



St. Anne's National School

Roll No; 19317K

Newsletter March 2021

iPads

The school has used this year's Voluntary Contribution from parents to purchase an additional 12 new iPads. They have just arrived and we hope they will further enhance the learning experiences of our students. Thanks again to all families who continue to support the Voluntary Contribution Fund. All money contributed will always be used to purchase additional resources for your children.

Standardised Testing

Standardised Testing will take place as normal this year for pupils from 1st to 6th classes in May. (See Dates for your diary for exact days.) It is important that your child be present on these days. However, if your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, don't worry about not sending them. They will be tested on an alternative date.

Spring Clean 2021

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the school cannot arrange collection of litter pickers/gloves/bags etc. this year. However, individual families are welcome to phone Wexford Co. Council to register for their own local Spring Clean: **(053) 919 6000**. Please ensure your application has been approved by Wexford Co. Council Environment Section prior to commencing the clean-up.

Safety first: Please adhere to Covid-19 regulations and wear hi-vis jackets while doing the Spring Clean.

All waste collected should be bagged and kept in a secure place. Please phone Wexford County Council to arrange collection. You are welcome to post photos on our school Twitter page.

Spring Planting 2021

Lots of classes are busy planting seeds in our school garden at the moment. We look forward to watching them grow! 1st Class are taking part again in the **Incredible Edibles Programme**. This is a fun, interactive project where children learn about the origin of food and learn about the Bord Bia Quality Mark. They will also be helping to make a healthy dish at home and taking part in Healthy Eating Week next term. We are currently embarking on the growing element of the project and have planted strawberries and potatoes in the tunnel. We also sowed lots of seeds – carrots, chives, turnips, spinach and lettuce! We can't wait to taste these yummy foods!

A huge thank you to **Mr. Murphy** and all his eager helpers who planted 100m of beech hedging along the perimeter of the school. The trees were sourced by Mr. Murphy from Wexford County Council.

Incredible Edibles – Keep Well Campaign

We are also taking part in the Incredible Edibles – Keep Well Campaign. This includes creating videos and doing an Art Project showcasing how we **Keep Active** (in the garden!) to **Keep Well**.

Here are some of the tips we have learned so far:

Children should exercise for 60 minutes every day.

Keep hydrated - drink 8 cups of water every day.

Eat 5-7 portions of fruit/vegetables every day.

Half of our lunch/dinner plate should contain salad/vegetables.

There are lots of ways to keep active while gardening!

Concern Debating Competition 2020/21

The Concern Debating League continues. Just before Christmas, the St Anne's team had another successful win over Murrinctown in the semi-final. They debated 'Children Can Make a Difference to the Environment.' While it was very close, Rathangan came out on top with some exceptional arguments and rebuttals. Both 6th classes were very involved and did superb research that brought Rathangan across the winning line. On Thursday, the final of the league will take place. It promises to be a nail-biting debate against Barntown. Pearl Redmond, John Donohoe and Billy Cunningham will go head-to-head debating 'The Irish People do not care about the Developing World.' They will oppose the motion and we wish them the best of luck.

Active News

We have just begun a new running initiative which will continue for the next 4 weeks. Each class will pick a major Irish landmark and attempt to run the distance there and back. For example, Ms. Power's 5th class will run to Hook Head and to Powerscourt Waterfall, a distance of 171kms, which they will complete in laps of the pitch.

World Down Syndrome Day

This Friday we will mark World Down Syndrome day by asking all staff and pupils to wear brightly coloured odd socks. We celebrate with our two special pupils James and Sorcha, who contribute so much to the friendly, caring and happy atmosphere in St Anne's NS.

Amber Flag

As part of the Amber Flag initiative, we will be setting up our "Gallery of Gratitude" displays in the school over the coming weeks.

Children's Hospital Crumlin Appeal

Instead of Christmas presents this year, the teachers requested that parents could donate to a collection in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital. We are delighted to report that the fantastic sum of €1,137 was raised for this most worthy cause. Well done to all.

Enrolments

We will still accept any late enrolments for those wishing to start a child in Junior infants this September. Go to the Enrolments section of our website at stannesns.weebly.com to download an Application Form or call to Jenny in the school office to collect one.

Message from the Principal

As the term draws to a close, I would like to pay tribute to parents, staff and students for their hard work during lockdown. It certainly was tough but we managed to get through it together. It has been fantastic having our pupils back physically in the classrooms. Have a safe and happy Easter Break and we look forward to having everyone back on the 12th of April.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 26th of March- School finishes at **12 noon** for Easter Holidays
- Monday 12th of April- Term 3 begins
- Friday April 30th- Tuesday May 4th School Closed for Mid Term
- Tuesday 11th of May – Standardised Testing -Reading
- Wednesday 12th of May- Standardised Testing- Spelling
- Tuesday 18th of May -Standardised Testing – Maths
- Saturday 29th of May- Confirmation
- Friday June 4th- Tuesday June 8th- School closed for Bank Holiday Weekend
- Saturday June 19th- First Holy Communion

