



Newsletter 15th March 2021

Welcome Back

We are so delighted to have all our classes back together in St. Saviour's NS. Well done to all of the classes for interacting so well at home and doing their absolute best. Thank you to our parents, Grandparents and minders who worked so hard to support the children while at home. Thank you to our teachers and SNAs who did everything possible to make home learning easier and interesting. It was so lovely to see the children on zoom every day but we know it just isn't the same. It is so nice to have all the smiling faces back in St. Saviour's NS and the walls humming with the sounds of children's laughter & learning. Even though we were at home it was a productive time and not lost time. Every week, children worked on their English, Maths, Gaeilge and Science, History, Geography, Art, Music, SPHE and PE. We had daily zooms to cover all subjects and to give extra support in reading, literacy and maths. Children participated in the write a book competition by creating amazing work that has been part of the school competition or the Blackrock Education Centre competition. Children took part in art competitions and completed projects on various themes. In the Hub classroom, the students worked on their literacy & maths and completed amazing projects. The junior infants started reading their Oxford Reading tree books at home and now all the children are reading their "word" books. In the infant room and 1st & 2nd classes we learned about different countries and loved including Magnus and Catriona to give us accounts of life in China & Brazil. In the 3rd & 4th classroom they completed incredible projects and created a beautiful Fair Trade cook book that will be posted to our web site. In the 5th & 6th classroom they loved their weekly cooking classes, completed fantastic projects and embarked on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. In the 3rd-6th classes we had online weekly PE classes with Laura & Conor. This is just a snapshot of all the fantastic work that was completed. I am so proud of every child, teacher, SNA and support staff in our school for their incredible work and the "nothing is impossible" attitude.

The infants-2nd classes hit the ground running when they returned to school 2 weeks ago because the work had continued so well at home. The children adjusted really well to being at school and the past 2 weeks have been school as usual for all of the children. We are so happy to have the 3rd-6th classes back in school with us and we are all back together again.

Covid-19 Guidelines

The guidelines are the same as they were before Christmas – but the following is a summary:

- **YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT COME TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:** High temperature / Cough/ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties/ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste.
- Children will be asked to sanitise their hands upon entering the school building and at regular times during the day.
- Windows will be open to allow as much ventilation as possible in the classrooms.
- All teachers will wear masks during the day.
- Children will remain with their class bubbles and pods during the day.
- Teachers will be utilizing outdoor learning & play as much as possible.
- To keep everyone safe we ask parents/minders to wear masks at drop off & pick up times.
- We ask as much as possible for households not to mix.
- If you have any concerns please contact Antoinette.

Retirement

Mrs Binions had made the decision to retire at the end of June. We will miss Mrs Binions so much but hopefully we will still see lots of her as she has offered to substitute teach when we need her!

We will look forward to a lovely retirement party when restrictions will allow for Mrs Binions to celebrate her long teaching career in St. Saviour's NS and to recognise all of the children & families who Mrs. Binions has taught over the years. We wish Mrs. Binions every good wish and happiness and a long and happy retirement.

Write-a-Book Competition

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the write-a-book competition. The books are of an amazing high standard and everyone should be really proud.

The senior infants, 2nd, 4th & 6th class books will be judged as part of the Blackrock Education Centre competition and we will receive the results after Easter.

The junior infants, 1st, 3rd & 5th class books were adjudicated by an external judge and the awards went to :

Junior Infants: Liam, Ailbhe, Willow

1st Class: Rosie, Magnus, Sophia

3rd Class: 1st Kayla, 2nd Will, 3rd Alannah & Sophia Mc G

5th Class: Joint 1st - Holly, Izzy B, joint 2nd Finlay & Layla & distinction award to Sarah M

Well done to all of the winners and entrants. The judge commented that the books were of a very high standard and a joy to read.

Teaching Practise

This week, Rebecca Farrar will be starting teaching practise in the 5th & 6th classroom. Rebecca will be completing her final teaching practise for the next 4 weeks. Mrs Spencer will still be in the classroom from a supporting role and will be working with groups/individuals to provide extra teaching support.

The same will be taking place in the infants room. Alice Spencer will be starting teaching practise with the junior & senior infants. Alice is also completing her final teaching practise for the next 4 weeks. Mrs Doyle will also still be in the classroom as a mentor and will be working with groups & individuals from the classes.

We look forward to this time with Rebecca & Alice and wish them every success.

PE Teaching Practise

We are delighted to have Laura Clarke and Conor Byrne completing their PE teaching practice with us. Over the past few weeks, they commenced their teaching practice online with 3rd-6th classes.

We are delighted that they will be joining us in school next week to continue with the teaching practice in face to face teaching.

3rd-6th classes will continue to have their classes on a Friday morning and from Wed 24th the infants-1st & 2nd classes will be commencing the classes also.

We wish Laura & Conor every success.

To confirm : all students who are completing their teaching practice with us are complying with all Covid-19 guidelines. As it is level 5 we are not resuming external coaches at this time but it is permitted to have students who need to complete their teaching practice.

Hyundai Hero Award

Congratulations to Mrs. Spencer on her hero award from East Coast Radio. Mrs. Spencer was nominated by a parent for the award because of her dedication and hard work both during the lockdown and during normal teaching times. Well done Mrs. Spencer and we hope you buy yourself something nice with the prize.

Engineering Week

During the week of the 1st March we celebrated engineering week.

The infants-2nd classes loved learning about floating & sinking and then designed and constructed their own boats.

At the end of the week the children floated their boats in a paddling pool.

In the 3rd-6th classes the children completed engineering tasks each day.

It was a super week of learning & fun.

Junior Entrepreneur Programme

The 5th & 6th classes have been working on their Junior Entrepreneur Programme. All children were divided into groups where they worked on ideas and creating a presentation ready to present to the dragons. The dragon presentation took place 2 weeks ago where the children presented their idea to 3 external judges. Thank you to Molly Williams for being one of those dragons. The idea, which was gifts for pets was chosen by the dragons which involved 2 of the groups. The classes will now take these ideas and start to prepare the products ready for market. Shane Byrne (Mrs. Byrne's husband) is going to provide business mentor support to the classes drawing on his own experience of starting his own company. This is a wonderful project for the children and great experience of how to create a business and prepare a product for the market

World Book Day

We had a great day of celebration on Wednesday 10th March to recognize the importance and value of books in our lives. The children dressed up as their favourite books or characters and enjoyed sharing their favourite books with their classmates. It was a great day of reading and enjoyment.

Vision & Hearing

The junior infant children will have their vision & hearing tests on 21st April. Consent forms from the HSE will be sent home to these children shortly.

If you have any concerns about your child's sight or hearing please let me know and we can send you a form to complete.

Lá Glás & Seachtain na Gaeilge

On Tuesday 16th March, we are looking forward to our annual Lá Glás. We are inviting children to dress in green and take part in the fun of St. Patrick's Day.

The children will be taking part in the class parade which we will film and put onto See Saw. They will take part in Irish dancing, games & fun using our Gaeilge.

During Seachtain na Gaeilge the children have been using their Gaeilge during the day, teaching their families phrases in Gaeilge and having fun while using our Gaeilge.

Birthdays

We would like to wish all the children who had their birthdays during the lockdown – a big happy birthday. We hope you had a wonderful day and we all hope that for your next birthday things will be back to the way they used to be. The birthday children were : Kyle , Orla, Jake , Carter , Cara, Sean , Beth , Johnny , Henry , Fallon , Clodagh , Holly C, Sophia C, Sophia Mc G, Kayla , Enda, Nina , Emma , Megan , Archie , Finlay , Rosie C & Sophie .

Happy Mother's Day

I hope all our wonderful mothers had a wonderful Mother's Day to recognise all the amazing and important work that they do. Lá na Máithreacha sona duit