



St. John of God GNS Newsletter January 2024

Home-School Initiatives

Healthy food Made Easy in conjunction with Northside partnership started on Tuesday 16th January and will run for 6 weeks until 20th February. This is a lovely opportunity to learn some new healthy recipes while having a chat and getting to know other parents at the same time.

Maths For Fun will start in Junior Infants next Monday (22nd January) and run for 4 weeks. (It will begin in Senior Infants in March.) For this, we invite parents of the girls in these classes to come in to play maths games with the children. All materials and information will be provided. It is a lovely opportunity to get involved in a really enjoyable way in your daughter's class. You do not have to be able commit to all 4 weeks to join – come as little or often as you like.

If you would like to sign up to either of these, please **text Shane on 086 0439773** to put your name down.

Sacramental Preparation

The children in 2nd class are preparing to receive the sacrament of **First Penance** on Wednesday 7th February. This is a very special and important occasion for them on the road to receiving First Holy Communion in April.

The next **Family mass** will take place in St John Vianney church this Sunday, 21st January. The readings at this mass will be read by the children in 2nd class. 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.

Catholic Schools Week

We will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from 22nd – 26th January. Throughout the week we will hold prayer services and reflect on what it is to be a Catholic School and the core values we embrace and teach. As part of this we will celebrate **Grandparents' Day on Wednesday 24th January**.



Gingerbread Man decorating in 3rd Class

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you have all had a good start to the year. We have settled well back into school life here and are ready for a busy term of learning and fun ahead.

Enrolments

Enrolments for September 2024 close next Friday, 26th January. If you or anyone you know wishes to enroll a child into Junior Infants or the Autism class, please ensure to get the application in asap. Forms can be downloaded from the website www.stjohnofgodartane.com or are available from Geraldine in the office.

We will respond to all applicants by February 9th at the latest.

Any parent or guardian wishing to discuss an enrolment or to see the school can get in touch through the office to arrange to speak with the principal.

Tag Rugby has started for the girls in 5th and 6th class. Rob Wolfe from **Leinster Rugby** will be here for the next 4 weeks taking the girls through their paces. We have had coaches from Leinster Rugby delivering these sessions for a few years now and it is always a very popular activity. We hope the girls really enjoy it.

The girls in 3rd class will begin 6 weeks of **recorder lessons** next week with a teacher from the **Artane School of Music**. This is a really wonderful opportunity for them. Throughout the 6 weeks, the girls will be introduced to the basic fundamentals of music and they will learn 2-3 tunes on their recorder. On the 4th of March, they will be invited to perform in a concert for their parents and families in the Artane School of Music.

We are delighted that weekly **GAA coaching** in conjunction with Parnell's GAA club will resume for the children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd class from Tuesday 23rd January. We hope to extend this to the rest of the school in due course.

Attendance

Attendance was unfortunately down again during the month of December. Once again, we ask that you ensure that your daughter is in school and on time every day where possible to ensure that she isn't missing out on important learning time. It can be hard for children to catch up if they are repeatedly missing days at school.

Attendance so far in January has been much better so now that the winter sicknesses are hopefully over us, we hope to continue this trend.

Remember to let the school know if your child is absent for any reason.



STEM Construction in Senior Infants

Reminders

We are aware that some of the children received lovely watches for Christmas. However, smart watches – that is any watch that has the ability to make calls, send messages, take photos and / or record sound are not permitted in school, even if on school mode.

The **school will be closed** on 7th March for teacher training in the new Maths curriculum that is coming on stream this year.

Dates for your diary

24 th Jan	Grandparents Day
15 th & 16 th Feb	School closed for midterm Break
7 th March	School Closed for staff training

Le gach dea-ghuí

Sinéad Feery
Acting Principal

