

St. Patrick's NS Newsletter



Term 2, 2023/24

Dear parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed the recent mid-term break. We are now in the season of Spring, the season of new life and hope. We look forward to lots of fun activities between now and the end of this term. Below is an overview of what has been happening lately in our school and some events still to come this term:

- All classes recently completed a 5-week block of yoga, which all pupils greatly enjoyed. Our thanks to Aisling and Shauna from Oriel Yoga for working so well with each class group.
- Pupils from Ms. McArdle's and Ms. Brennan's class participated in the Credit Union quiz which took place in DIFE.
- Pupils took part in a 'Feelings and Emotions' workshop which was delivered by Growth Mindset coach, Sharon Fennelly. Everyone got to make their own glitter jars to bring home.
- Ms. Byrne's class are currently attending swimming lessons in Aura, Drogheda and are getting on very well.
- Pupils from four of our classes will soon take part in soccer coaching as part of their PE lessons, with the remaining classes receiving coaching after the Easter holidays.
- Pupils from Ms. Byrne's class recently participated in their Enrolment Ceremony and are preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Penance during March.
- We will celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge during March by promoting the use of the Irish language and holding a 'Lá Glas' on Friday 15th March. All pupils will be invited to wear something green on this day to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

WELL DONE!

Congratulations to Ms. McArdle's and Ms. Brennan's Class who held a very successful Bake Sale and raised €463 for Barretstown. Thank you to all parents for supporting this annual event and to Ms. McArdle's class for hosting the bake sale in their classroom.

Upcoming Events

Dates for your Diary

Friday 8th March: Referendum
– School Closed

Wednesday 13th March: 2nd
Class - First Penance,
Fieldstown Church at 7pm

Friday 15th March: Lá Glas
(pupils invited to wear
something green on the day)

Monday 18th March: St.
Patrick's Bank Holiday –
School Closed

Friday 22nd March: School
closes at 12pm - Easter
Holidays

Monday 25th March to Friday
5th April: Easter Holidays

Monday 8th April: School
reopens for Term 3

Friday 12th April: 6th Class -
Sacrament of Confirmation,
Fieldstown Church at 2pm

School Self Evaluation Update

All schools are required to engage in a process of school self-evaluation (SSE). This is typically a three-year process, whereby schools identify an area in which they wish to improve, and draw up a plan, including targets, to achieve this improvement. The new School Self-Evaluation cycle began in September 2023 and will continue until June 2026.

The various stages of the process are shown in the diagram to the right. We have identified the area of 'Wellbeing Promotion' as our focus area for this current cycle. As part of the 'Gathering Evidence' stage, we plan to conduct surveys of pupils, parents and staff. The information gathered will help us to identify areas in which we can improve and inform our 'School Improvement Plan'. If you would like more information on the SSE process, please see:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/11c7d-sse-six-step-process/>



Active Schools Flag Update

We are currently in the process of applying for our Active Schools Flag. The Active Schools Committee, led by Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Egan, are working very hard towards this by suggesting and organising lots of activities for everyone to enjoy. Some of the activities taking place this term include:

- Yoga for all classes
- Active Lines and playground games of the week
- Daily Movement break challenge
- Run around Europe initiative (running challenge)
- 10 at 10 for all classes
- Swimming for 2nd Class
- Pupils from 5th and 6th will compete in a FAI 5-a-side tournament in Dundalk. Thanks to Mr. Branigan for preparing the teams for this competition.

We will also take part in Active Schools Week which takes place from April 29th to May 3rd this year. If any parents/guardians have any suggestions for activities, or are willing to give 'taster classes' of their particular skills to classes as part of Active Schools Week, we would be delighted. Please contact the school office via telephone (041 9822112) or email (office@harestownns.ie) to let us know.

"The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover."

Jean Piaget