SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER 2026

Principal's Welcome

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year, filled with laughter, fun, learning and plenty of exciting activities to keep our children engaged, curious and challenged.

We are delighted to see the children settling back into school life and enjoying all that the new school year has to offer. In this newsletter, we are delighted to share some of the activities and experiences we have been getting up to so far.

We hope your children are happy to be back at school and that the year ahead will be filled with opportunities for growth, learning, friendship and development.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year, as we continue to create a happy, nurturing and inspiring school experience for every child. Together, we can help make their primary school years truly special and full of wonderful memories.

Warmest wishes for a fantastic year ahead!

Reminders

Staff cars only may enter the school grounds for drop off and pick up. This is to ensure the safety of all of our young pupils as they arrive and leave each day.

Smart devices - that is any device / phone / watch or toy that can record video or pictures or make calls / send messages - are not permitted at school.

Milk and water are the only permitted drinks in school. In line with our healthy eating policy, no juice allowed.

Dates for your Diary!

Coffee Morning for Junior Infant parents- October 2nd at 9am, in the parents Room.

Halloween Break will run from 26th October-30 October.

We will be holding our Annual Céilí na Samhna on Friday 23rd October. The children can wear their costumes to school on the day. The Parents association will run a Halloween Raffle on the day, with lovely prizes up for grabs!

Advanced Notice- Upcoming School Closures- Training for Staff- Friday 6th November, Friday 9th April & Friday 4th June.

What have we been up to?

GAA

Parnells Development Officer Matthew will be taking all class levels for both camogie and football every Thursday. We are really delighted to continue the strong links between our school and our local club.

Cycle Right Programme

The Cycle Right Programme teaches the children how to cycle safely building up to actually going out on the road, in traffic, with the qualified instructors, 5th class are currently taking
part in this initiative.

Europen School Sports Day

We Joined schools all over Europe in celebrating European School Sports Day on 25th of September. Emma & Sarah joined us for Dance/Movement classes and every class creativly spent 120 minutes being active throughout the day! Well done everyone! A big thank you to Emma & Sarah for joining us on the day.

Marathon Kids

5th and 6 class are inspiring everyone with their participation, effort and stamina, as they complete the Marathon Kids Programme. By the end of the programme the children will have run 42km and completed their marathon.

School Completion Programme

Cookery Club, Breakfast Club, After School Club and Play Therapy are all programmes that will run throughout the school year for the children involved. We hope the children are enjoying the clubs and we are delighted with ongoing funding support from the Community Foundation and School Completion Programme

- After School Club Mondays and Thursdays 2.30 - 4p.m.
- Breakfast Club daily 8.30a.m. - 8.50a.m.
- Cookery Club Tuesdays 2.30p.m. - 4.30p.m.
- Play Therapy Mondays and Wednesdays during school
- More clubs coming soon...!

A warm welcome to our new HSCL

PHONE
086 043 9773

EMAIL
hscl@stjohnofgodartane.com

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Sheena Quigg, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) here at St. John of God.

My role is all about supporting you and your family and helping to build a strong connection between home and school. I am here to help, so if you ever have any questions, queries or concerns, or if there is something you would like a little support with, please feel free to get in touch.

THE PARENTS' ROOM

The Parents' Room is a welcoming space for everyone. The door is always open, so please feel free to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee - even if it is just for a little chat and to say hello!

Throughout the year, I hope to organise a range of coffee mornings, parent courses, activities and events, and I would love to hear your ideas about anything you might be interested in.

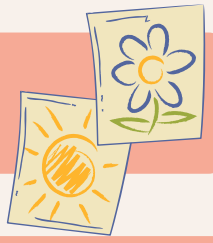
I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and working together throughout the school year.
Please don't ever hesitate to get in touch or pop in to see me.

Warm wishes,
Sheena Quigg
Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

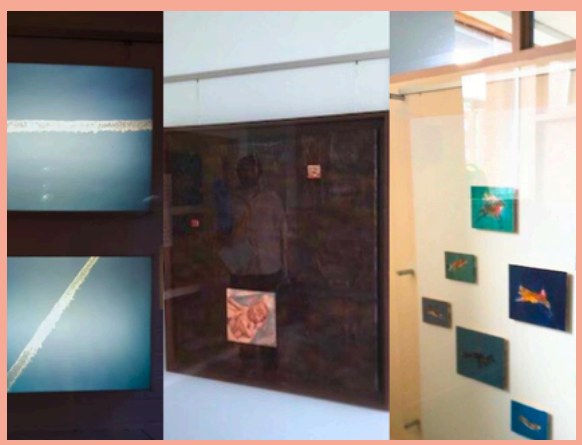
Positive Behaviour Board

Our Positive Behaviour Noticeboard is displayed at the front entrance of the school. Children from each class will be nominated for their positive behaviour (they will be nominated for non-academic reasons like being kind, inclusive, being a good friend etc.) The child's photo and an explanation of why they are nominated will be displayed. Our HSCL Sheena Quigg will ring you with the positive news and send you a photo of your child on the board. We are promoting rewarding Good Behaviour.

Art in Schools



We are delighted to be a part of the 'Ark Art in Schools' programme.
'Going Places' is a selection of seven artworks from The Ark's visual arts collection and they will be displayed in five participating schools in the Dublin area. Each school will receive one piece of work on loan for one month at a time and will then be replaced by a new piece for a further month over a five-month period, spreading the joy of visual art to local children. Currently we have 'The Refuge' by Rita Duffy on display in our school. How exciting!



Good Behaviour Week

The week of the **28th September - 2nd October** is **Good Behaviour Week.**

We will be focusing on positive reinforcement of the school rules and explicit explanations to the children of the rules we have and why we have them.

Different themes will be explored during the week:

- wearing the school uniform,
- the importance of attendance at school,
- why is it important that we are on time for school every day, what are the behaviour expectations in our school for in class and on yard
- why do we want to develop good manners and positive interactions with our classmates and staff.

Say Yes to Modern Languages

Bonjour tout le monde!
Our 5th and 6th Class pupils have begun an exciting 10-week modern language programme. We have chosen French, with the girls enjoying one hour of French language and culture each week. Throughout the programme, they will have the opportunity to develop their French language skills while discovering more about French culture and traditions — and hopefully *tomber en amour avec le français*! ❤️
So, don't be surprised if you hear plenty of requests for croissants, fromage and grapes over the coming weeks as the girls immerse themselves in all things French!

À bientôt!

Class Spotlight

This month's class spotlight is on .....

Junior Infants

Junior Infants is such a special year.
The boys and girls have settled really well in to Junior Infants and daily life in St. John of God NS.
Maths is one of the subjects we are especially enjoying. We are busy learning to sort by colour, shape and size. We are working on our fine motor skills cutting out various shapes, circles, squares, rectangles and triangles.
In art we had super fun making shape monsters.