



Holy Family **Senior National School** **NEWSLETTER**



A Message to All Our Children in Holy Family S.N.S.

A big hello to all the children at home and well done to you all for all your efforts in keeping up with learning at home. I know it can be challenging and I know from your messages and from your teachers that you miss school and your friends and are looking forward to getting back. All the staff really miss you too. We are all learning to adapt to this new way of life and new ways of learning. All the teachers and SNAs have been doing courses to learn new skills because learning is a life-long activity for everyone. Many of you are learning new skills and trying out new activities that you wouldn't have had the time or opportunity to do before. So celebrate this too. There are a lot of children in our school who are doing projects and fundraising to help the community and their community spirit is a wonderful gift to us all.

Try not to spend too much time online. You need balance in your life and it is really important to get out every day and enjoy the sunshine and good weather while still staying safe and keeping a two metre distance from others. When you are online, remember our rule to be kind and if you do happen to receive an unpleasant message, stop, block and tell a trusted adult.

Try not to worry about missing school - everyone in Ireland is out of school at the moment and everyone is doing their best. Your teachers are really proud of you all. I am hearing great stories about all the effort you are putting into your work and about all the great videos you are sending of your projects, talents and new skills. We are getting near the end of the year but we need to keep going with all this great effort. Please make sure you continue to send in photos and videos of your work so that your teachers can see how you are getting on. It really helps the teachers and lifts their spirits. And don't forget, keep up your reading, it is so important.

Finally, I want to wish all our young people in 6th class the very best of luck as they finish up in Holy Family S.N.S. and move to secondary school. You are amazing young people. I told you at one assembly earlier in the year, that you have been one of the most outstanding 6th classes we ever had, in terms of your positivity, kindness, community spirit, exemplary behaviour and motivation to learn. Take those great characteristics with you. Work hard in secondary school and always put your best self forward. We are counting on you to make this world a better place and this time of Covid-19 is proving that we need our most creative thinkers for the future. I am proud of you all and I wish you God's blessing now and in your future. I am looking forward to a time (hopefully not too far in the future) when we can get together again for a reunion and celebration of your time with us.

Keep safe everyone.

Geraldine Gowen
Principal

Newsletter edited by Ms Siobhan Leonard



Holy Family SNS Confirmation Day

This year, for maybe the first time ever in Holy Family history, the 6th Class Confirmations had to be postponed. They were due to be on the 26th and 27th of March and unfortunately, the school had to close two weeks beforehand due to the Coronavirus. Cross-stitch was almost finished, photos for the church had been taken, the fruits and gifts had been learned off and the booklet had been typed, but we will get to celebrate the event at some stage and it will be all the more special! The day was still marked for the families. Fr. Des and Fr. Anthony mentioned the pupils at the Friday mass that was on the church's webcam at 7pm. Lots of the boys and girls celebrated the day with their families. Some put on the outfits they had bought and blew out candles on a cake, others got a take away dinner from the restaurant they were supposed to eat at. Lots watched the mass with their families and talked about how the day might have gone. All of the staff in Holy Family were thinking of the boys and girls that day, particularly Ms. Gowen, Ms. Shelly, Ms. Kearney, the 6th Class teachers (Ms. Ralph, Ms. O'Donnell, Ms. Nash, Ms. Donnelly, Mr. White, Mr. Maher, Ms. Halpin, Mr. McDonald) and the 6th class SNAs (Lorraine and Ms. Brady). Helen and Angela and all the members of the church were thinking of the pupils and families too.



We really wish we could have celebrated the Confirmations as planned, but look forward to the event in the future, whenever that may be!



The senior girls football team got off to a flying start in the Fingal League this year with one win over Scoil Mhuire of Howth and one very unfortunate defeat to GS Colmcille of Coolock. Both games were extremely competitive and thrilling and it would have undoubtedly led to more excitement had the league continued.

Unfortunately, that was not to be this year. Our 6th class girls will hopefully go on to win many titles in their chosen secondary schools and the rest of the panel will hopefully be there to represent Holy Family SNS as well next year!



Basketball 2019/2020

Well done to the senior basketball teams on such a successful year. Both teams showed resilience, teamwork and a great sporting attitude in all the games that they played. The highlight of our year was getting to the finals in The National Basketball Arena and bringing home two first place winners trophies. The teams should be so proud of themselves! I would like to wish the players who are moving onto secondary school the very best of luck and I hope that they will continue to enjoy playing



basketball. I hope the children in our school will continue to practise their basketball skills and I look forward to getting started with our senior basketball teams again in September.

Books Blitz

February 2020 was chosen as a month to encourage the children in 4th class to improve their reading skills. The school purchased a range of Big Cat Readers designed to introduce the children to specific letter combinations, sentence structure and grammar.

The books were graded by age/ability. A range appropriate for each child was selected, which would challenge their reading skills and advance their confidence through daily reading.

We were very grateful for the involvement of parents/guardians who showed great interest in and enthusiasm for the project. It was simply not possible for class teachers to give this type of time to individual reading so your efforts were hugely important and much appreciated.

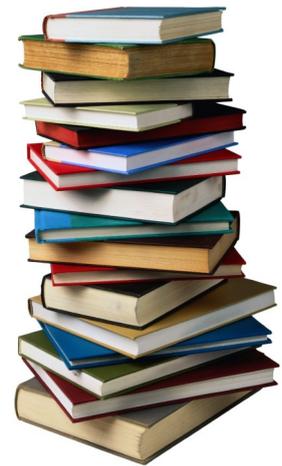
The children embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm, with many children swapping books on a daily basis. As there are seven 4th classes, approximately two hundred children were involved.

As the class with the greatest number of pages read Mr. Gormly's class won the pizza party.

Thanks to Ms Byrne, Ms Mc Donagh, Ms Kennedy, Ms Walsh, Mr Mc Cann, Mr Lynch and Mr Gormly for their assistance and encouragement.

Please continue to foster your child's interest in reading during this unprecedented school closure.

Ms N. O'Connor, Special Education Teacher



Australia Fundraiser

In our class we were learning about Australia. We learned that there were terrible bushfires and that animals were getting hurt. We wanted to do something about it so we organised a Bake Sale. We want to thank everyone for participating and especially those who baked for us, we really appreciate it. The money we raised went to the World Wildlife Fund (<https://donate.wwf.org.au/>) to help nurse the injured animals.



Ms





Bhí seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl i Scoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa ó 9ú Marta go 12ú Marta. Bhí a lán eachtraí eagraithe i rith na seachtaine – Tráth na gCeist, Comortás Ealaíne, Céilí, Lá Glas agus Comórtas na Seamrógaí. Scríobh rang a cúig an nuacht gach lá. D'éist na páistí eile leis an nuacht, léite thar an t-idirchum ag páistí ó rang a 5.

Bhí ceolchoirm sa halla ar an Máirt. Bhí banna ceoil Mr. Gormly ag seinm uirlisí ceoil agus ag canadh amhráin. Bhí siad go hiontach ar fad. Ansin, thaispeáin damhsóirí na scoile rince Gaelach iontach dúinn. Bhí Ms. Halpin ag obair go dian leo. Comhghairdeas le gach duine a ghlac páirt sa cheolchoirm. Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as Seachtain na Gaeilge.



Credit Union Quiz Team

Being on the quiz team was one of the best experiences of primary school. We started in Balbriggan where we unfortunately lost by 1 point. We then practised like crazy and we came first in Fingallians GAA Club in the Fingal district Quiz and won a Smyths gift voucher for €40. We qualified for the North Dublin Final in Parnells GAA Club where we didn't think we would even make it through to the next round, but we ended up coming first again and winning another Smyths voucher this time for €50. We then had our biggest challenge yet, the All Ireland CUDA Quiz final. We had two and half weeks between the North Dublin final and the All Ireland and we practised non-stop. We arrived in the Crown Plaza hotel. We saw the trophy across the room, it was beautiful. It was going smoothly, and we were in first place and then round five came along. County Towns, it killed us and we dropped to fifth place and unfortunately we stayed there.

But as I said at the beginning, it was still a great experience.

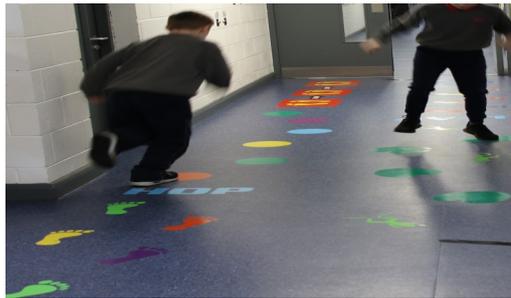
By John Hyland. (Ms Donnelly's Class)

Movement Path

In January this year a committee of S.E.N. teachers and SNAs designed and put together an indoor movement path in the sixth class building. The path was put together using fun decals and will be much used when the weather is not so good.

Some lucky children got to try it out and they assured us it was good fun.

It was welcomed by all the pupils as a very nice addition to our school.



PLAYWORKS

PlayWorks is a yard initiative that allows 6th class children to train and act as leaders on the yard. This year, we had over 130 6th class pupils involved in PlayWorks and they organised and led games on the 3rd, 4th and 5th class yards. Although we didn't get to finish the year, we know that our current PlayWorks leaders would have had a brilliant end to their time as leaders. We just want to say a huge THANK YOU from Ms. Byrne, Ms. Finn, Ms. O'Connor, Mr. McCann, Ms. McDonagh, Ms. O'Donoghue, Ms. Ralph and Ms. Reynolds to all the pupils involved in PlayWorks this year. You have all been wonderful at your job and carried out all responsibilities to the best of your ability. It was a great success and enjoyed by all of the younger year groups.

PlayWorks will be back as soon as possible and we look forward to training the current 5th class pupils for the task ahead!

Best of luck to all our outgoing 6th class pupils. We know you will all be super in all you do!

Peace Proms



The Peace Proms is a fantastic event where children get to perform with the Cross Border Youth Orchestra of Ireland. Each performance has a choir of 2,500 children who learn singing and dancing parts to songs and medleys. Last year Holy Family took part for the first time, with over 70 children involved. This year 110 children from 4th class only took part. Both parents and children absolutely love Peace Proms.

Mr Gormly's Córthéile Guitar Choir.

For 8 years Holy Family has had its own big band under the guidance of Mr Gormly, which features boys and girls from his after school guitar classes, as well as other accompaniment and singers. This year the band performed their own versions of 'Wish you Well' and 'Outnumbered' as part of 4 different Seachtain na Gaeilge concerts in the school hall for their friends and classmates. Usually the band play in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght at Córthéile; unfortunately this year their performance was cancelled. Well done to the 130 boys and girls who took part this year, performing on box drum, electric drum, violin, recorder, tin whistle, keyboard, guitar, ukulele and bass guitar as well as singers of course



Maths Game Competition.

Judged by Mr Duffy

The entries we received were all excellent and well done to everyone who entered.

Maths Maze and Crocodiles Snap by Grace Gallagher.

Lovely drawing of maths board.



Faye and Lillian McNamara gave a great sister act presentation of their Maths Game "**Calculate**". It was a well thought out, competitive game that would keep the family busy.



Emma Faughnan made a video her game "**Maths Roll**". She got the idea for her game from Snakes and Ladders and it would be a great game junior classes to 3rd class.



Times your Tables" by Noah Smartt. This game had a very cleverly designed maths board that looked amazing. The challenges were using $+$ $-$ \times \div and had various question levels and could be played by a number of players.



The Green Team

We were so privileged to have Sarah from The Rediscovery Centre delivering workshops on Waste and Litter in our school. She taught the children about how much waste we create and where it goes. It was fascinating for them and for me.

Some of their favourite facts / moments;

- * Chewing gum / bubblegum **NEVER** disintegrates. * Glass sticks around for 1 million years.
- * Variety packs of cereal need 6 times the packaging of one normal sized box although they contain the same quantity.
- * Playing the "What bin does it go in?" Game. * Making recycled cloth photo frames.

The workshop was engaging, interactive and lots of fun and we all really enjoyed it.

AMAZING STORIES



Irish Cancer Society Fundraiser

I'm Harry Donohoe and I'm 12 years old. I am in Mr Maher's 6th class. I know that many charities are struggling to raise money due to the coronavirus pandemic and I thought I would challenge myself and also put my lockdown exercise to good use! The money I raise will go to the Irish Cancer Society which I think is a great cause.



I started the cycle on the 11th of May and plan to finish on the 8th of June. Thank you to everyone who has supported me with my fundraiser.

My Charity Sale



Hello my name is Jason Carey. I'm in 6th class at Holy Family SNS and during this pandemic known as COVID-19 people are stuck indoors especially children. Some people are still working, especially people working in the front line risking their life to help people with the virus. In hospital they have equipment helping people with the virus stay alive like a mechanical ventilator and those machines cost a lot. Recently I have been baking a lot and I thought I could sell them to get a little money, but then I was thinking it would be better to raise money for Beaumont hospital to help towards funding for machines and PPE.



I went and made homemade cupcakes and we bought some cupcakes from the shop as we didn't have enough. I also squeezed some lemons and made lemonade and made a sign and it was called Quarantine cakes, and I raised €131.

Our Superheroes



Too many people have been negatively affected by this pandemic;
however there are some positives to come of it.

Community spirit has been renewed.

Respect for Frontline workers; Nurses, Doctors, Healthcare workers, Post workers,

Binmen, shop workers and farmers (to name a few.)

Care of the elderly and vulnerable is being prioritised.

Pollution is down.

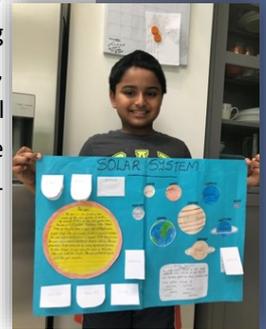
And the children are learning lots of life skills and getting to spend quality time with their families. What will they remember of this time in years to come? Looking at the messages I've received, the diary entries and work submitted from my class, not to mention the beautiful smiles on their faces in these photos – I think they will remember an extra-long summer break, quality time with their love ones at home and on video calls, cool projects and fun activities. Baking, building, creating, exploring, inventing, reading and playing.

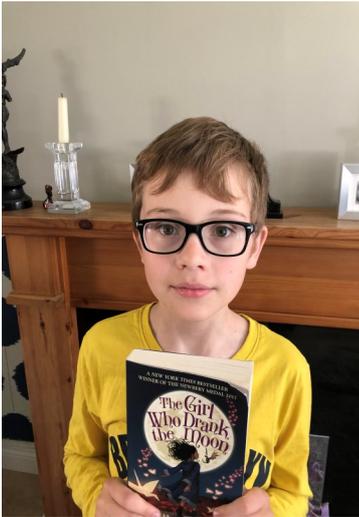
I hope they will remember this as the time we had to stay inside to protect everyone. Although we could not show love in the ways we are used to, that they remember feeling loved and protected by their families and communities, their SNAs, teachers and all of the school community who are doing their best to support them and their families. The frontline workers who put themselves at risk every day to keep the country running, to protect us all and keep us safe.

The children are all little super-heroes, keeping us going and keeping our spirits up.

We couldn't be more proud of them!

Ms. Quinn





Readathon for St Vincent De Paul



Evan Kinsella is in Mr Byrnes 5th class. He decided two weeks ago to do a sponsored Readathon in aid of Society of St Vincent de Paul. His Grandad volunteered with this organisation for many years so he wanted to help out in some way. He read three books over the two weeks; I, Cosmo, Vanderbeekers on 141st Street and The Girl Who Drank the Moon.

He has managed to raise 550 euro - we are very proud of him.



The Gratitude Tree

Here is a picture of a gratitude tree that Nathan (6th class Ms. Ralph) and Noah Smartt (4th class Mr. Lynch) made with their younger brother Jonah.



The tree represents their family and the leaves have things written on them that they are grateful for



These are photographs of a motorised boat that Nathan made this week. It was based on a assignment that his younger brother had to make a rudimentary boat that could float for 15 seconds holding coins. He decided to use that idea and take it to next level.



Well done Nathan.

