



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to February. Spring has arrived and we are all feeling energetic and full of beans! We will be hosting **Friendship Week 10th - 14th February** where we will focus on being a good friend, behaving respectfully and with kindness towards all our classmates. It is a great opportunity for the girls to explore what makes a good friend and how we can ensure that our school is an inclusive, safe and welcoming place for everyone.

We received a lovely letter from the Capuchin Brothers to thank the parents who **donated €200** instead of giving a present to Ann Cummins. The money will go a long way to helping the **homeless of our city** and was extremely generous.

Thanks to all the Grandparents and Parents who came along to our Grandparents' Day celebration and Intercultural Day. Both events were really special and enjoyed by all who came and experienced them.

PARENTS

- Nessa is currently working with parents on **Maths for Fun in Junior Infants** and **Board games with 3rd/4th class**. Call her on 0860439773 if you're interested...
- The Parents' Association are busy getting ready for our annual **Stationery Fair on Friday 28th February** to coincide with our celebration of **World Book Day**. The children can **dress up as a character from a book** and we do a whole school parade of characters in the school hall. There's lots of fun and excitement figuring out who is who on the day!

SPORT

- The whole school is learning basic **yoga** poses and stretches and **practising mindfulness** every Friday with Maura Broaders. The children are responding so well to the sessions. Ask the girls to show you what they are learning...
- Colm McDonald is looking for recruits for the **U11 Parnells Football team**. Training is every **Wednesday evening 6-7pm**. Please contact the manager Mark on 0874185280 for more information.
- **Clontarf Rugby Club** are also looking to recruit our girls after a really successful tag rugby blitz. Training is on **Sundays 9-10am in Castle Avenue, Clontarf**. Please contact Kelly Rossi on 0852781458.

Credit Union Table Quiz

8 girls from **5th and 6th class** will be representing the school at the **Credit Union Table Quiz** this **Wednesday 5th February**. The girls will be putting their general knowledge to the test alongside all the other local schools. Best of luck teams SJG!

MIDTERM BREAK

The school will be closed for **Midterm Break** from **Monday 17th-Friday 21st February**.

ENTRANCE EXAMS:

The entrance exams for **Mercy Beaumont** will take place on **14th/2nd**. All girls are expected back at school to be marked present after the exam.



CHILD PROTECTION SURVEY

Thanks so much to all the parents who took part in our survey on Child Protection in the school. The results of the survey provided the school with really valuable information and showed us areas that we can improve on.

One of the things that came across was that lots of parents didn't know where they could **access a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment document**. These are readily available on our website www.stjohnofgodartane.com. On the home page click on school policies and important school policies are posted here. The Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are also on the **entrance wall in the foyer, on the noticeboard in the Parents' Room** and can be requested from the office in hard copy.

The D.L.P. (Designated Liaison Person) is Aoife McNicholas, the Principal. This means that the main contact person for any Child Protection related matter is Ms. McNicholas. If the principal is absent, the deputy designated liaison person (D.D.L.P.) takes over. This is the Deputy Principal, Sinéad Feery. The D.L.P is a different role than the H.S.C.L. The H.S.C.L is the Home School Community Liaison and is Nessa Clarke. Nessa works mainly with parents and community groups. There was lots of confusion around this in the survey!! Basically, if you ever have a concern relating to Child Protection speak to Ms. McNicholas.

The school teaches the **Stay Safe Programme** every year. Schools are required to teach this programme every second year but we teach it every single year as we feel it is extremely important. You should have received a letter from your daughter's class teacher to say we are currently covering this programme.

The school also teaches **R.S.E. (Relationships and Sexuality Education)** and **S.P.H.E. (Social Personal and Health Education)** every year. This is done in an age-appropriate way.

Under the S.P.H.E. curriculum topics such as water/fire/road safety, substance use and misuse, FRIENDS for Life Programme, building resilience and self esteem, being a good citizen, how we relate to the wider world are all covered.

We will follow the parents survey with a children's survey this month. Thanks for your participation.



2nd class researching on our new IPADs©

- ✓ **First Confession will take place on Tuesday 4th February in St. John Vianney Church at 7.30p.m.**
- ✓ **The Ceremony of Light for 6th class also takes place on 4/2/20 at 6.30 p.m.**
- ✓ **The monthly Family Mass will take place on Sunday 16th February at 11.30a.m. in St. John Vianney Church. All welcome.**

SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

- **14 lucky girls from 2nd class have got their strumming underway and are going to be learning the basics of the ukulele. This is such a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the joy of playing an instrument.**
- **Ms. Quigg's cookery class took on some dishes from around the world this month, making homemade chicken enchiladas and a household favourite, spaghetti Bolognese.**
- **The Homework Club runs every Monday and Wednesday and provides help with homework, time for activities and a hot dinner.**
- **Breakfast Club runs every day. It is a fabulous way for the children to start their day enjoying a social breakfast together.**

**Le Meas,
Aoife McNicholas, Principal**

