

St. Philip the Apostle Junior School



Newsletter



March 2026

Dear Children, Parents & Guardians,

We are having a very busy Spring Term here at St. Philip the Apostle Junior National School at it's hard to believe that Easter time is now already upon us. Well done to all the children, teachers and SNAs for all their hard work this term.

We had lots of in-school programs during this term too; We continue to enjoy our partnerships with St. Peregrines GAA Club and to thank Frank for helping the children with their GAA skills. Don't forget to enrol in St. Peregrine's GAA Easter camp (Ages 6-12) starting on the 7th April to the 10th April from 10am to 2pm. Thank you Clare Connelly from Clare Connolly Ballet and Dance School who brings the wonder of the world of dance to St. Philip's and to Sheilagh Fox who continues to help the children master their ukulele skills. Thank you all!

The school continues it amazing reading partnership programme called 'Time to Read'. The programme is run in conjunction with Business in the Community (BITC) and with Gen-Digital who are based in Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 and aims to increase the enjoyment of, and confidence in reading whilst encouraging self-discovery and comprehension for the participating children. The children have enjoyed trips to Gen - Digital

offices and also to Blanchardstown library. We continue to thank the great volunteers who give their time weekly.

Coerver Coaching Leinster have just completed a 5-week programme for the students in St Philip's JNS. The programme was proudly sponsored by local company, ALS Identify, and supported by local football club, Mountview Boys & Girls FC. The purpose of their football programmes is to encourage participation in the sport and to try and get more children involved in their local football club. The Mountview Boys & Girls FC Academy takes place in Mountview Fortlawn Community Youth and Sports Hub every Friday from 5-6pm for 4-6year olds. If you are interested in joining the academy or are looking for more information on other teams in the club, please contact them on 086 204 3096.



Stay & Play & Cupcake Decorating

What a wonderful turnout for our Stay & Play and Cupcake Decorating mornings! Thank you to all the families who came along. A special word of thanks to our amazing HSCL, Ms. Harte, for organising such fun events. It was so lovely to see so many parents, grandparents, and siblings in the school—the children, teachers and SNAs were absolutely delighted.



AMBER FLAG UPDATE & SAVE THE DATE!

We are delighted to share that we are currently working towards achieving our **AMBER Flag** for promoting positive mental health, under the expert guidance of Ms. Moore, Mr. Conneely, Mrs. O' Sullivan and our wonderful Student Council. Stay tuned for updates on our progress!

In the meantime, mark your calendars! We will be hosting a **CRAZY HAIR FUNDRAISING DAY** on **Thursday, April 24th** in support of **Pieta House**. More details to follow!



Sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion 2026

The children in our second classes received the Sacrament of Penance on the 11th March and the church was filled with wonderful singing and our amazing children and their families. A big thank you to Mrs. Rynne and Ms. Scully for all the hard work with preparing the children. They children will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion Friday 22nd May. The school would like to invite all the children in 2nd class and their families to a small party to celebrate the day, afterwards in the school hall. We would like to send them and their families every best wish for this special day. And... we will be looking for all the help we can get from parents to assist with teas and coffees on the day. You never let us down. Thank you.



Lá Gaeilge

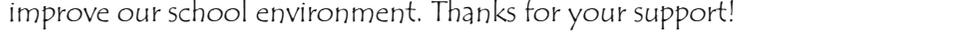
Bhí Lá Gaeilge iontach ag na bpaistí. The children enjoyed a wonderful Lá Gaeilge to celebrate S. Patrick's Day and Seachtain na Gaeilge. They loved performing Irish songs for the school and singing their hearts out, hearing the teachers band and watching the Irish céilí dances. The highlight of the day was definitely the story of Na Trí Mhuicíní who got the audience with their water pistols! Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh We hope you all had a very Happy St. Patrick's Day. ♥♥



Help Shape Our School Policies

We believe that the best policies are created in partnership with our families. All school policies are available for review on our website.

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions regarding any policy, we encourage you to submit them using the **Policy Feedback form**, which can be found alongside the policy documents. Your feedback helps us continually improve our school environment. Thanks for your support!



Library Visit

The children in Ms. O Hora's and Mrs. Flynn's class enjoyed a trip to Blanchardstown library. They got to meet the author and illustrator Lauren O Hare. They made Superheroes from Lauren's stories and received a book of children's stories by Oscar Wilde and illustrated by Lauren. A great time was had by all.



Safe Parking for Drop-Offs & Collections

We all have a role to play to keep everyone safe around drop-offs and collections. Please be advised that parking is **not permitted** on the Mountview Road in front of the school as it is causing a hazard. The road markings clearly indicate this. Furthermore, **parking on the Shelerin Road is strictly not permitted**. Pedestrians are being denied use of the path and obstruction to buses and other road users has become a grave concern. The Garda Traffic Unit have been informed. We value your co-operation on this issue to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. The school car-park is not available from 8.50 am to 9.10 am EVERY morning.

What can **you** do to help keep everyone safe at drop offs and collections ?

Please don't:

- Block the road – emergency vehicles and other traffic need access
- Park on the yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park opposite or within 10 meters of a junction
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users
- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop off or collect your child, even for a few seconds



Incoming Junior Infants 2026/2027

A huge thank you to all the parents and children who joined us for our 2026 Incoming Infants Information Morning this week! It was great fun and so lovely to meet everyone. We can't wait to have you all with us! 😊🔒 Admission queries to office@stphilipsjns.ie or on our website at www.stphilipsjns.ie

Little Sparrows

St Philip the Apostle has strived for a long time to provide excellent after school care to our school community. We are delighted to announce the arrival of Little Sparrows as we know that this is the perfect fit we have been looking for, for our school community. To enrol in the hour club (1.40-2.40) or the after-school club until 5.30pm please contact Edáin on 083 4582457 or email office@stphilipsjns.ie



PARENTS PLUS is a Parenting Programme.

An evidence-based parenting course on promoting confidence, learning and positive behaviour in children aged 6 to 11 years. A 6-week course taking place on Wednesdays from April 15th to May 27th (no session May 6th). It will take place in St Philip the Apostle Junior National School from 9am to 11.30am. The course will be facilitated by Pauline Mangan from Empower. For more information or to reserve your place, please email: office@stphilipsjns.ie



World Book Day – 5th March 2026

We had a wonderful World Book Day celebrating our love of reading! The children enjoyed spending time in the school library, choosing books and sharing some of their favourite stories that they had brought in from home. A huge well done to everyone for their fantastic book character costumes – it was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm!

Easter Break:

Closed for 2 full weeks– Monday 30th March until Friday 10th of April inclusive. School re-opens Monday 13th April.

*Thank You for your continued support, enthusiasm, and cooperation.
Hoping you all have a lovely Easter,
From all the staff at St. Philip the Apostle JNS &
Ruth Molloy (Principal) & Gráinne O' Sullivan (Acting Deputy Principal)*

HAPPY
EASTER