

# St. Helen's JNS

Summer Newsletter - June 2025



Room 7, 2nd class Mr Jennings Picker Pals



Act of Kindness Ms Manning 2nd Class



## STEM and Coding

Pupils in second class were introduced to computer coding in the final term. They learned about STEM and how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths solve problems in the real world. Pupils engaged in activities to solve problems using robots, to learn how code is used to make computer games as well as being introduced to the vocabulary of technology.

Mr Philip Horan. SET teacher



### Wellbeing Initiative: Skipping Around Europe!

This term, the children in 1st and 2nd Class took part in a fun and energetic wellbeing initiative to "Skip Around Europe". The challenge was simple but exciting - skip for 10 minutes a day, every day, for four weeks and track their progress as they "travelled" from country to country across Europe.

With every skip, they moved closer to their next European destination. Along the way, they learned about different countries, cultures, flags, and landmarks. It was a brilliant way to combine physical activity with geography and global awareness. The children loved the challenge. Not only did they improve their skipping skills and fitness levels, but they also developed teamwork, perseverance, and a sense of accomplishment as they reached each new country.

Well done to all. We are so proud of your enthusiasm and effort.

*Emer Rooney and Ciara Cummins*



# Little Heroes - First Aid Training

On Tuesday 17th June, the second class children had a very special visit from Dave, who delivered a fun, engaging and educational first aid training session from Little Heroes.

From the very beginning, Dave captured the children's attention with his warm personality and clear explanations. He began by helping the children understand what first aid is and why it's such an important life skill to have - even for young people! The children all now know the emergency number to call in Ireland - 112 or 999. They also learned how to keep themselves safe when offering help, by checking for danger and staying calm. They are all now well aware of what to do if someone is unconscious, including how to check for breathing

and when to call for help. They learned the basics of CPR - including practising chest compressions under Dave's careful guidance. They were also taught how to deal with bleeding and what to do in the case of burns. Dave made sure the session was interactive, giving all the children a chance to get involved, ask questions and practise what they were learning.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh Peter agus Dave! You've helped our children become even braver and better prepared to look after others. Thanks also to Ger and the PA for organising the Little Heroes training in St. Helen's JNS

*Mr. Ciarán Jennings*



# Thank you, Ms Manning

ME. Manning

**THANK YOU**

To MS. Manning I hope you have a good retirement. I will remember 2nd and 4th class as my favorite years of my school life they were filled with joyful, brilliant happy moments like winning the relay 2 times in a row, Popcorn days, School days the look and lots more I am so happy that I have had you as a teacher you are and always will be my favorite teacher I hope you enjoy the rest of your life merci beaucoup Jamie O

Jamie Maguire

Thank you ms Manning

I was very nervous when I went to see the school. But you made me feel comfortable. You gave me a coloring sheet while you talked with my parents while I waited. I was happy. You brought in apples from the tree next door. They were juicy, they were yummy. You had toys you had books you had everything I need that's why you are one of the best teachers in the school. Merci beaucoup (Go raibh míle maith agat hope you have a good retirement thank you MS. Manning! Mia S

Mia Farayeh

Name: Lybil

Words to describe my Teacher

you are kind  
you are helpful  
you are thoughtful  
you are creative  
you are funny  
you are smart  
you are busy  
you are amazing

Name: Tomás

Words to describe my Teacher

fair  
intelligent  
kind  
funny  
brilliant  
competitive  
hardworking  
honest

**Thank You**

ms Manning

for being an amazing teacher!

I love you for smiling and you are thoughtful and you never get sick and you are funny, kind, and wonderful. And you are very honest and always really really kind.

The best thing you do in your class is play and make jokes and laugh together. And we always have fun.

My favorite memory from this year is when we brought in our teddys and had an amazing day.

Eva Burke



**Magician at our Communion party in school!**



**CONDOLENCES:** We pray constantly for all families in our school community who have lost loved ones during this year.  
Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.



## Enthusiastic Music Class

I have been very lucky this year to teach such a musical class. From early in the year, I realised they were such an enthusiastic bunch when it came to anything related to singing/performing. They have always been eager to learn new songs or show off their dance moves at assemblies. This term, I set them a challenge to learn a song in Swahili called 'Jambo' (a song I heard regularly when on holiday in Africa at Christmas). The whole class absolutely loved it and took to it with ease. Once we had all learned the words, we started to incorporate drums, maracas and even a guitar. Then, some of the girls in our class formed a dance troupe and choreographed their own entire routine to accompany the music! We performed it at assembly for first and second classes and they were absolutely brilliant! I was a very proud teacher. They are such a talented class!

**Mr. Shevlin Room 21**



## Active School Week and Sports in Term 3

During our final term at school the children have enjoyed participating in a wide variety of sports, developing new skills and teamwork along the way. Orla Wright from Tennis Ireland delivered a 6 week block of coaching to our 1st Classes which culminated in a trip to our local courts in Portmarnock Tennis Club. John Dillon from Red Rox Baseball Club spent the day with our 1st and 2nd classes introducing them to the game of baseball. Glen Daly spent the day with our infants during our Active School Week and Sophie Walsh's Mam Sharon also came in during ASW to do some really fun and engaging fitness sessions with all classes. The children have also enjoyed a great year of coaching and games with our G.P.O coach from Naomh Mearnóg, Paul Jones. Throughout ASW the school was buzzing with energy, laughter and team spirit and as always the children gave it their all.

**Louise Rooney**





An exciting week of Food Dudes tasting took place during the week beginning 12th May in St. Helen's Junior School. The children really enjoyed tasting a variety of fruits and vegetables each day as part of our 5 day Food Dudes tasting challenge. Each morning we received a delivery of fresh fruit and vegetable portions individually packaged in compostable packaging for each of our pupils. The enthusiasm throughout the school was amazing with each child excitedly awaiting what would arrive each day! Over the week we tasted apples, carrots, mandarins, cherry tomatoes, peppers, blueberries, bananas, cucumbers, & courgettes. The pupils in St. Helen's Junior School are champions and their lunches are always so healthy with a variety of fruits and vegetables for their early morning fruit break. Congratulations to you all on making good choices and enjoying the benefits of eating all the colours of the rainbow. We received a special award at Bord Bia's Head Office on Pembroke Road at a special ceremony on 8th May after our school's successful engagement with the Food Dudes programme for the past 4 years!

**Andrea Smith**



*Congratulations to Mr Jennings*

## Shared Reading with the Junior Infants

The children from Miss Kavanagh's class have enjoyed spending time with their reading buddies over the past few weeks. The sixth-class students from Ms. Tuite's class have made their way back to the Junior School to share some books and time with all our Junior Infants. The older students read and talked to the children about the books and they also discussed and drew pictures about what they had read. We visited the Senior School, where the sixth-class pupils acted as scribes for the children. They wrote stories together and the infants loved visiting and getting to know our sixth-class friends. A big thank you to Ms. Tuite's Class!



*Ms Kavanagh's Junior Infants with Ms Tuite's 6th class*



*Junior Infants Room 20, Ms Ryan*

## Buíochas ó Ms Lavin...

It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming everyone back in August, and yet here we are, at the close of another incredibly vibrant and successful academic year. This past term, though short, has been packed with an extraordinary array of achievements, memorable events, and joyous celebrations. There have been so many fond memories over the years and thankfully we have been able to capture and share these highlights via our termly newsletter which Simon Archer comes up trumps time and time again to produce so professionally. Thank you Simon.

We are so proud of all the achievements of our second classes who have celebrated significant milestones this year. Their Graduation this week, a truly heartfelt and memorable farewell celebration, marked their transition to the next exciting chapter for them in the Senior School. For most of the term we were incredibly fortunate to enjoy glorious weather, which enhanced many of our outdoor activities. It was disappointing that due to heavy rain, our annual Sports Day couldn't take place as planned. It was, however, a fantastic display of camaraderie, healthy competition, and pure enjoyment, where every pupil was encouraged to participate with enthusiasm and in good sport. This year we dedicated our Sports Day to the memory of our former pupil and gorgeous boy, Killian Collins. Thank you to the whole school community for your generosity. We are delighted to have raised €700 to support the worthy charity First Light.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Deputy Principal, Andrea and to our ISM team, Susan, Eimear, Grace, Louise, Philip and Deirdre; mile buíochas. I am extremely grateful to all our exceptional teachers and SNAs for their incredible dedication and for consistently providing such an enriching, nurturing, and stimulating environment for our pupils throughout the year.

Thanks to Marcella for her kindness, loyalty and efficiency to us ALL over the school year. Gerry, our wonderful caretaker has worked meticulously throughout the year ensuring that health and safety is present in so many of our systems. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated Parents' Association who have given an incredible amount of support and so generously of their time which has resulted in the success of all events throughout the year.

Celine, our amazing Chairperson, and all members of the BoM have been magnificent with their constant and invaluable input to oversee the management of the school this year.

Finally, my sincere thanks also go to our wonderful parents. Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious gifts – your children. Your continued support for our shared goal of providing as many enriching opportunities as possible for our pupils is invaluable and deeply appreciated. It has been an incredibly enjoyable and fulfilling year for everyone at St. Helen's Junior N.S. We are so proud of all our boys and girls, for always doing their best.. Slán go fóill.

## Lorna Lavin and the staff of St. Helen's Junior School

## Congrats!



*Comhghairdeas to Mary Ahern and Colin on the birth of baby Paddy*



*Congratulations to Claire and Wes on the birth of baby Ana !*



## Road Safety with Garda Pamela

Garda Pamela attended our school assembly on Friday 10th May to talk to us about her job and the important role the Gardaí play to keep everyone safe in our community.

She chatted to the boys and girls about her uniform, equipment and the different types of units within the Garda force. The children had a chance to ask her questions about her job and her experiences while on the beat.

Garda Pamela shared lots of important facts with us. She told us that by law all children under 150 cms in height or 36 kgs (79 lbs) in weight should sit in a child car seat or booster cushion suitable for their height and weight while travelling in a car. She also reminded us all about parking safely and the importance of never parking on double yellow lines. Garda Pamela and her colleagues will regularly check the parking at the bottom of our avenue to ensure our pupils have a safe route to school.

Thanks to Ger and our PA for inviting Garda Pamela to visit our school.

**Andrea Smith**





### Supporting all pupils in First Class

A huge thank you and well done to every single boy and girl in First Class. I have been lucky enough to work closely with all three First Classes this year. We have enjoyed literacy stations, phonics lessons, maths stations, enjoying sunny days on the yard and lots more! In Gross Motor Group we enjoyed elements of the Sensory Circuits, Brain Gym and Smart Moves programmes. Well done on all of your hard work. I have really enjoyed working with you all. Have a lovely summer!

*Ciara Cummins SET*





Room 11 Junior infants Ms Fleming Our Lovely Ladybirds



## Senior Infants Room 14 School Tour

Senior Infants were all very excited about their school tour to Fort Lucan at the beginning of June. The pupils were super excited to see the double-decker buses arrive and the adventure began sitting on the top deck. On arrival at Fort Lucan there was so much to do we didn't know where to start! We zoomed around the go-karts, zipped through the air on the zip lines, climbed and played in the huge playground, and built sandcastles in the sand. Despite a heavy downpour, the rain did not dampen our spirits and we had lots of fun. We have had many lovely discussions about our school tour and all agree that it was a brilliant day from start to finish and a wonderful memory we will share with all our friends!

*Ms Shauna Mc Gahon*



# Chalk Art

Throughout Term 3 everyone was keen to get outdoors and make the most of the beautiful weather. Room 18 were inspired by American graffiti artist Keith Haring to take their creativity outside. We liked the bright colours and chunky stick figures Haring used in his pictures and murals. His art also uses lines to make the figures look like they are moving and dancing, a bit like in a comic. Using the chalk was a bit messy, but we really enjoyed using it to make temporary art outside.

*Ms Carine Natin*



*Senior Infants Rm 19 Ms Rooney/Ms Maguire*



*Senior Infants Room 14 Ms McGahon*



*Senior Infants Room 18 Ms Natin*

## Creative Writing in Senior Infants

Since January, I have been supporting the 3 Senior Infant classes who have been busy becoming young authors. Every Monday, I joined the classes for fun and engaging creative writing sessions. The children were encouraged to tap into their imaginations through exploring a wide range of topics and genres including 'How to Catch a Leprechaun', 'Adventures in Space', and then exciting recounts of 'Sports Day'. Over the year each child has created their very own book filled with colourful stories, drawings, and memories. These wonderful keepsakes are something special for families to treasure for years to come. Well done to all our brilliant young writers!

*Ms Magee, SET teacher*



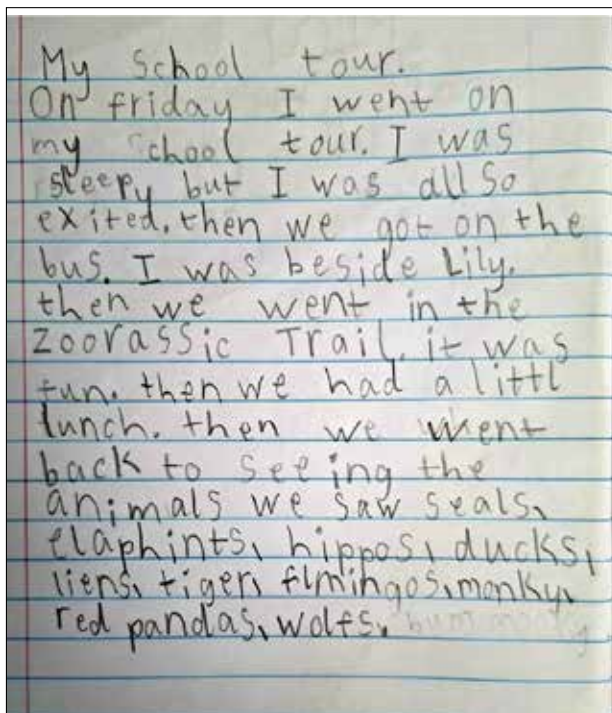
Thank you Sarah and Keith for our beautiful balloon arch to celebrate Sports Day 2025!



## A busy term in rooms 23, 24 and 25!

We have had a very busy last term in rooms 23,24 and 25. Mr Horan has been visiting us for some music lessons recently which we absolutely loved. For our school tour we went to Clonfert Pet Farm in Kildare. We enjoyed playing on the bouncy castle and on the zipline there!! We had our Sports Day last week. We had great fun and we all got a medal for participating!! We continued with our social programme this term, which included taking trips to the local playgrounds, Dunnes Stores and Spar. We are very excited for another couple of weeks of outdoor fun during the Summer Programme.





First Class School Tour Room 12 - Ms O'Callaghan

Written by Jenna Kerley First class

## A Word from the Chairperson...

The 2nd class children made their First Communion in May. I would like to thank Canon John, Ercilia, Norma and the parish team for all the help and support that they provided to the school as they managed the organisation of these Sacraments. I would also like to thank the school for their commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school and the work they do in preparing the children for the Sacraments. May, the month of Our Lady - Thanks to those families who prepared flowers for the May altar.

After staff training and consultation in the new Bí Cineálta guidelines the Board ratified the school's new Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) policy which will be shared on the website in September. We are always grateful for parental support to reinforce our crucial values of kindness and respect for all.

Parents of incoming Junior Infants were invited to an Information meeting in the school which was very well attended. I'd like to thank the Parents' Association who provided refreshments at these meetings. The children then had an opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teachers for next year, and they are very excited to start school on the 27th August.

The term concluded with a series of celebrations, each filled with laughter, joy and tears! The School tours have been a great success with different classes travelling far and wide - great fun was had by all. Thanks to everyone for the successful preparation and management of Schools sports. Due to the weather forecast the decision was made not to walk the pupils to Naomh Mearnóg. A huge thanks to PAFC for letting the school use their facilities this year. Of course, none of these successes or special events would be possible without the incredible planning, dedication, and unwavering commitment of our exceptional team.

The Board of Management would like to thank Mrs Joan Manning for her dedication and for the huge contribution which she has made to St. Helen's Junior School over the past 19 years. Joan has been a valued member of our teaching team and will be sadly missed by the whole school community. We wish Joan every joy, health and happiness in her well deserved retirement.

I also want to wish Yvonne Cummins all the best on her Career break. This is a very exciting time for Yvonne and her family as they prepare to move to Wexford. We also want to thank Yvonne for all her work in St. Helen's and for her wonderful contribution to our school over the past 12 years.

We will all miss our very special and unique traffic warden, Claire Mc Loughlin, who has retired after many loyal years of service to the school community. Claire's strong and audible presence assured us all that our young pupils were kept safe as they arrived and walked from school each day. Claire will be really missed by the whole school community but we wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

I would like to congratulate Emer Rooney, Ciara Mullin and Shauna McGahon who were successful at recent interviews for fixed term teaching positions in the new school year. The Board would like to wish them all the best in their important role for the new school year.

I'd like to thank the whole school community for all their work in providing a safe, healthy and educational setting for our children. I would like to thank the Principal Lorna Lavin and every member of staff throughout the school for all their diligent and conscientious work. Happy Holidays! I'd like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer.