



St. Anne's National School

Roll No; 19317K

Newsletter November 2023

Enrolments

We are accepting enrolments for Junior Infants 2024/25 from 1st of December. Go to the "Enrolments" section of our website at stannesns.weebly.com to find our Annual Admission Statement, Admission Policy and Enrolment Forms. Alternatively, enrolment forms can be collected from Jenny in the school office.

Voluntary Contribution

The Board of Management acknowledge the fantastic generosity of the families of St Anne's in contributing financially to the school. Each year we ask for a Voluntary Contribution of €70 per family. Last year, almost €7000 was raised from the Voluntary Contribution. This essential funding normally goes towards the purchasing of additional teaching resources, which enhance the learning experiences of our pupils. This year's Voluntary Contribution will be used exclusively to purchase **outdoor play equipment/seating/benches for the pupils**. We have recently completed a School Self Evaluation in the area of Wellbeing and identified the provision of outdoor play equipment and outdoor seating as a priority target for this year. The Voluntary Contribution can be paid by cash or cheque to the school office or by payments. A text message with a link will be sent out in the next day or two.

Hot School Lunches

We received some great news last week from the Department of Social Protection. St. Anne's NS is one of 900 new schools who will be receiving hot lunches for all pupils each day. The school expressed an interest in being included in the scheme last spring and we are delighted to have been selected. Over the coming weeks we will be going through the process of procuring a hot lunch provider and we hope to have the scheme up and running in the new year.

Dress Up for Hallowe'en Day

Well done to all who dressed up for Hallowe'en and brought in €2 to support Temple Street Children's Hospital. Altogether €329 was raised.

The Greenschools' Committee are delighted to announce the following initiatives that classes will take part in this year:

GROW at School Programme

GIY (Grow it Yourself) GROW at School is a food education programme that aims to increase food literacy in primary schools. Through garden-based learning and hands on growing experiences, students are helped to develop a deeper understanding of where healthy, sustainable food comes from. This is known as food empathy. We will be supplied with food growing materials and curriculum-linked lesson plans to support us along the way. The hope is to build a community of food growers whose collective actions, over time, can help create a more sustainable food system. The gardening committee planted autumn garlic and onions last week in our new raised bed. We hope the programme will change attitudes, knowledge and behaviour towards food, and that the pupils will also experience the connection and joy that growing your own food can bring. Thank you so much to GIY for allowing us to take part.

Nature Friendly Gardening

Some classes are viewing a series of webinars delivered by Head Gardener in Johnstown Castle, Ciarán Fitzgerald. The children are learning about biodiversity, growing food and identifying native plants. So far, we have been shown how to make seed bombs and 'roses' from autumn leaves, as well as learning about how seeds grow and how leaves make food.

Picker Pals

2nd Class will be involved in a very exciting environmental awareness programme called Picker Pals. This is the second year our school will be involved in the programme. The aim of the programme is to develop children's awareness of the issue of litter and the community responsibility for it. Everyone will bring home the Picker Pack and do a short family litter-pick with an adult and complete a Picker Pals Report for our Class Album. Each child will get a Picker Power Adventure book and a fun activity book as part of the programme. We will be watching some Picker Pals TV episodes and look forward to our adventures while becoming #pickerpals!

*Following on from the Climate Action Week pledge made by all classes at St. Anne's NS, the Greenschools Committee are suggesting that we all try to continue to reduce waste/packaging in lunchboxes as much as possible. For example, try a reusable container instead of using tinfoil or cling film. Remember to bring home cartons/yogurt containers to wash and recycle at home.

*Thank you to all who have sent in Christmas Shoeboxes, the deadline has been extended to Friday 17th November if there are any outstanding boxes.

Active Schools/Health-Promoting News

We hope to kick start activity in November with our **Active Movement Breaks** which will go on until the 8th of December. Active Breaks are not necessarily about being active at break time. They are about taking some time out in the classroom to exercise our bodies so that we can perform well and work our brains to their maximum. Studies have shown that classrooms with Active Breaks perform better in testing and have happier pupils.

A variety of resources will be used (Go Noodle, Bizzy Breaks etc) and will be circulated around the classrooms. This year we are very excited to launch a new initiative "**Olympic Movement Breaks**". These Olympic Movement Breaks aim to give the brain a break which provides pupils with the opportunity to regroup, regulate their energy levels and restore concentration. They are an ideal resource for the Active School Committee's "Active Break Everyday Challenge" which will run for November and December.

Literacy Week

We are very excited to be running another special Literacy Week (13th-17th November) in our school this year. We think it is important to celebrate Literacy in a fun way and for the children to experience a range of activities. Throughout the week the **Bookfair** and **Readathon** will create a schoolwide reading focus. The **Shine Bright Theatre Company** will visit all classes for storytelling through puppetry, role play, improvisation, working with scripts and much more. All classes will enjoy a visit from various authors such as **Emma-Jane Leeson and Sheila Forsey**, who have vast experience of working in schools delivering workshops in creative writing and drama. The junior classes will enjoy a visit to **Wexford Library**. On Friday, our first round of the **Debating League** will take place where two teams will debate the motion 'School should be a four-day week'. The adjudicators on the day will also decide on the **best decorated classroom door**. To finish the week prizes will be awarded to all the competition winners and the class with the best decorated door at assembly! It promises to be a fun-filled week and hopefully encourage the children to set their creative spark alight.

Mayo v Dublin (written by Sadye Moran, Freya Barry & Sarah Buggy 6th)

On Friday 10th of November the Senior Lunchtime League Final took place. Dublin were captained by Doireann Geelan and Tadhg Clifford while Mayo were led by Amy Doran and Liam Murphy. The ball was thrown in and Liam scored the first point for Mayo. Dublin replied with a point from a free. Amy Doran then scored an outstanding goal for Mayo. A hand passed point by Sean O'Connor put Mayo into a commanding lead. A flurry of scores before halftime left it at 2-4 to 0-3 in favour of Mayo. Dublin staged a brilliant comeback in the second half with goals from Tadhg Clifford. However further majors from Amy and Liam secured a hard fought win for Mayo. Thanks to Mr. Murphy for organising the league and to Mr. Codd, Ms. Barry and Mr. Kelly for refereeing the matches.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd November- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Thursday 21st December- Carol Service in Rathangan Church
- Friday 22nd December @12 noon- School Closes for Christmas Holidays
- Monday 8th of January- Term 2 begins
- Thursday 18th of January- Half Day closure to facilitate Teacher Training in Primary Language Curriculum