



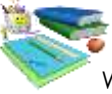
Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



December 2024



Principal's Message

Welcome to our Term 1 newsletter. Thanks to Ms Ginty for coordinating 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 the Halloween Trail, Trick or Treat, Annual Book Fair, Parent-Teacher Meetings and the Shoe Box Appeal. We also launched a School Lotto with Holy Family S.N.S.

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.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Ms Sarah Coen who was with us for 12 years. She has taken up a teaching position in another school and we wish her all the best. We would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication to the school.

We started the Christmas celebrations with the DAA Roadshow who entertained us in the yard and presented the school with a gift that will arrive during the holidays. The children enjoyed performing their Christmas shows. A huge thank you to them and their teachers for entertaining us all. We had a visit from Santa, a trip to the cinema and the Junior Infant classes watched a panto. We also visited Anova Residential Home to sing carols. I would like to acknowledge the contributions and support from staff, parents and children of HFJNS throughout the year. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas with best wishes for 2025.

Mary Mc Nally

Digital Learning

This term, staff underwent iPad Training as part of our Digital Learning Plan. Workshops were held throughout the day with each class group. A portion of our ICT grant was used to upgrade the WiFi Network over the Mid-term Break. Faster more reliable internet access will enhance the digital learning experiences for children, Our thanks to Ms. Mc Cabe, IT Coordinator, for organising the training and upgrades.



Wellbeing at HFJNS

Wellbeing is very important in the lives of our children. As a school, we are working on various initiatives and development of policies to safeguard our children's mental health.



Our current area of focus is on the Bí Cineálta procedures and our Wellbeing Statement. The school will be asking the parents and children for their input into both documents, in due course.

The 'Bí Cineálta' (Be Kind) procedures aim to prevent and address bullying behaviour. They have been developed with the four main areas of Cineáltas in mind: prevent, support, oversight and community.

Our Wellbeing Statement sets out the framework and responsibilities within the school community for the promotion of Wellbeing. We aim to equip the children with the knowledge, skills and competencies to deal with challenges that impact on their Wellbeing.

By drafting our Wellbeing Statement, we also consider the Teachers' Wellbeing and those in the broader school community. Huge thanks to Ms Carty and the Wellbeing Committee for all their work on this area.



KidsView by Neala & Paige

We have been using the iPads in Room 15 this year. We like using the iPads because they are a fun way of learning, and we are learning how to use technology safely. We do pair work with the iPads and when we are finished we put them back in the storage box. The class uses 'Maths and Me' games and the app Khan Academy Kids to practice our Maths and Reading. We use PicCollage to make projects and posters about what we have learned.

Toraíocht Oíche Shamhna

Rinne na páistí Toraíocht Mata leis an téama Oíche Shamhna. Bhí orthu rudaí a bhaineann le hOíche Shamhna a lorg agus a comhair. Bhain na páistí an taitneamh as. Well done to all the pupils for taking part. Thanks to Ms Ginty, Gaeilge Coordinator and to Ms Corr, Math Coordinator



KidsView by Charlie, Evan & Mae

At Halloween, we went on a Maths and Gaeilge trail around the school grounds. We had to look for pictures & crack the code behind the pictures of the witches. The pictures had Irish words and it helped us to practice our Halloween vocabulary as Gaeilge. It was nice & we hope there is more fun activities like this during the year. The kids enjoyed it a lot.



KidsView by Donal, Frankie, Jodie & Taylor

The school has put up new Wellbeing signs in the foyer and near the front door. These signs let people know that everybody works together in Holy Family JNS and we all make the school a happy and safe place. We never give up, we are respectful and we help each other. Even though we are small we can still make a difference. We work together as a team. We make our school fun. We love Holy Family JNS!



Book Fair HFJNS

From the 11th to 15th November, the HFJNS boys and girls were very excited to visit our Book Fair in the hall. Our annual book fair delighted and encouraged the children to engage with books! The Parents Association are instrumental in this event with set up and break down each day. These volunteers helped children by day and even the adults on 13th November at Parents Night. Many thanks to Ms. Fadden, JNS Literacy Coordinator who organised coveted Golden Tickets for each class, and to Mr. Duffy SNS for facilitating this year's fair. The Book Fair raised sales of €8,666—of this we earned 60% of commission which goes to fund Scholastic literacy resources.



KidsView by Jason & Ryan

The Bookfair is here every year. There are lots of books at the bookfair such as Dogman, Super Potato, Bunny vs Monkey, Captain Underpants and Diary of a Wimpy Kid. In Front of the payment tables there are lots of things like pens, pencils, bookmarks, rubbers and mini-picture books. It is lots of fun. You can visit the bookfair a few times. Everyone is welcome. You can go with your class or your parents. On the last day your class can do a colouring competition for a Golden Ticket. If you win you can get a free thing from the bookfair. Everyone loves the bookfair.

Active Breaks Challenge '24



This year, Active School Flag partnered with the Irish Heart Foundation for #ActiveBreaksChallenge24.

Holy Family JNS was registered for the "Active Break Every Day" whole-school challenge which ran across four weeks in November & December. Through these daily "Active Breaks" the challenge aims to support the development of fundamental movement skills and mindfulness in our children. Thanks to Ms Culleton, PE Coordinator for facilitating this energetic challenge!



KidsView by Ella and Hallie

We are taking part in #ActiveBreaks24. We do active breaks every day. They keep us healthy and strong. They are good for our body, heart and brain. We do exercises, deep breathing and stretches. We are working towards our Active Schools Flag, so exciting! Everybody in the class is always excited for them. We are growing stronger and healthier every day!

GAA & Tennis



KidsView by Gráinne & Ollie

In September and October, we did GAA and tennis at our school. Sean, our GAA coach, taught us loads of skills like: handpassing, solos and kicks. He let us play lots of games using these skills. Our favourite thing about GAA was hand-passing while listening to songs through the speaker. Sean is a great coach! We like GAA! Emma, the tennis coach, taught us many skills. We enjoyed passing the ball and doing serves in our tennis lessons. In our last week, we played a match. We had great fun at our GAA and Tennis lessons.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street



KidsView by Clodagh & Lilly May



Temple street is a children's hospital in Dublin. Before Halloween we donated money in school to children in Temple Street. We loved doing this because we love helping people. On the day before the Halloween holidays everyone dressed up in Halloween costumes. Even the teachers dressed up. Every class had a parade in the hall. We had a disco and had a lot of fun. Lots of people in our class and other classes brought in money. We raised €1050. All of the money that we donated can help many kids.



Holy Family Lotto

Holy Family JNS were excited to be launching a joint LOTTO between the Junior and Senior schools. The initiative helps both schools with the ever-increasing costs of running, maintaining & improving the learning environment and experiences of our pupils. The Junior school are specifically looking to upgrade the yard surface and to further add to sensory equipment & facilities. If you would like to get involved or support us - contact the Parents Association by email at holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com and play our Lotto - it could be you!



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. Your gift boxes were very much appreciated. Our thanks to Mr. Murphy for coordinating this initiative.



KidsView by Ella, Evie, Harry & Lainey

206 shoeboxes have been sent by children in Holy Family JNS as part of Team Hope. They have been sent to children in Africa and Eastern Europe to bring them joy. These children don't have much money and we are confident that they will like them. We are hoping they will have a smile on their faces when they open our shoeboxes. We hope they have a good Christmas.



Season of Joy

In December, the children of Second class were invited back into a local residential home and asked to spread the season of Joy through song.



KidsView by Aria & Jack

On Monday, the 16th December, we went to Anova Nursing Home by bus. We performed 13 songs, such as Little Baby, Away in a Manger and We wish you a Merry Christmas. The people in the nursing home had big smiles on their faces. It was a lot of fun. At the end, we gave out Christmas cards. We also got selection boxes and a lot of colouring sheets from them. After performing, we felt really good but at the start we were nervous.



Parents Association

We would like to express our gratitude and our appreciation to all involved in the Parents Association and for all your effort, time and support in Term 1. Thank you to those who attended the AGM on 15th October 2024. If you wish to support the children and become involved please contact the PA by email : holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com



Santa Visits HFJNS



KidsView by Olivia, Ellie, Freddie, Tyler and Julia

Ring a ding ding, ring a ding ding! Ms Mc Nally brought Santa came into our classroom ringing a big bell. We could hear him coming in the hallway because of his bells. He was very kind. 'Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas everyone!' he said. He had a red suit and hat and a big white beard. He liked Treasa and Cillian's Grinch jumpers. He asked us all for a photo and we said yes. Mr Thornton took our picture and Santa gave a bag of jellies to teacher. He said they were for everyone. He then told us to be good for the next few days. We ate our jellies at big break and they were yummy. It was the best!

DAA Visits HFJNS



KidsView by Ethan & Nicole

There was a big surprise in our yard on the 6th of December. It was the DAA Christmas Roadshow! Elves were dancing and doing flips! Ms McNally got a present from Santa, it is a surprise for our school. Emergency vehicles were there. We saw a fire brigade, an ambulance and a garda car. We were singing songs like 'Jingle Bells' and cheering. We enjoyed it a lot. All the classes did!

HFJNS @ Movies



The Cinema Trip to see "Moana 2" was a great success – well done to the children for walking all the way! We put a smile on everyone's face with our singing and christmas cheer! Huge thanks to Mr Clarke and Ms Kearns for organising this much loved, festive outing!



KidsView by Myles, Sarah, Ruairí & Suwaiba

We went to the cinema today to see Moana 2. It was a long walk but it was worth it. There was lots of lovely songs in the film. Moana tried to find another island. When she found it with Maui, they all lived happily ever after. The seats were comfy and we had lots of fun

Dates for the Diary

School Reopens	6 January 2025
St. Brigid's BH	3 February 2025
Mid-Term	17 - 21 February 2025
St Patrick's BH	17 & 18 March 2025
Easter Break	14 - 25 April 2025

Christmas Shows 2024



Over the past few weeks, the corridors and halls in HFJNS have been filled with song and drama as classes began preparations for their Christmas Shows. This event, while bringing much joy to our children, teachers and families, requires a lot of work and practise from all involved. Everyone was delighted with their performance and special mention must be made to Ms Hayes, who organised the timings for hall and church, and even accompanying some of the classes on keyboard!



Junior Infants Show
KidsView by Ella and Isabelle

Junior Infants had their show last Thursday. The show took place in the PE Hall. They really enjoyed singing Jingle Bells in Irish, Mary had a baby and Jog Along. They wore Christmas jumpers and Santa hats. Ten Little Angels was their favourite song. Grace, Louis and Toby said it was great fun to see the families when the curtains opened!



Senior Infants Show
KidsView by Elisa & Jamie



Senior Infants had their Christmas show on Friday the 13th of December. Ryan and Kelly said they were practicing really hard in school. They said their favourite songs were 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer' and 'Gloria'. They were nervous before the show but when they saw their parents in the crowd, they were happy. The show went really well!



First Class Show
KidsView by Ines & Zoe

The First Class Show was in the PE Hall. The children all wore Christmas Jumpers. They had a big audience- maybe 60 or 70 people - mams, dads, brothers, sisters, nanas and grandads. They sang Silent Night, Away in a Manger, This is the Moment, We wish you a Merry Christmas, Mary had a Baby, and Mary will you take this Baby Boy. Ms Hayes and Mr Sullivan played music for them. First Class were really happy and felt all of the songs were really good and it sounded nice. The audience clapped for us after every song!



Second Class Show
KidsView by Chloe & Ellie

Second class had their Christmas show in the church last Tuesday, the 10th of December and it was called Hosanna Rock. We sang songs, dressed up and did some speaking parts. We sang Little Baby, You Are My Brother and lots more. We felt so happy and proud before and after the show. Our favourite part was singing the songs and our parents loved it too.

