



Dear parents and guardians,

As the first school term comes to an end, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the year so far. The school has been a great place to be with lots of exciting learning and fun happening on a daily basis. The Student Council, Green School Committee, Health Promoting School Committee and Parents' Committee are in full swing and are busy planning plenty of initiatives for the year.

The AGM of the Parents' Association took place on the 2nd of October, and we are delighted to have an enthusiastic committee of volunteers. I would like to especially thank our PA Chairperson, Roisin Ni Chearbhaill, and our newly elected members of both the PA and Board of Management for their commitment and dedication to St. Patrick's. Thank you also to all the parents who have volunteered their time so kindly to organise the Christmas Card fundraiser, Non-Uniform Day, the upcoming Christmas Colours Day, help out with the school library and tidied up areas outside the school, to name just a few so far this year. We are a truly very lucky school to have such committed volunteers who help us in so many ways. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Christmas is a very special time in our school calendar. The school is a hive of excitement, with Christmas performances, songs and art filling our corridors. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and all the very best for the new year ahead. St. Patrick's is a great school community to be part of and I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year ahead.

Mise le meas,

Anne-Marie McGovern,  
Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians,

A very warm welcome to our Junior Infant families and to all new families to the school and “welcome back” to our regular readers!

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our acting Principal Anne Marie McGovern who started in the school in September.

It’s hard to believe the first term is coming to a close we have already had a very busy few months on the parents association.

In September we welcomed all the junior infants parents for “tea and tissues” in the PE hall. This was a very successful morning where we had a great turn out serving over 100 hot drinks over the two mornings.

In October we held our first Parents Association of the new year where the new committee was formed. It was so encouraging to see so many turn out for the first meeting. The new officers were elected Bob Jermyn (vice chairperson) Niall McCarthy (Treasurer) Gabrielle Hyland (Secretary) and myself chairperson. We are looking forward to working together for the next 2 years.

After the first meeting we got our hands dirty with cleaning up some flower beds and planting some spring bulbs we also repainted the flowerbed outside the PE hall.

We have just placed an order for two communication boards that we hope will arrive before Christmas, we will then get them up in the yards. Communication Boards are a form of Augmentative and Alternative Communication. They aid to support anyone who at any stage may have difficulty understanding or communication through verbal speech. This includes supporting those with language difficulties, those with English as an additional language, our autistic and down syndrome community and many more.

In November we had a non uniform day and raised money for our Christmas colours day. Christmas Colours Day will take place on Thursday 21st December. Santa will be visiting all the classes that day and delivering treats for the children to enjoy while watching a Christmas film. On that day the children are invited to wear their Christmas colours. The draw for the hampers takes place on Christmas Colours Day.

On the same day we will hold our staff appreciation morning to thank all the staff for everything they do for the children and school. The parents association is very happy to provide some sweet treats for all the staff as a little way of saying thank you, we are so lucky to have such wonderful staff in St Patrick’s.

By now we hope all that ordered Christmas cards from the school have received them. This was a huge undertaking by the parents association and we are delighted so many took part. Over 620 cards were ordered. The cards looked fantastic. We are hoping to make this an annual fundraiser the feedback from parents has been so positive.

You may have noticed we decorated the tree our the front of the school with baubles and (temperamental solar lights) we think it really brightens up the front lawn. Please remind your children to refrain from climbing this tree or any tree in the school. Wreaths were also hung on the front door which look wonderful.

If you are on Facebook and Instagram and aren’t already a member, we invite you to join our page St Patrick’s Bray Parent Association pages. New faces and new ideas are always most welcome just come to join us at any of our meetings.

Finally, all that is left to do is to wish you all a happy Christmas on behalf of the Parent Association. We have lots to look forward to in 2024 so we are looking forward to seeing you in the school.

Best wishes,

Róisín Ní Chearbhaill  
Chairperson

# STUDENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS

NEWSLETTER

## ELECTIONS

12 OCT. 2023

The election process started by all candidates making very strong speeches to make our class mates believe that we are going to be amazing representatives. Elections were held in Ram Thai. 4th, 5th and 6th class were all invited to vote. We are very proud and honoured to be on the Student Council this year.

## LORETO MASS

29 NOV. 2023

The Student Council members and some 6th class girls went to the Loreto Mass. We sat inside the church and there were fabulous paintings in there. At the mass, there was a beautiful performance of hymns. We learned about the church's history.

We were all blessed with Holy Water on our hands.

## LORETO TRAINING DAY

23 NOV 2023

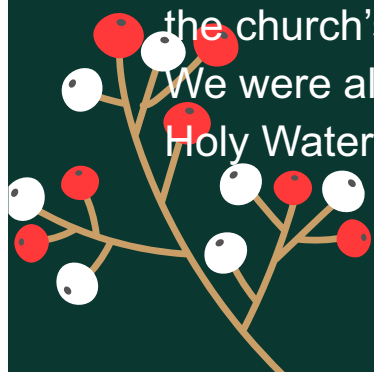
Student Council is where about 20 girls become representatives to help the school for a year. Each pair of representatives make a suggestion box for their classes. They work with the teachers. At our Loreto Training Day we learned about the roles of the student council. There is a chairperson, secretary, timekeeper and various other jobs. We also came up with many other exciting ideas during the day.

## CHRISTMAS COLOURS DAY

Christmas Colours Day, **21st December**, is a day when the whole school community wear our best Christmas jumpers, the funkier the better!

We are hoping to raise lots of money to support our Dignity Packs project.

Thanks to Kate and Freya from Ms Thompson's 5th Class for our first Student Council Newsletter.





*From Health Promoting Schools Committee  
(HPS)*

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



In September we welcomed three new representatives from 4th Class to the HPS: Ariya Farrell, Mia Hannon and Ariana McKeown. They join Chloe Ennis, Ellie Griffiths, Eseosa Victoria Imafidom-Anthony, Isabella Mulligan, Eabha Humphries and Sophia Byrne. They were busy straight away, planning Be Well Week in October. What a wonderful week it was! This year's theme was Kindness. There were Random Acts of Kindness, Friendship Force, Yoga, healthy eating and lots more activities. Here were some of the highlights!

Launch of the 100k Challenge  
Over Be Well Week we launched the 100K Challenge! All of the classes gathered outside. Senior Infants ran first, then the other classes ran their three laps to finish their first 1km. Music was playing and we had great encouragement from staff and pupils- it was fun! Now we are about to hit 20km which is a great achievement. Well done to all the pupils for keeping up the running, especially in the cold weather!



### Danceathon

The Danceathon was fun! All of the classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class came to the hall to dance with all of their friends. The HPS had a great playlist to get us all moving!



### WOW: Walk On Wednesday

For Be Well Week this year we decided to Walk to School on Wednesday. The Green School Committee and the HPS joined forces outside the school to welcome all the students that walked some or all of the way to school with music and bubbles. Don't forget to make an extra effort every Wednesday to walk to school!

### Wake Up! Shake Up!

Ms O'Carroll had us all wide awake and moving our bodies in the Junior Infant Yard before school during Be Well Week. What a great way to start the day, even if the legs were sore the next day!



### Hydration Education

Every year we go around the school to talk about how important it is to stay hydrated. Did you know you need to drink up to eight glasses of water a day?

### Light Up the World With Kindness

This Christmas we're trying to light up the world with kindness! Every class will write how they will show kindness on a piece of paper in the shape of a light bulb. We will display the light bulbs on the HPS noticeboard. Be sure to show kindness at home as well as in school!





# The Green Committees trip to Airfield Estate

I loved our trip to Airfield. It was way better than a spelling test. It was so fun. I really loved when Adam saved the bird from the spider's web. It was so interesting when we learned about the soil and what was beneath us. I really want to do it again.  
*By Poppy Way, 4th class.*

Hi, my name is Millie O'Carroll. I am 8 years old and I am on the Green School Committee. We were very lucky last week because we got to go to Airfield Estate. All of Airfield was very cool but if I had to choose a favourite part it would have been the 'World of Soil'. We got to learn about how important soil is to our world and how if we didn't have soil we wouldn't have oxygen. We also learned about the different layers in the soil and some of the tiny insects that live in it. There was a video to watch, lots of interactive screens, a big microscope and a compost bin with a glass side so you could see what was happening inside. I have to say it was pretty disgusting! We had a great day and thanks to Ms. Dagg for bringing us.  
*By Millie O'Carroll, 3rd class.*



This year Ms. Dagg brought The Green School Committee to Airfield. We got on a minibus and went. When we got there our tour guide, Adam, was there. He brought us around and showed us lots of animals and plants. Airfield is a working farm so all the animals have a job. My favourite animal was a non-working animal- Nanny the goat! I also liked seeing the cows being milked. They had chickens, donkeys and calves as well. They have badgers. I had a very good time. Thank you Airfield.  
*By Millie O'Toole, 3rd class.*

This year the Green School Committee went to Airfield. In Airfield we saw all the animals and learned about them too. Airfield is a working farm - this means that all of the animals have a job to do. We saw the cows being milked. The cows get milked once a day. We made plant pots. In the plant pots we planted beans and peas. We learned about how they use soil and we also learned about the plants. The tour guide brought us around a really smelly bin. They have a machine that breaks down compost in only 24 hours. They have two donkeys but they don't have a job to do. They have a goat too. Airfield have chickens. The chickens run really weirdly and it was funny watching them running by the fence. We could see some chicks at the far side of the area. We saw the eggs. Airfield also have calves. The calves were from somewhere in England. We learned that this breed of cow will not get as big as many other cows. In the woods there are badgers but we did not see any. It was a great day. Thanks Airfield.  
*By Jaylin O'Toole, 6th class.*





## Ms Dunne's Junior Infants

Ms. Dunne's class enjoyed their trip to the mermaid theatre in December!  
We went to see a play called The Polar Bear and the Penguin - it was such good fun!  
It was a 5 star performance!





# Ms Pratt's Junior Infants





## Ms Collison's Senior Infants

'One of the highlights of this term for Ms. Collison's Senior Infants class was our scooter workshop, organised by Green Schools Ireland.

The boys and girls practiced lots of different drills, learned how to do an emergency stop and especially enjoyed playing Scooter Limbo!'





## Ms Larkin's Senior Infants

We were so excited to set up our own pen pal letter exchange with Ms. Lematti's Senior Infant class.

We started looking at the post office in November and began writing them letters.

We each have a pen pal buddy and we love writing to them and getting a letter in response back.

We are learning a lot about letter writing and our handwriting has gotten so much better.

We just sent our Christmas letters to them and we can't wait to get a response back in the New Year.





## Ms. Reddin's Senior Infants have had a very busy first term in school

We went on  
an Autumn hunt  
in October  
to explore  
and observe signs  
of seasonal change.



We loved our  
scooter safety  
workshop facilitated  
by Green Schools.

We learned about  
the different parts  
of our scooter,  
how to break safely  
and how to navigate  
obstacles.



## Ms. Reddin's Senior Infants have had a very busy first term in school

We enjoyed carrying out lots of experiments for science week. The "dancing raisins" experiment was one of our favourites.

We have been busy during the month of December with Christmas play rehearsals and creating lots of beautiful art work.

Learning, playing and having lots of fun, we look forward for what's to come





## Ms. Walsh's 1st Class



Ms Walsh's 1st Class had great fun making catapults. We really enjoyed testing out how far we could fire mini-marshmallows in the classroom and in the yard!



We enjoyed all the different activities we tried during science week, especially making and playing with slime!





## Ms. Catterson's 1st Class





## Ms Lenehan & Ms Coyne's 4th Class



A few of our unique characters in fourth class!



We have been learning all about the sun in Ms. Lenehan and Ms. Coyne's class. We can even explain the meaning of photosynthesis and bioluminescence! We also used our artistic talent to make our own sun



### Viking Projects

This term our Fourth Class worked on and presented projects on the Vikings. We researched several topics including weaponry, Viking gods and the Viking alphabet. Some girls worked on their traditions which were very hard to pronounce. No matter what our topic was we all really enjoyed it. Also many of us made copies of their houses, longships and weapons. Our whole class worked really hard and their projects and really enjoyed doing them too.

*Olivia Canavan  
(Ms Coyne/Ms Lenehan)*



### Christmas is Coming

This week things are getting very Christmassy in our class. We have been learning the Twelve Days of Christmas and we also are doing a Christmas story in Irish. The Irish story is a cartoon competition. We are doing Secret Santa in our class but we are making cards instead of buying presents. We are very excited.

Nollaig Shona Duit

*Vanessa Cisz  
(Ms Coyne/Lenehan)*



## Ms Dunleavy's 5th Class



### Science Blast

Our class has entered the RDS Science Blast Competition with our question 'What food colouring or dye is best for changing the colour of white flower petals? We will be coming up with ideas about how to dye the flower petals over the next few months. Then we will be making a presentation on how we how we produced our answer. We have enjoyed the process so far and we can't wait to learn more

*Sophie Costelloe  
Isabelle Cobbe  
5th class Miss Dunleavy*

### Bray Drug Awareness Competition

In October, Ms Dunleavy's 5th class entered the Bray Drug Awareness Competition. We all made posters for the competition. The theme of the competition was about what made us happy when we go outside with our friends.

It was all about a positive lifestyle. When I got the news that I had won a prize I was so excited.  
*By Amelia Nyczka.*





## Ms Gillooly's 6th Class

We have been very busy in the lead up to Christmas in Ms. Gillooly's class.  
We designed Christmas jumpers,  
and everyone loved seeing our beautiful faces as they walked by our classroom.



We learned how to sew  
and used our new skills  
to make lovely Christmas decorations.



We even baked  
delicious Christmas cookies  
and decorated them with icing.



**We have loved spreading the Christmas cheer,  
and we hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas.**