



# Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



June 2023

## 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.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to some of our staff members.

Ms Emer Bell has taken up a teaching position in another school.

We would also like to wish Ms Angela Galvin very best wishes on her retirement. After over 30 years in our school, Ms Galvin has been a class teacher, a special educational teacher and was responsible for the lovely art displays in the school. We would like to sincerely thank her for her commitment, dedication and excellent service 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 30th August.

Mary Mc Nally



## Active Week

took place in HFJNS from the 26<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. An active school is one where physical activity is valued, promoted and enjoyed by all. During this week, the children had plenty of activity both indoors and outdoors, and even as their homework! This event gave children an opportunity to understand the importance of physical activity for our bodies and for our minds. This week also showed how much fun we can have being active! Our KidsView cover the activities of the week, the Infant and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> 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!



### KidsView by Ciara, Clara & Emma

Active Week was a fun week. First & Second classes had a Sports Day and did lots of races like the sack race, wheelbarrow race and potato race. At the end of the day, we were going to do the tug of war but the rope snapped sadly. Throughout the week, we went on walks around the valley which were so fun!! We saw many plants like poppies, cherry blossoms and much more and even planted our own sunflowers. We did Zumba and it was so fun! We felt so excited! Sadly Active Week is over now but we had a great time.



### KidsView by Jamie

I interviewed Harry and Sidney In Junior Infants. I asked them questions about the Infants Sports Day. They had Sports day in the yard on a Tuesday in May. Harry and Sidney liked football the best because it is their favourite sport and they both scored a penalty! Everyone had a lot of fun on Sports Day.



### KidsView by David, Isabelle & Sophie

On the last day of Active Week, we wore our jerseys to school. On that same day, we got a big surprise. We all gathered in the yard and sat on the grass with our friends. We saw Ms Mc Nally arrive with ice pops for all the children. After we had eaten our ice pops, we danced on the yard to some of our favourite songs. Hooray for Active Week!

## First Holy Communion



The children in our Second classes received the Sacrament of Holy communion on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. There were three different ceremonies on the day. We express our appreciation to Fr Des, Fr Sajeev, the members of the Do This in Memory team and to the Second Class Teachers. The children worked hard to prepare for this special day. A Graduation Mass was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June, in St. Finian's Church, for these children as they leave the Junior School.



### KidsView by Aaron & Chloe

The Second Class children made their First Holy Communion on Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. We received our Holy bread for the first time and we grew closer to God. After that, everyone celebrated in different ways. All of us had a wonderful day. Second Class celebrated their graduation on Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. We were busy rehearsing our songs at school and we were all excited about our graduation.



## Safe Routes to School

A Front of School and Walkability

Audit was completed in June. This initiative aims to create safer and calmer routes to our school and encourages those, who can, to walk or cycle to school. This is an initiative of Fingal Co.Co. & the NTA.

## JNS/SNS Links



Our very successful Buddy Reading initiative continued this term between the Junior School infants and classes from the senior school.



Second class also enjoyed PLAYWORKS with 6<sup>th</sup> class children. Special thanks to Ms Hayes, Ms Parker and Ms Ralph who arranged these experiences over the past term.



### KidsView by Jenna & Julia

We spoke with Olivia and Brooke in Junior Infants. They told us that they really enjoyed buddy reading. They thought it was very fun. The Junior Infants did it with 3<sup>rd</sup> class- they had a lovely time reading with their buddy and listening to stories. They also got to play some fun word games. We have loved working with the Senior School this year especially Second Class doing Playworks and getting to play all the fun games outside on yard.



## Sponsored Jog

One of the last events of the term was the Annual Sponsored Jog. We were delighted to welcome back our parent spectators to this event – your support was fantastic. The children had great fun and were very happy to see you all on the day. We are extremely grateful for the €7,300 raised. Thanks to Ms Culleton, the PA and all teachers involved for organising a worthwhile, fun and active morning!



### KidsView le Nathan

An seachtain seo caite, ritheamar trí huairé timpeall an chlos. Bhí na páistí i rang a dó ann ar fad. Bhí a lán thuismitheoirí ann freisin. Bhain mé taitneamh as.



### KidsView le Elisabeth

Bhí an rás comh éasca ar dtús, ach tar éis tamaill d'éirigh sé níos deacra. Bhí tuirse orainn mar bhíomar ag rith go tapaídh. Bhí na tuismitheoirí ann ag tabhairt bualadh bos dúinn. Bhí a lán spraoi ann.



## School Vegetable Garden

The children are enjoying the fruits (or vegetables in this case) of their labour – they are exploring where our food comes from and how it grows. This is thanks to Ms Corr (Science & Geography Co-Ordinator), our green-fingered caretaker, Willy and Grow it Yourself Ireland.



### KidsView by Cormac, Finn & Ollie

We have been growing vegetables with Ms Corr. We planted potatoes, onions, garlic, peas, carrots and lots more. They are in raised beds beside the yard. Willie helped us to dig up the potatoes last week. They looked yummy! Next week we are going to plant pumpkins.



## Sensory Outdoor Space

A new outdoor space has been added to our school garden courtesy of an approved DAA grant application. It provides children with physical sensory input during movement breaks.



### KidsView by Luke, Seán & Vin

Holy Family JNS got some new climbing equipment in May 2023. It is 100% fun. There are two climbing frames. They are on the grass area at the back of the school. You can go up and over the tunnel or you can go through it. The bigger triangular one has a rock climbing wall and ropes. It is a good challenge but nothing is impossible!

## GAA Coaching



Thanks to Aisling Kane from Finians for the excellent coaching throughout the year and best wishes from all on your next adventure. We welcome our new GPO, Dan XXXX



As a thank you to the school for taking part in the promotional video last term, Gill presented each child with a beautiful Irish made hardback annual. Everyone was delighted!



## School Tours



All classes enjoyed a special outing this year. From farms to activity centres, the children had fantastic school tours. Much appreciation to the teachers for organising. Read our KidsViews to find out more!



### KidsView by Conor & Emily



We got to interview Jessa and Noah from Junior Infants about their school tour. They told us they got to go to Red Mountain Farm. They got a double decker bus from school and got to sit on the top deck! They had a lot of fun feeding the animals and going on all the different rides. Their favourite part was riding on the tractor. They got to have lots of treats like jellies and juice!



### KidsView by Alex



I interviewed Nicole and Ella from Senior Infants about their school tour. They went to a place called Puddenhill in May. They did a lot of things on their school tour. Nicole and Ella said their favourite thing was playing in the outdoor playground. They said they had the best time!



### KidsView by Ian & Colin



The students in First Class went to Fort Lucan by bus on their school tour. They felt very excited at the start of their tour. Most of the First Class students' favourite part was the Helter Skelter ride because they said 'it was really fast and fun'. At the end of the day, they were exhausted but happy as they had a great day.



### KidsView by Lacey, Luca & Pippa



On Thursday 15th June, Second Classes went to Let's Go Camp in DCU. The sun was shining as we left school and we were so excited. We went on the bus and sat beside our friends. We took part in lots of fun activities including Air Mountain, Zorbing, Archery, Climbing Wall, Super Slide, Disco Dome and lots more. Our Mums and Dads had packed a yummy lunch for us and we had lots of treats. We had a great day for our last school tour in Holy Family JNS. We went home feeling tired but very happy!



A sincere thank you to the Parents Association and all who have volunteered to decorate the PE Hall over the summer! If you would like to get involved, please contact holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com

## Dates for the Diary

Summer Closure  
2023/2024 Year  
Mid Term '23  
Christmas '23

12 noon 30<sup>th</sup> June  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Closes 27<sup>th</sup> Oct – 6<sup>th</sup> Nov '23  
Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – 8<sup>th</sup> Jan '24