



St. John of God GNS Newsletter February / March 2024



Aaliyah's Butterfly

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. This is a busy term with lots of things to look forward to.

Aaliyah's Butterfly

Artist Deirdre O'Reilly installed her specially designed artwork in the school on Saturday 10th February. This Butterfly mosaic was designed and created by Deirdre in memory of Aaliyah, our much-loved pupil and friend. Deirdre created the piece with inspiration from Aaliyah's friends and classmates in 3rd class. It is a really special piece of art as it holds hidden messages that remind us of Aaliyah, keeping her in our memory while also being a beautiful visual piece for St John of God children to enjoy for years to come. We feel this vibrant and colourful piece which shows a butterfly at night, a rare sighting, is a really fitting tribute to Aaliyah. Visit our school website to see more photos.

Book Fair – Thank you for your huge support. As a result of which we got almost €1000 worth of books back from Scholastic.

Home-School Initiatives with Shane Ryan (HSCL)

Maths For Fun will be starting in Senior Infants in the coming weeks. If you can come for one or all of the sessions, let Shane know. It is a lovely way to get involved in your daughter's class.

Yoga classes for parents will begin on Wednesday 6th March and run for 9 weeks.

Shane is organising an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the children on Tuesday 19th March. He is looking for parents to get involved to help out that week. If you would like to lend a hand send him a text.

To get involved with any of these initiatives contact **Shane on 086 0439773**

Sacramental Preparation



Confirmation artwork by Ella Dalton, 6th Class

The children in **2nd class** received their First Penance on Wednesday 7th February. This was a very special occasion for them and their families.

The girls in **6th class** will make their Confession Wednesday 20th March at 11am in the school.

The next **Family mass** will take place in St John Vianney church on Sunday, 21st April. Fr. Michel would like to see you all there, especially the children in the **Communion and Confirmation** classes. Attending mass regularly is a very important part of their preparation. This will be the last family mass before the girls receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

March 8th is the **Feast of St John of God** and we will celebrate with a Prayer Service led by the girls in 1st Class.

Swimming

The girls in 4th class will start swimming lessons after Easter. We will be in touch about dates in due course.

Cumann na mBunscoil

We are delighted to say that **Camogie** has re-started with the girls in 4th – 6th classes. Mr. O'Connor and Ms Ní Lachtnáin will be training them. We have entered a team in the Cumann na mBunscoil league and matches will be commencing soon. Beginners are very welcome and we have lots of equipment so any girl from these classes wishing to take part should let their class teacher know. Thank you to Fiadh Peyton's dad for getting us sliotars through Parnell's GAA club.

We have also entered a relay team into the **Athletics** in Morton Stadium, Santry. This event takes place in May/June and training will begin after Easter. Girls in 4th-6th class will be invited to try out for the team.

World Book Day

Takes place on Thursday 7th March. The school is closed that day for staff training however, that won't stop us from celebrating and we have lots of lovely events lined up.

- ✓ The children are invited to **dress up** as their favourite book character on Monday 4th March. Debbie will read to the children in the library also.
- ✓ The girls in 6th class will attend the library to take part in three spoken word workshops with international touring musician Dafe beginning this Wednesday 28th February.
- ✓ On Wednesday 6th March, a storyteller will visit the school to regale the children in Junior infants – 2nd classes while the girls in 3rd, 4th & 6th will travel to Coolock library to hear some stories there.
- ✓ The lucky girls in 2nd and 3rd class will return to the library on Friday 8th March to take part in a creative art workshop.
- ✓ Buddy Reading – the older children buddy up with the younger children to read with them twice a week – this allows the younger children a chance to practise reading and the older children a chance to work on their fluency and expression.
- ✓ Snuggle up and read – bring a book and a favourite teddy / cushion to school on Tuesday 5th March.

The **Parents' Association** will soon be selling Easter Chicks. This is a fundraising initiative and as always, we thank you for supporting it. The monies raised go towards funding extra resources and activities for the children.



3rd Class with Aaliyah's Butterfly

Seachtain na Gaeilge

We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge the week of the 11th March. Oisín Ó Cualáin will visit the school to do a workshop with the girls from 2nd – 6th classes. There are lots of other activities planned for the week also such as;

- Tráth na gceist (table quiz)
- Toraíocht Taisce (Treasure hunt)
- Léitheoireacht Cairde (Buddy reading in Irish)
- Traditional Irish music session

Hot Lunches

We are a few months into having hot lunches now and it is working extremely well. We have noticed that some days a large number of lunches are coming back uneaten. We would like to reduce this waste as much as possible so we ask that you have a chat with your daughter about her lunch and what she likes and doesn't like and amend choices where necessary. You can do this easily by logging into your account.

Dates for your diary

4th March - World Book Dress Up Day
7th March - **School Closed** for staff training
18th March - **School closed** Bank Holiday
22nd March - Easter Holidays – **Half Day**

Le gach dea ghuí
Sinéad Feery (Acting Principal)