



Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



June 2025

Principal's Message



Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter. It has been a busy and eventful term. Our Second Classes celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. All year groups enjoyed their School Tours and took part in a range of energetic and exciting events including Active Week, Sports Day and the Sponsored Jog. We were delighted to welcome our incoming Junior Infants, who visited the school to see their classrooms and meet their new teachers. It was a lovely opportunity to introduce them to our school environment. As we say goodbye to our Second Class pupils, we send them our very best wishes as they move on to Holy Family Senior School. Their time with us concluded with a Graduation Mass celebrated by Fr. John and Fr. Sanjeev. We are proud of everything they have achieved and know they will continue to thrive.

A heartfelt thank you to our Parents' Association for their ongoing commitment, support, and enthusiasm. Your hard work plays such an important role in the life of our school.



We would also like to extend our warmest wishes to Joan O'Neill on her retirement. After 25 years of dedicated service as an SNA, Joan has provided outstanding care, support, and guidance to so many children. Her contribution to our school community has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed.

As we bring the school year to a close, I would like to wish all our children, families, and staff a happy, restful, and safe summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday, 28th August.

Mary Mc Nally (Principal)

First Holy Communion



The children in our Second Classes received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on 3rd May 2025, with two beautiful ceremonies taking place on the day. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. John, Fr. Sajeev, the *Do This in Memory* team and the Second Class teachers for their dedication and support. The children worked diligently in preparation for this very special occasion. To mark the end of their time in the Junior School, a Graduation Mass was celebrated on 24th June in St. Finian's Church. We wish the children all well as they get ready to begin their next, exciting chapter in the Senior School.



KidsView by Lara & Michael

We prepared for our Communion in lots of different ways. We got our clothes ready and we sent invitations. We also practiced receiving our communion with wafers and we made some Communion art. On the day of the Communion, we got up early and got dressed for mass. In mass we said our prayers, sang some songs and then got our First Holy Communion. It was very exciting! We then had a big party and got some lovely presents and cards! On Wednesday we came into school with our Communion clothes and did a fashion show. We also got our photos taken. We got to take a normal photo and a silly photo. It was so much fun!

New Building Upgrade

The upgrades to our SEN rooms will begin over the summer. We are hopeful to be welcoming children to the new classrooms after the October Mid Term Break.

Garda Band at HFJNS



We were thrilled to welcome the Garda Band to our school for a special outdoor performance on a beautiful sunny day. The school yard was filled with music, laughter and excitement as the band played a lively mix of familiar tunes. The children sang along with huge smiles on their faces and the fun didn't stop there—even the teachers were called up to join in and sing! It was a happy, memorable experience that brought the whole school community (JNS and SNS) together in music and sunshine.



KidsView by Emily & Lucy

The Garda Band came to the school and played lots of songs for us in the school yard. All of the children in the Junior and Senior school watched them perform. They played the trumpet, tuba, flute and piccolo. Our favourite instruments were the tuba and the flute but we liked all of the instruments. They played lots of songs for us such as 'I'm a Barbie Girl,' 'Hot To Go,' 'Baby Shark' and theme songs from Spongebob Square Pants, Starward, The Simpsons and Indiana Jones. The kids loved it! We sang along with the music and clapped their hands. We had so much fun. Our favourite songs were The Simpsons and Hot to Go.' The Garda Band are brilliant!



GAA Coaching



Kids View by Bobby & Cillian

Seán has been coming to the school to do GAA training. All of the children look forward to doing GAA. We play Gaelic football and hurling with him. He does drills with us and we practice hand passing and picking up the ball. We practice throwing a ball in the air and clapping and catching it. He gives us free play where we can choose what we want to play with such as balls, hula hoops, hurls and slottars. GAA is great and we can't wait until Seán comes again. Thank you Seán!



Wellbeing at HFJNS

As the year draws to a close, it's a good time for both parents and children to check in on their wellbeing. Take a moment to think about how you're feeling and try to do more of what makes you feel good - like getting outside, having fun, or spending time with people who make you feel happy. It's been a busy year for Wellbeing in Holy Family JNS. We focused on preventing and addressing bullying in our school through our new Bí Cineálta Policy. This has also led to creating an environment that supports students' social, emotional and physical health. Also, through many different activities and initiatives throughout the year, we have created opportunities for friendship and helped students feel included and supported in looking after their mental health.



In conjunction with the Creative Schools Initiative, Ms. Roughneen & Ms. Carty organised some lovely activities for the children. The Junior & Senior Infants children had the opportunity to experience Sound Baths. The feedback was wonderful and it was enjoyed by all. Also, the children in the First & Second Classes enjoyed Chakra Dancing sessions. Great fun was had by all. Take time to slow down and enjoy the little moments. Have a mindful summer! Ms. Carty & The Wellbeing Committee



Chakra Dancing

KidsView by Emily, Lainey & Sam

We danced to the colours of the rainbow. Each Chakra has a different colour and meaning. It was fun jumping and dancing to music. We got to jiggle when we danced to the colour green. We liked blue because we danced around the hall in a long line. We shook instruments for purple. We had so much fun. The Chakra Teacher Ciara, was kind and welcoming. At the end we all sat in a circle, said our name and favourite colour.



Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) helps students learn about money, business, and careers in a fun and practical way. Volunteers from local companies visit schools to teach real-world skills and help children feel more confident about their future.



KidsView by Emily, Myles & Suwaiba

We interviewed Jennifer & Noah from Ms. Gavin's Class about their Junior Achievement experience. Niamh Mackey from Hertz visited the class to deliver the programme, Bytesize! We were learning lots of stuff about Computer Science. We played games about animals & colour by number. We did work with our partner, drew pictures & made origamis. We would rate the programme on average 8 out of 10. The volunteer was kind & explained everything clearly. We got certificates & sweets when we finished.



KidsView by Amabelle, Amelia & Kevin

We interviewed Ms Kavanagh's class. They focused on patterns, spoke about pixels and algorithms and also made origamis, which they enjoyed. Elaine used lots of big words, which were hard to understand at first. However, it was exciting and fun.

Active Week



From 27th May to 30th June, HFJNS celebrated Active Week, highlighting the importance of staying active and having fun. Despite the weather, pupils enjoyed a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities—even their homework had an active twist! It was a great chance to learn how movement supports both body and mind. Our KidsView writers captured highlights from the week. A big thank you to Ms. Culleton, PE Co-Ordinator, for organising such a fantastic week. Check the website for photos and more!



KidsView by Billy & Oliver

Active week is when you do lots of activities that you don't do in a normal week of school. We did Drop Everything and Dance workouts in the classroom and active breaks. We even got active homework! The weather was not good so our sports day got postponed, but we did lots of other fun things. Our class went on a walk around River Valley and saw our classmates houses. We had a disco in the hall with all the other second classes. On the last day of active week, we got our parents to come and watch us run two laps of the yard for our sponsored jog. It was our last time doing Active Week in the Junior School.



1st & 2nd Sports Day

KidsView by Evie, Jodie & Olivia

During Sports Day we had lots of fun. We did the egg and spoon race, water relay, sack race and a football shoot out. There were lots of other activities. Sports Day for 1st and 2nd classes was on Thursday, June 19th. It was a really sunny day so we had to bring extra bottles of water. Our favourite activities were the welly toss, the parachute and the water relay race. It was a very enjoyable day and we were tired afterwards.



Jl & Sl Sports Day

KidsView by Isla & Phoebe

We interviewed Lucy and Nicola from Room 22 about their Sports Day. Junior and Senior Infants Sports Day took place on the 28th of May. Lucy and Nicola really enjoyed it. Their favourite activities were basketball and the water relay. They did lots of sports games, tennis and relays but they weren't very good at tennis! Seán did a GAA lesson with them and they played with beanbags. The weather was sunny, bright and damp. They can't wait until Sports Day next year in 1st class!



Sponsored Jog

One of the events of Active Week was the Annual Sponsored Jog which help raise €9450 in school funds. Thanks to the PA for collecting the sponsorship. Many thanks to Ms. Culleton and all involved for putting together an enjoyable, engaging and energetic morning.



KidsView le Daniel & Maya

Our Sponsored jog was on Friday the 20th of May 2025. Loads of parents showed up. We do the Sponsored Jog every year. We did two laps around the yard. We were very tired afterwards. It was very hot and everyone was drenched with sweat. Everyone needed a really big drink. It was so hot that we had to bring two drinks. Lots of people were very competitive to be first. The yard was prepared for all the classes. There were lots of teachers cheering us on. Because the people were cheering us on everyone got the courage to run faster. All the boys and girls did great and we raised money for our school.

School Tours

The children enjoyed fantastic days out with their classmates on this year's school tours. Read our KidsViews to find out more about these all-important adventures! A huge thank you to the teachers who organised the trips and to all the supporting staff who helped make them so special.



Junior Infants on Tour

KidsView by Evan & Noah



We interviewed Estella and Ollie from Room 3 about their school tour. They went to Red Mountain Farm. All of the Junior Infants and their teachers went on the bus in the morning. It was a very wet day. They all had to wear their rain jackets and wellies. They saw pigs, cows, chickens and bunnies on the farm. They also went on a tractor and played football. Their favourite part was seeing the piglets and playing in the playground. They all had a lovely day, even though it was very wet!



Senior Infants on Tour

KidsView by Jasmine & Millie



Senior Infants went to Puddenhill farm. They went on Friday the 13th. It took them 30 minutes on the bus to get there. They saw a lot of animals there like ducks and bunnies. The weather was very nice. Their favourite part of the tour was the soft play area. They could play with their friends there. They had a really fun time.



First Class on Tour

KidsView by Alex & Ellie



First Class went to Glenroe Farm in Wicklow. They went on a Monday. They had a really fun time and the weather was sunny. The farm was huge and it took 1 hour to get there by bus. They saw guinea pigs and rabbits. They were allowed to hold them too. They were allowed to feed the animals and they enjoyed themselves.



Second Class on Tour

KidsView by Jim & Julia



We went to Let's Go Camp! It took about half an hour to get there. First we did the climbing race. It was hard to do! Next we went on the slides but we had to do rock, paper, scissors to see who goes first. We then went into the wrecking ball bouncy castle and nearly fell off the platform. We went into big orbs with our friends. Our favourite part was the VR headsets. We had to save a magical tree from monsters. We played this with our friends! We enjoyed the disco bouncy castle. We had our lunch after this and finished the day with some archery. Then we went home. We had a great time, and we were happy and tired after it.



In Memory of Our Colleagues

We are deeply saddened by the recent loss of two beloved colleagues, Mr. Carter and Ms Galvin. Their dedication, kindness and friendship left a lasting mark on our school and in our hearts. Their contributions will not be forgotten and their memories will continue to inspire us. Our thoughts are with their families and all who are grieving their loss and we would like to express our appreciation to the school community for the support we received.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

Mobile Library



KidsView by Amalia & Louis

Every two weeks, on a Wednesday, the mobile library comes into the school. We go to the van and find some books to read. Each person can take one book at a time.

The next time the mobile library comes back you can give back the book you've finished. You can take the book home with you to read. They have lots of different kinds of books in the mobile library. My favourite book used to be, 'Dork Diaries Birthday Drama' but my new favourite book is 'A Diary of a Wimpy Kid'.

We love reading!



Green Schools 2025

A huge well done to all the boys and girls for their fantastic efforts throughout the year as we explored our new Green Schools theme: Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste. You've shown great responsibility by bringing in your hand towels and taking your food waste home—small actions that make a big difference! We're especially proud of the progress made in putting your knowledge of recycling into practice through correctly separating waste in the classrooms. Let's keep up the momentum and continue this important work next year. Well done everyone! Thank you to Ms Linnane and to the boys and girls of our very special Green Committee.

JNS/SNS Links

We at JNS and SNS were delighted to continue our very successful Buddy Reading and Playworks initiatives again this term. Thanks to the teachers from both JNS and SNS for facilitating this year and to Ms Hayes for all her hard work and organising!



KidsView by Donal, Eli & Pádhraic

This is when the 6th Class children from the Senior School come to the yard at lunch time. They bring activities and sports equipment with them. Some of the games are 4 Corners, Badminton, Jenga, Hoola Hoops, Beanbag Toss, Connect 4 and Cards. Sometimes, if you are really kind and helpful to others, you will get a Green Card. But if you are mean and don't share, you will get a red card and they will ban you from the games for the rest of the day.



5TH-6TH JULY

Thank you to Flavours of Fingal for the Art and Writing Competition for our school. Children enjoyed taking part and the prizes were fantastic. Winners' pictures from HFJNS will be displayed at the county show held in Newbridge House & Farm next month! !

Dates for the Diary

Summer Closure 12 noon 27th June

2025/2026 Year 28th August 2025