

# Saint Patrick's Infants School Newsletter

Easter 2018



## An Easter message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends

*Dia dhaoibh go léir!*

How quickly time flies when you are having fun! The boys and girls have been super busy this month ag caint as Gaeilge, ag damhsa, preparing for the Cór Fhéile and flower arranging to name but a few activities.

Read on for more details of the active learning taking place.....

Wishing you all a very happy Easter and lots of fun

*Anne*

Principal



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ School closed for Easter Holidays 26<sup>th</sup> March - 6<sup>th</sup> April
- ◆ Happy Talk Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April in Rooms 3 & 4
- ◆ Happy Talk Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April in Rooms 9 & 20
- ◆ Junior Infants School Tour 'The Farm' Grenagh Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June
- ◆ Senior Infants School Tour 'Amazing Walls' Bishopstown Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June
- ◆ Induction day for new Junior Infants will be held in early June
- ◆ The school year 2018-2019 begins on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August

## Cór Fhéile

The City Hall was alive with the sound of music on Wednesday night as the Senior Infants from our school took to the stage as part of this year's Cór Fhéile. The students sang 'My favourite things, do-re-mi and tuar ceatha'. The Senior Infants had worked very hard learning their songs and moves these past few weeks and did their teachers, parents and themselves very proud.

A big thank you to Ms Cooney, Ms Duke, Ms Kenna, Ms Sexton and Ms Hogan for all their work in preparing the children and costumes for the show

Well done to all the children in Senior Infants, you are fantastic!

## World Book Day

Due to the recent bad weather our annual 'World Book Day' celebration was postponed to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The students dressed up as their favourite characters from some wonderful books like Roald Dahl's books Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda, Little Red Riding Hood, Tom Crean, pirates, princesses and Frozen characters as well as many Superheroes like Iron Man, The Hulk, Spiderman and Superman. Thank you to all the families that donated to the school's book fund. We hope to provide many more storybooks in each classroom to inspire future authors, illustrators and maybe even a Superhero or two!



## HELP NEEDED

The Junior Infant classes are very lucky to benefit from weekly visits from trained Speech and Language Therapist Amy Crean as part of the Happy Talk Programme.

The Programme is **NOT** about English, it is about **talking** whatever your first language is. In order for your child to continue benefitting from this fantastic programme, they need your help. We need adults to come to these sessions, it can be a mum or dad, aunt or uncle, granny or grandad.

## St Patrick's Visit



Last Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March was a very special day in our school as we celebrated Saint Patrick and all things Irish. It looked like the school was invaded by little leprechauns as the boys and girls donned 'the green' and various wonderful and creative accessories in honour of our most famous namesake Patrick. What a lucky people we are that the man himself chose to visit us that very morning! He regaled us with his tales of long ago and how he taught the Irish people about God. He visited all the classes and the children had the opportunity to ask him some questions and sing 'Lá le Pádraig'

## Irish Dancing Display

We consider it very important to involve parents in as many aspects of school life as possible in order for them to see both what their child is learning and how they are learning it. To this end, parents were invited into school last Tuesday for our annual Irish Dancing Display. Dancing teacher Nicky has spent only a few short weeks teaching all the boys and girls the basic steps and routines in Irish Dancing but ... how much they have achieved in such a short timeframe! Well done to all the children for working so hard and to all the Mammies, Daddies and family members who came along and supported them. A big thank you to Nicky also!



## Programmes running in our school

### Maths Recovery

'Maths Recovery' aims to bring a comprehensive range of instructional activities involving maths to both individual pupils and whole class groups. We are fortunate to have a fully trained and experienced teacher, Ms Barry, on staff facilitating this programme and providing support to staff. The programme has resulted in improvements in pupil's self-esteem, classroom behavior and attitude to learning. The Senior Infant classes have access this programme through station teaching.

### Reading Recovery

For the past number of years St Patrick's Infants School has been involved in the highly acclaimed Reading Recovery Programme, which is aimed at improving children's literacy levels. We in St Patrick's are very fortunate to have a number of Reading Recovery teachers on staff who have been running this programme.

It is a specialized reading programme that aims to help readers over a 20 week period to give them the necessary reading strategies so that they can become independent, fluent readers.

### Literacy Lift Off

Literacy Lift Off is a spin off from the Reading Recovery Programme and it aims to raise the children's level of attainment in Literacy through short, intensive, small group work. The class is divided into four groups and each one works with a teacher at a station for 10 minutes before moving onto the next station. The stations focus on reading, writing and phonics

## Green School

The students and staff were challenged to create a new Green Flag slogan for bio-diversity. Each class submitted their entry after the Mid-Term break and the Green Schools Committee picked a winner. Congratulations to Ms Hogan and Room 10 for their winning slogan

**'Biodiversity is the rule in our GREEN school'**

Thank you to all the students and teachers for their effort and contributions.



## School garden

We plan to work on our school garden after the Easter holidays so that all classes can make great use out of our outdoor classroom. To that end, should you have any interest in gardening or gardening shears we would love your help.



In accordance with Children First Legislation, a detailed review of our Child Safeguarding procedures and Risk Assessment has been undertaken. Further to this review, in the interest of the safety of all of the children in the school, the front doors will be closed promptly from 8:40am starting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Doors open from 8:30am and classes start at 8:35am. You are also reminded of our long standing drop and go policy.

We understand that there are times when you may be unavoidably delayed so should you arrive later than 8:40am, you may access the school through the Girls School entrance at the rear of the building.

Your patience and co-operation with this new child safety procedure is very much appreciated.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thanking you for your ongoing support and understanding

Yours in Education and Care,

Anne

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## Parking Reminder

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We ask that you consider our neighbours on Gardiner's Hill when dropping off and collecting your child from school.

Please do not park on the double yellow lines, the junction box outside the schools entrances or across the driveways of resident's homes.

Thank you for your co-operation

## School Website

If you have not done so yet, please check out our school website at [www.stpatricksinfants.net](http://www.stpatricksinfants.net)

You will find recent photographs, information detailing all our exciting programmes and adventures as well as a school calendar with upcoming events.

A huge word of thanks to Mr Shane Flynn for his hard work and commitment to the continued upkeep of the website.