



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



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we head towards the end of another busy year in Holy Family S.N.S. I want to thank you all for your support throughout the year and wish everyone a lovely summer break.

For our pupils in 6th class who are finishing up, we wish you all the best as you begin a new chapter in secondary school. We thank you for the wonderful contribution that you have made to our school and hope that you will be very happy in your new school and enjoy all the new challenges ahead.

I would like to thank our staff here for a tremendous year: Fionnuala Shelly, our Deputy Principal, the teachers, SNAs, Anne and Kate in the office, David, our caretaker and the Cleaning Team. Thank you to Lisa Gannon, our School Completion Coordinator and to Maeve, our Art Therapist and Caoimhe and Nina from the Confidence Club who gave great support to the school this year. Everyone worked really hard throughout the year and deserves a well earned break. We are also blessed with amazing volunteers such as the Parents' Association and the volunteers in the School Community Committee and the Leabhair Power Reading Project and they make a huge contribution to the school.

We are saying goodbye to some of our staff. Ms. Meaghan Rose Nel and Ms. O'Donoghue are going to teach in other schools. Ms. Reynolds is not returning to Holy Family S.N.S. as she has relocated with her family. Ms. O'Reilly is returning to her own school as she was only with us for this year. Ms. Ralph, Ms. Maryrose Walsh and Mr. Gormly will be away next year. I wish to thank each of them for their work in the school. Ms. O'Callaghan and Ms. Hall will be returning to us this coming August and we will have some new teachers joining our team.

For those pupils returning after the summer, we are back to school at 8.40am on Wednesday 30th August and we look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you as always to Ms. Leonard for coordinating such a fabulous newsletter.

There have been so many highlights this year, that it is hard to mention them all but a few were the Girls' Junior Team winning the Cumann na mBunscol final; the Boys' Senior Hurling Team winning their final in Croke Park; the school being awarded the Amber Flag for its work towards Positive Mental Health and the school being awarded a National Youth Volunteering Award by Localise. Our chess teams attended their first chess tournaments and we rounded off the year with an amazing Talent Show organised by our hardworking Student Council.

We hope you enjoy catching up with all the Holy Family S.N.S. news.

Kind regards,

Geraldine Gowen

Principal



The 3rd classes took part in the BLAST Residency Programme in Term 3. The aim of this scheme is to give pupils in schools all over the country the opportunity to work with a professional artist on unique projects. Our school was very lucky to be paired with Kajsa Kinsella, an artist and journalist, originally from Sweden and now living in Co. Wexford. She has published two craft books, 'Nordicana' and 'Sew Scandinavian'. She told us all about being an artist and helped the pupils to design and create yarn stick people and yarn canvas art. It was a fantastic experience and enjoyed by all involved!





# Student Council

## Holy Family Talent Show



This year we hosted a Holy Family SNS Talent Show. The Students Council organised the event and the whole show was a huge success! It began with preliminary auditions in each classroom followed by further auditions in the next round. The lucky 13 finalists were chosen to perform in the final on Monday June 26th. There was a selection of singing, samba dancing, piano playing, hip hop dancing, gymnastics and even maths tricks! It was great to see all the amazing talent we have in the school. The contestants and audience members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a very difficult decision for the Student Council and the teachers involved to make but the winners selected were Nicoleta Rusu in first place, Éabha Cooney & Emily-Lu in joint second place and Ollie Moffitt Gorman in third place. A big thank you to all the contestants who bravely performed, to our wonderful Student Council members for both judging and presenting on the day and finally to the teachers involved - Ms.Fitzsimons, Ms. Kearney, Ms. Shelly, Mr. S. Murray, Ms. Crossley, Ms. Byrne and Mr. Desmond! We are looking forward to seeing more talent like this next year. Watch this space!

## Handwriting Competition

3rd Class competition winners

- 1st: Mia Price
- 2nd: Liam Walshe
- 3rd: Ciara McDonagh

Highly commended:  
Ellie Byrne



4th Class competition winners

- 1st: Hannah Vijin
- 2nd: Tanisha Halim
- 3rd: Karolina Schabowska

Highly commended:  
Ria Xavier    Lucy Murtagh

## Virtual Cycle





# Ceremony of Confirmation



On May 13th, our 6th class students received the sacrament of Confirmation. We had three beautiful ceremonies. The first ceremony for Mr. Duffy's class and Ms. Walsh's class was at 10am, the second ceremony was at 11.30am for Ms. Donnelly's class and Ms. Crossley's class and our third ceremony was at 1pm for Mr. Mc Guinn's class and Mr. Maher's class.

The students played a very active role in all of the ceremonies from reading about the symbols for Confirmation, holding up the symbols for the congregation, reading the Liturgy of the Word, the Prayers of the Faithful and the reflection. The 6th class students sang the Responsorial Psalm beautifully. We are very proud of our students for engaging so well and respectfully in all of the ceremonies.

Each student created beautiful cross stitch work showing the first letter of his or her Confirmation name and wrote about what the name meant to them. The designs were creative and colourful. We had lovely weather on May 13th which gave families an opportunity to admire the cross stitch displays on their way into the Church. Many of the parishioners were very complimentary about the amazing work in the displays.

We hope that our students have some very special memories of their Confirmation Day! Fr. Des, Fr. Sajeev, Stephanie, Grace, Helen and the parish team offered a warm welcome to students, families and teachers. We are very grateful for all their support and guidance on the day and throughout the year.

Miriam Kearney  
R.E. Coordinator



13/May/2023



Localise  
Youth Volunteering

# Congratulations



Congratulations to the students from Ms. Donnelly's 6th class on the occasion of their Localise graduation on Friday May 19th. Thank you to the Localise Team and Minister Joe O' Brien who celebrated with us on the day.





# Sports Day

During Active Schools Week, 4th Class and the Reading Classes had their Sports Day. We were very lucky with the weather and had a brilliant day for it. The classes rotated around stations over in River Valley Park including tennis, tug-o-war, soccer, potato and spoon, relays, long jump and lots more! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed all their exercise!



# School Tours



4th Class and the Reading Classes had a great day out at the National Aquatic Centre and Sports Arena for their school tour. We started the day with swimming. Pupils could go in the regular pool, lazy river, water slides, surf game and wave pool. Everyone had a great time and got to practise their swimming skills from our swimming lessons earlier in the year. After that, we walked over to the Sports Arena and had our lunch. We were then broken into five groups, and each group had coaches who organised the activity. The activities included relays on a big track, races on lanes, rebounding, gymnastics and handball. While we were there, there were professional gymnasts training and doing really impressive gymnastic moves! When the day was over, we all got the bus back to school. It was a fantastic school tour and we all really enjoyed it!

3rd class went to the Crystal Maze in Co. Cavan. A great day of challenges and fun for all the students.





## 5th Class tour to Flynn Park



I arrived at the school at 8:40 sharp and when I went into my classroom everyone was super excited! Our bus came just after 9:00am.

My class, which is Miss Finn's class, got on on bus 1. We went with Ms. Mc Donagh and Mr. Mc Donald. When we were on our bus, everyone couldn't wait to get there. Everyone was very happy and excited. The bus ride took around 25 minutes.

When we arrived at Flynn Park my class went to team challenges with Mrs. Hanley's class. It was fun but I couldn't wait to get into the water. We were doing challenges like; tug of war, parachute, skiing and fishing the brick.

Then after that, we all had our lunch in a big gazebo and went down to the aqua lough waterpark. We all got changed into wetsuits and life jackets and then went down to it. It was so much fun! We were going down slides, jumping off everything, and doing all the obstacle courses. I fell a lot of times. My friends and I went down a slide all together and that was so much fun. After the lake we got changed and had lunch. Then we went to do aerial trekking. We got into harnesses and helmets and got clips clipped on to our harness. We had to practise how to use our clips and when we practised, we got onto aerial trekking

There were three different levels. The first level wasn't too high and was easy.

The second level was high and a bit harder and the third level was very high and much harder than the other two levels. You had to climb, jump, pull and swing. It was so much fun. If you fell you would be dangling in the air in your harness.

Then when the aerial trekking was over. We sadly got on the bus home. We got on the bus home with Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Hanley and Mr. Byrne. Everyone was tired coming home on the bus.

I think it was the best school tour ever!

## New Football Jerseys



A whole school competition to design the next soccer jersey was held back in March. There were lots of fantastic entries but Emily Liu's (3rd class, Ms. Rose-Nel) design was chosen by the judges. Emily received a jersey with her very own design, name and number on the back. Kayla Byrne, Alisa Keraite and Emily Liu are pictured modelling the new kit. The team can't wait to compete in their new jerseys next year!



# Congratulations to the boys



Holy Family Senior National School, Swords vs Scoil Thomáis, Castleknock  
Corn Seán Ó Rinn, Páirc an Chrócaigh, 12th June 2023

The Senior Boys Hurling team played their Cumann na mBunscol final in Croke Park against Scoil Thomáis, Castleknock. Holy Family started the game nervously and were up against it for the opening 10 minutes. Remember, Scoil Thomáis had beaten Holy Family in the opening group game in early April so this pressure was expected. The boys gradually grew into the game with great tackling, hooking and blocking around the middle of the park, with Harry Davis and Jamie Corcoran to the fore. Captain Darragh Kennedy provided great leadership and chipped in with a few points with Ben Irwin inspirational in attack. The opening goal of the game arrived from Noah Dodrill who picked up a loose ball on the edge of the square and rifled it home to the back of the net. The half-time score was 1-5 to 1-3 in our favour. The second half started as the first finished with intense battles all over the pitch. With Danny Murray and Reece Markey steadying the ship in defence, we felt we were in with a real shot at bringing home the cup. It was then that the heavens decided to open. Holy Family got over the finish line on a final score line of 1-9 to 2-4. It was a brilliant victory which really encapsulated the boys' intensity and focus that they played with. The three coaches, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. O'Driscoll and Mr. Murray were extremely proud of the hard work and honesty of effort all 30 of the panel members put in not only on the day but since training started back in February. A special mention to the fantastic supporters who came on the day and cheered us on. A big thank you to the parents of the team who have supported the coaches not just this year but over the course of their children's time in the Holy Family SNS.



## Cumann na mBunscol Sprints and Relays



On Thursday the 15th of June, the school travelled with four teams to Belfield, in the grounds of UCD, to compete in the Cumann na Bunscol sprints and relays finals. We competed against thirty one other schools from all around Dublin.

We had two teams competing in the U12's and U14's relays, two boys and two girls teams.

They all ran admirably with the U12 boys team being the most successful.

There were four heats in each group with only the top two teams that would advance into the final. The final race would see the top four teams winning medals, with the winning team bringing home a perpetual trophy for their school.

The boys were drawn in lane one. In their heat, Daniel Barbour started the race and ran a terrific first leg passing four boys at the first change-over. He handed the baton to Riley Farrell and it was clear to see that the boys were going to do well. On the second change-over, Kyle Griffin took the baton and at the 250m mark was already in the lead. Another smooth change of the baton which saw Conor Hudson take a 10m lead and held it all the way to the finish line. Things were looking good for the final.

There was little between the teams on the first, second and third legs with four teams coming into the third change-over almost in a straight line. With 50 metres to go we were in fourth place with the fifth team closing down on us. It must have been very close as the finish line judges deliberated for a few moments to decide who would take fourth place. The decision went to us.

The last time that Holy Family SNS brought home medals was around twelve years ago which shows how difficult a competition this event is.

Well done to all of the teams and we look forward to next year when the competition will return to Santry Stadium.





## Congratulations to the girls



This year the junior girls' gaelic team have been training really hard. They were very successful in all their matches and made it to the final of Cumann na mBunscol cup. The girls played an outstanding game and managed to get us a massive win for our school.



Thank you to our coaches Ms. Walsh, Ms. Hanley and Ms. Donnelly for all their hard work to help make this happen



## Playing hurling in Parnell Park

My name is Daniel and earlier this year I got to play in Parnell Park and represent the school in hurling. I was one of a few boys, from around Dublin, that got to play the half time match against boys from Westmeath. I was the goalie and I got a great block, it was so much fun. Unluckily, it started to lash rain and we all got drenched but still it was a great match. And best of all... We won.

## Champions



Huge congratulations to Chloe, Robyn, Beth and Connie who played on the winning team with Swords Celtic and won the under 12 SFAI regional Final





3rd Class

Ms. Fitzsimons Julia Luka  
 Ms. Fallon Sarah Bennett  
 Ms. Halpin Sophie Gallagher  
 Mr. McDonagh Charlie Lyons  
 Ms. Rose-Nel Róisín McLeod  
 Ms. Quinn Lily-Rose Lambert

Overall Winner  
 Charlie Lyons (Mr. McDonagh's class)

4th Class

Ms. Nash Ruth Callan  
 Mr. K. Murray Markas Martinkus  
 Ms. Ralph Hannah & Sarah Vijin  
 Mr. S. Murray Róisín Corcoran  
 Ms. O'Donnell/Ms. O'Reilly Eron Joseph  
 Ms. Parker Lilyann McSweeney  
 Mr. Desmond Lauren Kelly  
 Mr. White Sophie McLean

Overall Winner  
 Lilyann McSweeney (Ms. Parker's class)



5th Class

Ms. Finn Alexander Pestka  
 Mr. McDonald Isabelle Birks  
 Ms. McDonagh Holly Crowe  
 Mr. O'Connor Marine Brennan  
 Johan Abhin  
 Mr. Byrne Maria Krystkowiak  
 Ms. Hanley Mark Aschenbrenner  
 Mr. O'Driscoll Lauryn Davis

Overall Winner  
 Maria Krystkowiak (Mr. Byrne's Class)

6th Class

Ms. Crossley Danny Hoyle  
 Mr. Duffy Camila  
 Ms. Donnelly Lillian McNamara  
 Nikka Tserasnav  
 Mr. Maher Julia  
 Mr. McGuinn Sven Aschenbrenner & Kevin Dais

Overall Winner  
 Nikka Tserasnav (Ms. Donnelly's Class)



## Easter Bonnets



## Amber Flag Initiative

This year we decided that we would like to try and achieve the Amber Flag. The Pieta Amber Flag Initiative enables schools and youth groups across the country to raise awareness about Mental Health and how to better educate ourselves on ways to maintain good mental health. We assembled a panel of teachers to lead the initiative in the school and we set our 3 goals. Our goals were:

- 1- To set up a Wellbeing Wall.
- 2-To have a guest speaker in to speak to all the pupils. We asked Fiona Foreman to come in to speak to the pupils about resilience.
- 3- A staff appreciation day to let staff know that we see and appreciate how much they do in our school community.

We also held a fundraiser for Pieta House which is part of the Amber Flag Initiative. The children all wore something yellow. We had a powerpoint discussing what mental health/wellbeing is and how we maintain it. In the evening of that day, we all did some kind of wellbeing/mindfulness related activity. It was a wonderfully calm and positive evening for all of us, pupils and staff alike. We would like to thank all of the school community for donating to our fundraiser and for supporting the Amber Flag Initiative.



## 5th Class mini tour



Fifth class students went on a mini school tour to visit the Jeanie Johnston and the Famine memorial.

It was a really informative and interesting tour. They learned a lot about the famine ships and drew pictures of the famine memorial.



## Bottle Top Artwork

Thank you to everyone who sent in bottle tops for our art projects.

A huge thanks to Ms. Maryrose Walsh, Ms. O' Connor and Ms. S. Murray and their teams for putting the pieces together.



## LEGO Wall



Well done to Mr. Doyle and his team of helpers who have put in many hours of work to create our new Lego Wall. A wonderful new piece of artwork to welcome visitors to our school.

# A visit to Swords



Ms. Mc Donagh's class took a walk to visit St. Columba's church and well and then went on to Swords Castle. They were very lucky to get to see the inside of the church and beautiful stained glass window. When they got to the castle, the tour guide gave them a brief history of the Castle and then they got to walk on the castle wall.



My name is Michele and I am, like many other students, on the basketball team. It has been a wonderful season, full of ups and downs but mostly positives. It was a pleasure to play alongside great players and be coached by two wonderful teachers. Ms. Parker and Mr. Doyle have presented many pupils a great opportunity to play their favourite sport. We played many games and tournaments together with hard work and great chemistry. We even went to the National Basketball Arena twice!

This basketball team, Ms. Parker, Mr. Doyle and the people who organised games and tournaments, gave me memories for not just a year or two, but a lifetime. It was an amazing way to end my last year at Holy Family. I would 100% recommend trying out for this team to any student in 4th or 5th classes coming up next year.

## Basketball



# HIP HOP

My name is Nathan and I am in 4th class. I dance with House of Swag

I have been chosen to represent Ireland internationally in Arizona, the USA in 2024.



# Buddy Reading



This term, 3rd and 4th Classes did weekly Buddy Reading with the Junior and Senior Infants in the JNS. The younger pupils chose picture books to read with their older peers. The older pupils read part of the stories, and their younger partner read parts too. Our students did a brilliant job taking on the role of 'teacher' and many were spotted encouraging the junior infants and senior infants to sound out words and predict what would happen next! All the classes really enjoyed it and look forward to more reading next year!

First, we got the bus to Malahide Castle. We started with a scavenger hunt, where we saw a cute squirrel and a cute rabbit!

Then, we had a teddy bear picnic, where we had yummy sweets! Then, we went to the playground. You could go to the swings, the trampoline, the zip line or a huge slide. We had so much fun.

Next, we left the playground and went to the pitches. You could play tennis, skipping, rounders or football.

Finally, We ate some more lunch with our teddies and friends. Then we went on the bus back to school.

It was a great day out!

By Ellie Byrne  
3rd Class

# Our School Trip



# GARDENING



Here at Holy Family SNS, we have been working hard at cultivating a new vegetable garden. It has been a slow and steady project but we are delighted to now see it beginning to develop.

The project began back in March when most of the vegetables were grown from seed. Joe Byrne from Blooming Baskets kindly donated twenty old window boxes and eight bags of potting compost to the school so we were able to use these to initially plant the seeds. We planted cabbage, lettuce, potatoes, radish, cucumber, tomatoes, spring onion and even some pumpkins which will hopefully be ready in time for Halloween! When they were big enough we transferred them to the raised beds which were built from scratch by our wonderful caretaker, David Kelly. David used the timber from pallets which were kindly donated to us by Jones Garden Centre in Donabate. Since then we have been able to watch them grow and blossom.

Mr. Mc Donald and Ms. Fitzsimons have been looking after the vegetables and have been able to get their classes on board too. We harvested some new baby potatoes last week, the tomatoes have made an appearance and we are seeing our cabbage plants thrive since they were transferred to the raised beds. It is our hope that we will continue to grow and develop our vegetable garden by increasing the number of raised beds so that all classes can become involved in this worthwhile and satisfying process.



## Our **EGG**citing science project

This is a classic investigation into the effect of different liquids on your teeth.



Ms. Mc Donagh's 5th class carried out an experiment to soak hard boiled eggs in different liquids for two days. This shows how those liquids can effect our teeth. The vinegar dissolved the shell, the coke, coffee and tea stained the shell. The milk made the shell feel stronger. It was really interesting to see how they turned out.

We really enjoyed this experiment.

## Sensory space

Thank you David.

Our fantastic caretaker did amazing work in preparing our new relaxation space.

The students love it.



# ART GALLERY

