Birds were flying in the sky. There were nests in the trees. Buds were growing on the trees. We saw a lot of insects on the ground. Bees were collecting pollen from the flowers.



## Catholic Schools Week

CSW was celebrated from 19- 25<sup>th</sup> January with the theme of Catholic Schools : Alive in Christ. Second Class children helped to mark this again with prayers and reflections read daily to all children over the school intercom. Our thanks to the children and to Ms. Hayes for facilitating this.



### KidsView by Donal & Emily

We celebrated Catholic Schools week in January. We spoke on the intercom for the whole school to hear. We felt nervous at first but then we felt excited. We asked everyone to think about how we can live life to the fullest and how we can make the world a better place. We delivered a good message to everyone in school.

## Odd Sock Day Fundraiser



### KidsView by Sam & Seth

On February 14th, we all wore odd socks to school to raise money for Special Olympics. This was part of Friendship February. Some socks were coloured, some were patterned, some had words on them and some socks had characters on them. We all stuck our feet into a circle and took photos. It was fun and wonderful! We raised almost €1,000.

## Buddy Reading

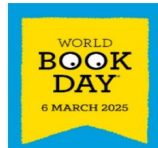


Our inter-school reading initiative continued this term with SNS Third & Fourth Classes joining with JNS Junior & Senior Infants classes. The children really enjoy reading together and they get stuck right in! More classes will come together to Buddy Read during the next term. Many thanks to the Junior and Senior school teachers involved.

### KidsView by Anna May & Ciara



Buddy Reading took place this year again in Holy Family Junior National School. The children from the Junior School got to read with children from the Senior School. Buddy Reading is a very nice thing for children. Our class got to go to Ms Halpin's 5th class in the Senior School. We brought our books with us so we could take turns to read to each other from our books. We really loved reading with them. Our buddies were really nice to us and we all really enjoyed it.



## World Book Day 2025

Every child in HFJNS celebrated World Book Day 'their way' this year. The core message to children is to 'Read Your Way', whether that is a traditional book, a wordless picture book, listening to an audiobook or reading in braille - there were so many ways to enjoy a good story on World Book Day...and everyday! Our thanks for Ms. Fadden and Ms. McCabe for facilitating this year.



### KidsView by Artarv, Pippa & Sophie

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday, the 17th of February. We made bookmarks and brought them home. Also we designed our own book covers and did wordsearches. We played fun games such as Guess the book from clues of Emojis. We brought in our own books, cushions and blankets. We took off our shoes, got comfortable and read a book in any position we liked. We had such a fun day and we were all delighted reading our books. It was the best ever!

## Tóraíochta na Cásca



Our annual Easter themed Irish Hunt was held this week. The glorious sunshine allowed the children to get out and egg-ercise! Bhí an spórt ag na páistí ag leanúint Coinín na Cásca. Thanks to Ms. Fadden and Ms. Ginty for facilitating this event and all teachers involved in it's organisation. Beannachtaí na Casca Oraibh go léir!



### KidsView by Isabelle & Jim

We went on a Tóraíochta na Cásca, (Easter Hunt) this morning. We walked around the school and looked for lots of different Easter symbols, which had been hung up. We counted them and marked them into our points page. We looked for ubh chásca, coinín na cásca, ciseán, bláthanna, sicín, seacláid, nead agus milseáin. Bhí sé go hiontach. We also tried to crack the code. The Easter message was 'Thug Coinín na Cásca ubh seacláide dom'.

## Dates for the Diary

Term 3 Re-opening	28th April 2025
First Communion	3rd May
Communion Photos	7th May
May BH Closure	5th May
Maths Inservice Day	26th May
Active Week	27th - 30th May
June BH Closure	2nd & 3rd June
Junior Infant Tour	12th June
Senior Infants Tour	13th June
1 <sup>st</sup> Class Tour	16th June
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Tour	20th June
Summer Closure	27th June 2025