

Saint Patrick's Infants School Newsletter

May/June 2018



Thank You from our Principal

As another school year draws to a close we reflect on yet another successful year in St. Patrick's Infants. A year which has been full of learning, hard work, fun, play and performance. A year filled with fun and laughter and even sometimes tears. As this school year ends we bid farewell to our Senior Infants as they graduate to 1st class. We congratulate our new Senior Infants and we welcome our new Junior Infants and EIC children. Most important of all we thank everyone who has helped make this year such a big success!

Have a great summer and stay safe,
Go raibh maith agaibh go léir

Anne

Upcoming Events

- ◆ School closed for Summer Holidays at 11:30 am on Wednesday 27th June
- ◆ The school year 2018-2019 begins on Thursday 30th August
- ◆ Senior Infants at 8:35am
- ◆ Junior Infants at 9:00am
- ◆ EIC at 9:30am

Message from the Board of Management

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As our school year draws to a close we have much to celebrate and many happy memories for staff and children alike. Our hard working staff have guided the children through a jam packed and fun filled adventure of learning, playing and friendship.

As our Junior Infants graduate as big boys and girls to Senior Infants, and our Senior Infants move on to pastures and adventures new in 1st Class, we wish them all luck and hope the friendships and memories they have made in St. Patrick's Infants School will remain with them throughout their lives.

We sincerely thank you for sending your wonderful little ones to our school and for the privilege of getting to know them. You have trusted us with your babies and I can assure you each and every one of them are truly cherished and genuinely cared for by our amazing staff and Board of Management.

I also offer our thanks to all parents & guardians for your support and help in making the children's time in St. Patrick's Infants School a fun and happy one - it would not be possible without you.

Have a great (and hopefully sunny) Summer.

Stephen Moroney
Chairperson
Board of Management

School Tours

It's that time of year again when the girls and boys were rewarded for a wonderful year's work by being treated to a fabulous school tour with their classmates. This year the Junior Infants visited 'The Farm' in Grenagh and what delights lay in store for them. They enjoyed a tractor and trailer ride, zip-lining, go-karting, milking cows as well as interacting with the farm animals.



The Senior Infants travelled to Bishopstown to 'Amazing Walls'. They played a wide variety of games and also had time to enjoy the play areas before returning to school. A wonderful time was had by all!!

Sports Day



Our annual sports day took place this year in our local Tank Field. We were blessed with good weather and lots of enthusiasm and excitement. Various activities included sack races, outdoor yoga, penalty shoot outs and GAA football training. A big thank you to Brian Dillons for letting us use their club facilities, Liz O' Mahony GAA coach, Kirsten for her yoga expertise and Ray for organising our mini 'World Cup' penalty shoot outs!

A special word of thanks to Mr Howley and Mr Keane who organised the entire day.

Swimming for Senior Infants

How better to cool off on a summer's day than to have a nice refreshing swim. Here in St. Patrick's Infants School we advocate the importance of learning to swim, while also promoting the importance of water safety. As part of the P.E. curriculum the boys and girls from Senior Infants recently took a stroll to Mayfield Sports Complex for their swimming lessons. Each class had a total of two sessions, where they were instructed in the basics of learning how to swim. Great fun was had by all and we would like to thank all the parents who helped out, the swimming instructors and all the staff at Mayfield Sports Complex



Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the pupils who had **full attendance** this year. It is an incredible achievement and you should be very proud of yourselves!

Well done Isabelle Sjaellaender, Jack Courtney, Lyla McCarthy, Ava Murphy and Sophie Curtayne-O'Gorman.

Junior Infants Summer Concert

Well done to all the Junior Infants on their beautiful end of year concert. The children sang songs centred around the theme of friendship, with a focus on everyone's favourite friend, their teddy bear!

The children worked hard over the past number of weeks, learning lines and actions which culminated in a beautiful tear-jerking performance. Well done boys and girls, we are very proud of you!



Hurling

Our recent Camogie/Hurling lessons with a good friend of St. Patrick's, Liz O'Mahony of Brian Dillons, proved to be very popular with all the girls and boys. Over the past few weeks Liz was a regular in the back yard guiding and instructing the children in how to master the skill of hurling. The lessons were very active and enjoyable and the children had great fun. Playing a sport of any kind, but especially a team sport, is very beneficial for all children and we would encourage you to consider enrolling your child in a local club.

Green Flag -Biodiversity Day

All year we at St Patrick's Infants N.S. have been working hard on trying to earn our Green Flag for Biodiversity. Biodiversity seeks to celebrate and cherish the diversity of animal and plant life in our surroundings.

Consequently we have been busy as bees designing and building bird boxes, planting trees and letting wildflowers flourish. In April we finally got the super news that our efforts were not in vain and that we had indeed won our fifth Green Flag!

To celebrate the Green School Committee organized an amazing Biodiversity Day. With everyone dressed up as minibeasts, plants and animals the children enjoyed planting new seeds, searching for insects in our garden and creating their very own bugs. In the afternoon with our gardens looking beautiful we finally got to raise our new Green Flag assisted by our special visitor Paralympian Niamh McCarthy. As Niamh's Olympic medal shone in the sun and with well-earned ice-creams in hand we all basked in the glory of yet another successful Green Flag adventure.

Well done to all the boys and girls for engaging so enthusiastically with all the activities and to the Green Schools Committee and volunteers for organising and coordinating such a super event.

A private audience with the Lord Mayor

On May 30th 8 children from Junior and Senior Infants, accompanied by SCP Worker Kirsten, Class Teacher Ms Scanlan and SNA Ber, paid a visit to the Lord Mayor in City Hall. The day began with excitement as we were fortunate to have the top of a double decker bus all to ourselves for our trip to the city. The children were greeted in City Hall with some tasty treats, which they were delighted with. The Lord Mayor then told them a little about the photographs on the walls and he answered their questions with great patience. He brought them into his office and sat on the floor with them, where they talked about the Cork crest and the Lord Mayor's gold chain. They were given yet another surprise when the Lord Mayor gave them each a Cork hat. These came in very useful on our walk back through the city as the sun was shining down on us. To round off a lovely day the children were treated to a Happy Meal in McDonald's. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day out which showed clearly on their happy faces with their beautiful smiles

Butterfly Farm

One of the most unusual deliveries arrived in St. Patrick's this May. Inside a small cardboard box marked "*Urgent! Open Immediately.*" was a cargo of 33 small caterpillars Ms. Barry had ordered from a caterpillar farm (yes, they exist!!). Each caterpillar was placed in a small container with some food and over the next 10 days the children visiting Room 5 observed them grow bigger and bigger until it was time to build a chrysalis and start to transform into a butterfly. One week later the first butterfly hatched and the chrysalis' were moved into a special net house so we could watch them hatch into beautiful Red Admiral butterflies. Throughout the week the butterflies continued to hatch and on Friday we released them to add to the biodiversity of our school. Keep your eyes peeled outside the school to see how our colourful friends are getting on in their new home!

Graduation Ceremony



The end of the school year holds mixed sentiments in many ways. On the one hand there is a definite sense of achievement as the year's work has been completed and the children have matured and grown in both size and confidence. On the other hand however it can be nostalgic as it marks the end of an era, particularly for the children of Senior Infants as they prepare to make the important transition to the Boys' and Girls' National School. We are **VERY** proud of our Senior Infant boys and girls and we would like to wish them and their parents every success and happiness in their new schools.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have worked so hard and participated so willingly over the years for the betterment of St Patrick's Infants school and the education of our children.

West Midland's Theatre

Inspired by "Tales from the Arabian Nights", the boys and girls were taken on an Arabian Adventure to Kazabazoo .

The beautiful Princess Samaris, daughter to the Sultan, outwitted the marriage plans of the evil sorcerer Lord Ben Abu, who then declared war on the peaceful kingdom of Kazabazoo. Exiled from her homeland for bringing about such ruin, the Princess encountered many strange adventures amidst the desert, which ultimately led her home to fulfil a prophesy and rescue her parents and kingdom from the clutches of Lord Ben Abu and his evil magic powers.

The play had many opportunities for audience participation. Children were brought onto stage to act as hand maidens for princess Samaris.

The entire audience was called upon in the final plan to rob Lord Ben Abu of his magic powers and to restore peace and calm to Kazabazoo.

The children thoroughly enjoyed this humorous and animated show.

Trip to the Glen Park

On a beautiful, sunny May morning, Mr Cadogan and the boys and girls from Room 3 took a trip to the Glen Park, to look at how animals, plants and humans share our environment. We saw lots of ducks swimming in the river and got a wonderful glimpse of the Egret (type of heron) that lives there! We also saw lots of different types of trees, bushes and berries in full summer bloom. We finished our trip with a delicious picnic and had great fun playing games on the field!

Staff News

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our current HSCL Teacher Joy Murray every best wish as she leaves her current role for pastures new. Joy has been a pleasure to work with, her enthusiasm and dedication to the needs of our students knew no bounds and she was always a great support to our parents and teachers. We will miss her on the campus.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome her colleague, Ronan Lettis, into the new role and look forward to working with him in the coming years.

On a sadder note, we bid farewell to one of our current teaching staff: Eve Cooney. Eve has contributed immensely not only to the teaching and learning but also to the wonderful, positive ethos in our school. We wish her well with her teaching career.

School Tracksuits

School tracksuits will be on sale in our school on Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th August from 10:00 – 11:30 am.