



Halloween Costume Craziiness 2nd Class

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to November. There will be lots happening this month to keep the girls excited and motivated about coming to school at the start of winter. But first some information on a couple of events from October that you might not have heard about.

Céilí na Samhna

We had a fun-filled Céilí na Samhna and the costumes on display were fantastic. Well done to everyone on the early morning start to get the girls ready to spook! The weather held up enough to get us all outside for our céilí session and as always it was a feast for the eyes!

Heritage in Schools

We had a very exciting visit from an Archaeologist working with Heritage in Schools which tries to bring Irish Culture and Heritage to life in schools. 5th and 6th class explored the topic of the science of archaeology, examining some fascinating artefacts and learning all about the processes involved in archaeology and the science behind the history. 3rd and 4th class explored the same theme through the topic The Vikings. The children were so engaged with the wonderful workshops and were full of questions and excitement about all they had explored and learned about.

Child Protection, Stay Safe and Relationships and Sexuality Education

All parents can access a copy of the school's **Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment document** 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. But basically, if you ever have a concern relating to Child Protection speak to Ms. McNicholas.

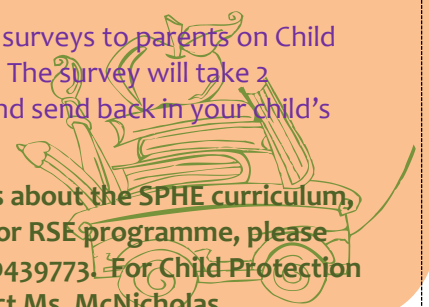
All classes Junior Infants-6th class cover the **Stay Safe Programme in full January-March every second year.** It will be taught this January but you will receive a letter home before the programme starts so you know what will be covered.

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 and how we relate to the wider world are all covered.

We will be sending out surveys to parents on Child Protection this month. The survey will take 2 minutes to complete and send back in your child's bag.

If you have any queries about the SPHE curriculum, Stay Safe Programme or RSE programme, please contact Nessa on 086 0439773. For Child Protection concerns please contact Ms. McNicholas.



Sport

- ❖ We are absolutely delighted to welcome Irish athlete, David Gillick, to our school tomorrow Tuesday 2nd November. David represented Ireland in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and won the 400m European Indoor championships in 2007. He is the Irish Indoor and Outdoor record holder for 400m. David is also well known for his appearances on Masterchef and as the MarathonKids ambassador. He will give a talk to our 5th and 6th class who are currently doing the marathonkids challenge and then take them for a run!! What an honour for our budding athletes 😊
- ❖ Our partnership with Parnells GAA club resumes once more for all classes with Darren Wong training the children in GAA skills every second Thursday. Darren is volunteering and we are so grateful for this very generous offering of his time to help our girls stay fit through sport.
- ❖ We are starting mindfulness and yoga practices every Wednesday with Nicole Poletti. This is for 2nd -6th class and should really help to give the children a foundation in this to help them with their mindfulness homework.
- ❖ In partnership with Dublin City Council Sports Section, we are offering a free 6 week block of After School Fun Fitness to Senior Infants and 1st class. The sessions will be for 45 minutes every Tuesday after school and will help to develop the fundamental movement skills the children are doing as part of their PE homework through dance and fun activities. Dublin City Council are paying for the coaches who will deliver the sessions.
Senior Infants will be 1.30-2.15 (collect at door) and First Class will be 2.30-3.15 (collect at door)

Creative Schools

- ✓ We have sourced a very interactive drama and wellbeing workshop called "Sure What Am I Good At" through Coolock library. This workshop will be aimed at 4th and 6th class on Tuesday 9th Nov. Coolock Library is a designated Creative Hub so we are delighted to work with them to progress our own Creative Plans.
- ✓ 2nd class will be commencing the Teacher Artist Partnership Programme which is funded by the Arts Council. A composer/musician will be working creatively with 2nd class on exciting music projects in the coming terms.



Science In Archaeology 6th class

Friendship Week 8th-12th November

Every year we set aside one week to really deeply explore the theme of friendship with the children. The children will be engaging in lots of extra activities based on the theme of Friendship during this time. Community Gardas John Durr and Alan Walsh will also come in to talk to the senior girls about Cyber Safety and Bullying on Friday 12th November. As part of this week, the staff will undertake our annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy. This policy is also available for parents to view on the website.

HSE Hearing and Vision Tests

The HSE will be doing the Hearing and Vision Tests for Junior Infants and all new pupils to the school tomorrow, Tuesday 2nd November. It's important that if you haven't returned your consent form for this that you do so tomorrow. We have received most forms back already so thank you for your cooperation with this. The screening is really important and often picks up little difficulties with hearing or sight that can then be rectified with further intervention.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe November.

Le Meas,

Aoife McNicholas

