



Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



June 2024



Principal's Message

Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter. We have had an eventful and busy third term. The Second classes celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. All year groups went on School Tour and participated in Active Week, Sports Day and the Sponsored Jog. We were successful in securing our 5th Green Flag for Biodiversity, well done to all involved. Our incoming Junior Infants visited the school to see their classrooms and meet their teachers. We wish all the Second Class children best wishes as they leave us to go to Holy Family Senior School. They marked the end of their journey with us at their Graduation mass which was celebrated by Fr. Des and Fr. Sanjeev. We wish Fr. Des all the best as he leaves St. Finian's to pastures new after 11 years. A special thank you to the Parents Association for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the school. Finally, I wish the children, parents/guardians and staff a happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you all back on Wednesday 28th August.

Mary Mc Nally

Wellbeing at HFJNS

As part of the Wellbeing and SPHE curriculum, children are encouraged to identify and discuss their emotions.

Interactive Zones of Regulation

Stations have been set up around the school. The children can visit these stations to reflect on their emotions. They look into a mirror and ask themselves "How Am I Feeling Today?" Depending on their mood/feeling, they then pop a coloured coded pompom into the relevant cup. They can reflect upon this and are supported in acquiring the skills to deal with and/or overcome their emotions. The First Class children are engaging with the **"A Lust for Life" Programme** at the moment. This programme builds resilience, increases wellbeing and enhances the emotional literacy in children. We hope to continue the programme next year and possibly introduce into other streams as time goes on. The programme content is extremely relevant to Children's Wellbeing and Mental Health. The children are also exposed to lots of positive affirmations as they move around the school in the forms displays, posters and we are currently working on our Wellbeing Wall.

Irish Author, Áine Murray kindly gave up her time to visit the school to read her book **"A Pain in my Chest"**. A Pain in my Chest is a beautiful picture book which explores the world of anxiety from the perspective of a child. The book takes readers on a journey towards healing, friendship and self-acceptance. The children thoroughly enjoyed the reading and were very excited to meet Áine.

Kidsview contributions allow the children to purposefully write and express their thoughts, views and experiences. Second Class children chose a topic – they draft and rewrite – they may even interview other children in order to complete their contribution! This has many benefits increasing confidence, self-esteem and self-belief.

The school has completed its involvement with **Junior Achievement Ireland** and its themes "Our Families", "Ourselves" and "Our Community" Please read Kidsview below to gain an insight into the children's experiences.

Huge thanks to Ms. Carty, SPHE Co-Ordinator, and the Wellbeing Committee for facilitating these wonderful initiatives.



KidsView by Clara & Aris

Ms. Aisya came into our classroom for 6 weeks and we did the Junior Achievement programme. She taught us about jobs, services and communities. We learned about the similarities and differences between government and private workers. Both get paid and have to pay taxes. Private workers are paid by the owner and government workers are paid by the government. We did lots of group work activities which was fun. She taught us how to communicate and listen to other people's ideas.



Active Week

took place in HFJNS from the 27th to the 31st of May 2024. During this week, the children took part in a range of activities from dancing in the hall, a sport themed 'Scavenger Hunt' around the school grounds, Sport's Days, 2k a day walks around River Valley and even got Active for their homework! We had a 'Drop Everything and Dance' time everyday where music was played over the intercom for the children to engage in a movement break and dance! We also had a 'Jersey Day' and everyone was treated to an ice pop outside in the sun! Active Week provided our young learners with an opportunity to understand the importance of physical activity for our bodies and for our minds and to have fun with their class!

Our KidsView cover the activities of the week, the Infant and 1st/2nd class Sports Day and a surprise party! Many thanks to Ms. Culleton (PE Co-Ordinator) for organising a great week. Check the [website](#) for photos & more!



1st & 2nd Sports Day

KidsView by Keelin & Maya

Sports Day was filled with fun activities and play. We went to the parachute first. Sports Day was on May 27th. It was during Active Week in the school. Sports Day was lots of fun. We have to get competitive for the competitions and the obstacle course. We needed a lot of energy to do Sports Day. The water relay race was our favourite. It was so much fun. The potato spoon race was so funny. We did a lot of cool stuff on Sports Day.



JI & SI Sports Day

KidsView by Alina & Lea

We interviewed Ms Rose- Nel's class about their sports day. Their favourite activities were the sack race, football and basketball. The easiest ones they thought were the parachute and the hula hoops. It was one of their favourite days of school this year. Some children said that the hardest activities were the sack race because they kept falling out, and basketball because it was difficult to put the ball in the high hoop. They felt happy and excited while Ms. Rose-Nel felt tired! 😊



Sponsored Jog 2024

On the final day of Active Week, Friday May 31st, we held our Annual Sponsored Jog. We were delighted to welcome our parent spectators to this event and the children really enjoyed all the claps, cheers and encouragement. We are very grateful for all your support and raised a total of €8,200. Thank you to Ms Culleton, the Parent's Association and all teachers, SNA'S and parents involved for organising a happy, feel good and active morning!



KidsView le Myra & Tom

We did our sponsored jog as part of Active Week. It was a sunny day. Bhí sé te! We did two laps of the yard. Ritheamar go tapa! The crowd was noisy. Lots of parents were watching us and so were kids from the senior school! People were cheering and clapping. There were lots of colourful balloons. The yard was full of children. We raised a load of money for the school. Bhí a lán spóirt againn!

Green Schools 2024



Throughout the school year, everyone in Holy Family JNS has been working hard to earn our school's Fifth Green Flag on the theme of Biodiversity.

At the end of term 2, Ms. Power and Ms. Linnane submitted our application for the Biodiversity Flag and it is with great pleasure that we can tell you that all our efforts were worth it as our application was successful. Thank you to all the children and parents for all their effort and support in helping the school to achieve this flag.

The flag raising ceremony took place on Wednesday the 29th June with all the classes gathering together. Everyone wore green to celebrate, went on a Green Walk and participated in special activities time in the yard. It was our "Green School Fun Day".

Green Schools Action Day - "Plant a pea"

On the 10th May, we held our Action Day called 'Plant a Pea' Day. Children in every class planted their own peas and members of the Green Team from First Class planted their peas in the school garden. Everyone enjoyed participating in the Action Day and loved watching their peas grow!

Thank you to Ms. Power and Ms. Linnane who have led this initiative and to the boys and girls of our very special Green Committee.



KidsView by Louis

I am a Green Team member and I talk to the class about how to make the school better for the environment. This year we were learning about Biodiversity and we got out 5th Green flag. For Action Day, we made Biodiversity posters and everyone got to plant peas. We celebrated getting our new flag with a Green School Fun Day in the last week of school. It was so much fun and a big surprise!

First Holy Communion



Second class children received the Sacrament of Holy communion on the 4th May 2024. We express our appreciation to Fr Des, Fr Sajeev, the members of the Do This in Memory team and to the Second Class Teachers. Everyone helped to prepare for this special day. On 25th June, a mass was held in St. Finian's Church, for these children as they graduate from the Junior School.



KidsView by Riley, Cian & Owen

Our First Holy Communion was on Saturday the 4th of May. It was in St. Finian's Church. All of the boys and girls wore their suits and dresses. Father Des said the mass and gave us our communion. The ceremony was very special. We celebrated at our homes with all of our families. On the following Thursday we wore our suits and dresses into school and we got our photographs taken. We walked around the school and showed off our fancy clothes and we were allowed go home early. Thank you to our teachers, Father Des, Grace and Stephanie for helping us to prepare for our day.

JNS/SNS Links



We at JNS and SNS were delighted to continue our very successful Buddy Reading initiative again this term between the Junior School infants and classes from the senior school.

Second class also enjoyed PLAYWORKS with Sixth class children. Special thanks to Ms Hayes from JNS & Ms Hall, Mr White and Ms Flynn from SNS who arranged these experiences over the past term.



KidsView by Emmy & Noah

Buddy Reading is when we go to the Senior School. We went to 5th Class. We had lots of fun. It lasted for 5 weeks. We did it from February to March. The first week we did activities and played games. The next week we started reading. We took turns reading each page. My book was called Robo-Dog. It was really cool. We did it only on Mondays. Their teacher was Mr McCann. We became friends with our partners. The best part of it all was having fun! Also, the children in Sixth Class brought games and toys out to the yard for Playworks. It was lots of fun!



Voluntary No Smartphone While In Primary School

On April 10th, schools working together to promote a "Voluntary No Smartphone While in Primary School" was launched. Twenty schools in Swords and the wider area are now working together on this initiative. This alliance aims to give everyone strength and encouragement to start this change in culture. This action is in response to the many reports publishing the negative affects of certain types of mobile phone use, social media use and internet content on our young children. We at HFJNS strongly encourage parents to consider delaying the purchase of smartphones for their children until they complete primary school. Following this launch, we are pleased with the anonymous responses equating now to an uptake of 88.4% of children in our school. A link to Opt In to this voluntary initiative will be sent again in September.

School Tours



The children all enjoyed their school tour this year! From farms to activity centres, the children had fantastic days out and about with their classmates. Read our KidsViews to find out more! Huge thanks & appreciation to all supporting staff and to the teachers who organised these special days.

Junior Infants on Tour



KidsView by Jack and Dylan



We interviewed Adam, Amy and Julia from Room 3 about their school tour. They went by bus to Red Mountain Farm in County Meath. They saw lots of animals like goats, pigs and dogs. They loved the playground and tractor ride the most. They had a great day!

Senior Infants on Tour



KidsView by Dara & James



We interviewed the children from Ms McCabe's class in Room 8. They went to Pudding Hill. They had lots of fun. It was lashing rain when they got there. They went by bus. They went to a farm and a playcentre. Their favourite part was the playcentre. They were really happy with the tour and exhausted by the end of it.

School Vegetable Garden



We have been growing Holy Family vegetables for over the past couple of years. This supports our recent work towards the Green Schools Biodiversity Flag. We are very proud of the grounds, trees and our garden. These veggies are grown with help from various green-fingered members of our school community especially Ms Corr, the children and Willy, our caretaker.



KidsView by Mia & Tom

We have a vegetable patch beside Room 22. The boys and girls from the Green School Committee helped Ms Corr plant this year. We planted onions in October and they are nearly grown. There is also garlic, potatoes and peas in the vegetable patch.



GAA Coaching & Sam Maguire Visit

Huge thanks to Sean Motherway from Finian's GAA for the excellent coaching throughout the year. An even louder "Go raibh maith agat!" for bringing "Sam" to our school. Children and staff alike had a great time in the hall and the yard singing songs and taking pictures.



KidsView by Caitlin & Micheal

On Friday mornings we play GAA. Seán is our coach. We play GAA in the yard. He teaches us GAA skills. Seán brings GAA equipment like balls, hurls, helmets and sliotars. We learn a new skill every week. We also get to play lots of fun games. On the last day it started to rain and we hid under the trees. We even had a GAA station on our Sports day. We wish we had more GAA!

First Class on Tour



KidsView by Brooklyn & George



We interviewed some children from First class about their school tour. Here are some of the highlights of our interview. We went to Newgrange farm. We went by bus and they had lots of fun there. There was lots to do like mazes, mini tractor rides and feeding chickens. We saw lots of animals like pigs, chickens, cows, donkeys, cats, goats and dogs.



Second Class on Tour KidsView by Elerick & Chloe



On Thursday, the 13th of June, the second classes went to Let's Go Camp for their school tour. We had to go to the DCU Campus so we went on a bus. We were all very excited when the bus came and we made a lot of noise cheering despite the rain. We were amazed when we got there to see all the fun activities. The first thing we did was an obstacle course and it was very fun. Next up were the zorb balls and then we went on the wrecking ball. We had to knock each other off. After that we tried VR which was extremely fun. There was lots to do there and we had a really enjoyable day. We were exhausted on the way home.



KidsView by Christopher & Devnath

Chuaigh muid ar an dturas scoile go dtí DCU. Bhí an aimsir fluich. Chuaigh muid ar an mbus mór. D'imríomar a lán cluichí difriúla. Bhí an lá go hiontach. Bhí an-spórt againn.



Creative Schools 2024

Earlier this year the school applied to take part in an art initiative called

Creative Schools. It was one of only approximately 130 schools chosen to partake. The Creative Schools initiative supports schools in putting the arts and creativity at the heart of children's and young people's lives. Creative Schools is part of the Creative Ireland Programme and it's led by representatives from the Arts Council, the Education Department and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. This year we had artists visit the school to undertake workshops on tie-dyeing and clay modelling with all the children in First and Second classes. In the new school year, this initiative will be expanded to class levels from Junior Infants to second class.



KidsView by Aidan & Eva

We started our creative schools journey this year with a walk down to the valley to collect different leaf sans things from nature. Our teacher Georgia is an artist and she showed us how to use these things to tie-dye small pieces of materials. Georgia will sew the pieces together to make a flag that we can hang up in the school.

Dates for the Diary

Summer Closure 2024/2025 Year	12 noon 28th June
Mid Term '24	28th August 2023
Christmas '24	Closes 28th Oct '24
	Reopens 4th Nov '24
	Closes 20th Dec '24
	Reopens 6th Jan'25