



St John the Baptist BNS

NEWSLETTER

February/Mí Feabhra 2024



Springtime... *Irish spring has sprung and so we can start looking forward to less snuffles along with brighter, 'longer' and warmer days. Or not!! By now, we're well into Term 2 with LOTS to look forward to during the month ahead including the arrival of eggs for a spring "Incubation Project"! Mind how you go and thanks, as ever, for your support.*

Don't Forget...

All the classes continue with the **STAY SAFE** programme this month. This is one of the most important things that we do in school.

What is it?: The Stay Safe Programme is a mandatory personal safety skills programme for primary schools – both mainstream and special. Its overall objective is to prevent child abuse, bullying and other forms of victimisation.



APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION for our Mainstream Junior Infants Class (2024/25) continues until the end of the month. *Seomra na Rí Autism Class applications are now closed.*

Reminders: -

- Are you forgetting your son's **uniform days**? Print out this handy guide for January and February by clicking here: [January and February Uniform Timetable](#)
Also posted on website.
- **Water only, please. No diluted water or juices. Some are still bringing in juice or diluted/flavoured water.**
- Please do not park in the bus bay.
- Plain navy tracksuit only.

Dates For Your Diary

- ❖ **Thursday 1 Feb:** First Penance @ 7.30pm in the parish church
- ❖ **Thursday 1 Feb:** Olympic Handball in Tipperary Town (selected pupils from Rang 3 to Rang 6)
- ❖ **Monday 5 Feb:** St Brigid's Day Public Holiday (school closed)
- ❖ **Thursday 8 Feb:** Rang 2-3 (Mr Kennedy), Rang 3 (Mr Barrett) & Rang 4 (Mr Molloy) attending "Any Dream Will Do" in Brú Ború, performed by pupils from Clonoulty NS
- ❖ **Tuesday 13 Feb:** Pancake Day thanks to our PA
- ❖ **Weds 14 Feb:** 6th Class Confirmation Retreat in Holycross
- ❖ **Thurs 15 & Fri 16 Feb:** Mid-term Break (school closed)
- ❖ **Tues 20 Feb:** Parent & Baby Class @ 10am in Spafield FRC
- ❖ **Thurs 22 Feb:** 1st and 2nd Class Hurling Blitz in Cashel Community School. Time TBD.
- ❖ **Thurs 22 Feb:** FAI 5-A-Side Soccer Tournament in Newhill, Littleton (16 boys will be chosen from 4th to 6th.
- ❖ **Thurs 22 Feb:** 6th Class Confirmation Ceremony of Light in Parish Church at 8pm
- ❖ **Thurs 29 Feb:** Coffee Morning For Our International Families @ 9.30am in the school halla
- ❖ **Saturday 2 March:** Confirmation for boys @ 10.30am



SOCCER TRAINING WITH MR KENNEDY THURSDAYS 3-4PM TO HELP HIM PICK HIS 16. (Rang 4 to Rang 6 only)

FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS WITH JOHN EVERY THURSDAY (Juniors to 2nd)

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Special Events/Activities/News/Curriculum News

TABLE QUIZ & OLYMPIC HANDBALL: 16 boys travelled to Lisvernane for a Table Quiz in January, with one of our teams coming second after a tie-breaker question! This is a new initiative in the school and we'd like to thank Ms O'Donoghue for giving up her lunchtimes to choose teams and prepare the boys for the night! Olympic Handball is a further new option for the boys and Mr Barrett will lead a 50 strong team to Tipp Town on 1 February. We hope they all have an enjoyable day of sport.



CREATIVE CLUSTER ARTS INITIATIVE: Our school is delighted to be involved in a collaborative creative project with the girls' and the Deanery school. This is a two year project which is intended to be child-centred and child-led. Our first big project starts after February mid-term. This will be a block of collaborative Lego workshops for all classes which we hope will promote creativity and imagination amongst the boys and the girls. The committee members in our school are Ms Jennie O'Farrell and Ms Rebecca Curry and they would like to thank everyone who generously donated their *precious* Lego during the December collection. If you're having a spring clean and would like to donate more lego, we would be only too happy to accept it.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK: Thank you very much to Fr John, Fr Enda, Ms O'Dwyer and all the school community for their work during the week. One of many highlights was our **Grandparents and Loved Ones Day** for Junior Infants on Wednesday. How lovely it was to see so many of the boys' loved ones in our school. Thank you for taking the time to help bring big, broad smiles to our boys' faces!

News from our Parent Association:-

Our very active Parent Association held its January meeting on the 11th of the month. The Agenda was mainly focussed on activities between now and Easter, with the main project for the PA this month being **Pancake Day on Tuesday 13 February**. Seven/eight of its members will kindly volunteer their time to cook and hand out pancakes to every pupil in our school. I can tell you this is very much loved and appreciated by all in our school and we're grateful to the PA for its continued commitment to our boys.



Half-zips:-



New half-zips which will be compulsory for new Junior Infants from September 2024

At the school's Board of Management meeting on 18 January, the following was agreed:

1. Half-zips only (no grey school uniform) will be compulsory for new Infants starting in September 2024.
2. The other classes have the option of half-zip or continuing to wear their navy tracksuit only and **not** grey school uniform for 2024/25. This optional clause will be reviewed during the 2024/25 academic year.
3. Plain navy tracksuit pants only - no crest required & available to purchase from the store of parents' choice.
4. Royal Blue or Sky Blue polo shirt.
5. Due diligence to be carried out on proposed supplier BT Sports and the Principal & Parent Association members to liaise with the company to finalise arrangements for sizing/ordering/payment/collection of half-zips.

Be the best that you can be!

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