

OUR LADY OF LOURDES N.S. NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

Welcome back and a Happy New Year

It was so nice to have met with so many of you on our return to school, but for those I haven't seen, I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year and thank you for your good wishes. As you may be aware there is a teacher shortage in the city. We are 3 staff members short each day in school. Whilst this does not impact on our work, the children, rest assured, are our priority and we are delivering our very best at all times. We are timetabling carefully so that the children are receiving the very best. It is so important that they are in on time so they don't miss any class-time.



The teachers have changed some of your children's lunches. This is because they were not eating the food chosen for them. All of our meals are of the same nutritional value each day. If your child is not eating the school lunch, please be mindful that they are to bring healthy foods *only* as a replacement. We discourage lunches such as Nutella sandwiches, sausage rolls, chicken fillet rolls etc. and the children are allowed only water in their drink bottles. These are the rules issued by the Department of Education and are not of our making. If your child is not going to eat a school lunch, please let Helen know and it can be cancelled. Also, we have a number of children with a nut allergy, so this has an influence in the choice of foods allowed.

Please allow your children to walk in from the gate on their own. Scooting or cycling across the yard are not permitted, several children have been hurt because of this.

Parents are asked not to go directly to the classroom door to speak to teacher. A 1 to 1 meeting can be set up but the class would need supervision organised first, thank you. You can also leave a message with Helen or contact teacher through Aladdin.

Could I please ask parents not to encourage the use of chewy toys or weighted blankets unless recommended by a professional clinician.

Coffee Mornings for parents will be resuming this month. Ms. O'Keeffe will be in touch. Our 1st Coffee Morning is for Grandparents Day, as part of Catholic Schools Week on Friday 27th January

Regards,

Tonya



Classroom News

Mr. Weir's 3rd Class are having a busy time. So far, they've been to Kilmainham Gaol, an Art Workshop at IMMA, Collins Barracks and will shortly start Swimming Lessons. They also have been very lucky to have the Roots of Empathy Programme this year. Baby Roisin with her mum have visited the classroom. The children are loving her visits and watching her grow and learn. Both **Mr. Weir and Ms. Hegarty's Classes** are involved with a music workshop, making their own musical instruments and creating their own rhythms.

Our school with Inchicore National School placed a bid to be included in a Film Making Workshop and we were successful. **Ms. Dowling's 4th Class** were the lucky winners, they made a short film based on a story written by one of the pupils. A viewing of their work will be shown

Ms. Hegarty's Class visited Hollybrook Lodge to sing Christmas Carols and chat with the residents. Everyone had a great time.

Ms. Turner and Ms. Power's 1st Class have visited the Library at Richmond Barracks, and are currently enjoying Creativity in the Classroom with Elizabeth. On our Halloween Walk they continued on and enjoyed some trick or treat time with residents and staff of Hollybrook Lodge, showing off their fabulous costumes. They will be visiting again for Grandparents Day.

Ms. Shannon's Senior Infant Class had great fun with their parents on classroom visits making Christmas Crafts and Reading together. They are a great group, working and playing together through the Aistear Programme.

Mr. Minogue and Mr. Gallagher's 6th Classes have been especially busy. They have gone Rock Climbing, Bowling, visited Collins Barracks and had a brilliant day out at Trinity College as part of the TAP programme. They tried their hand at Fencing, Martial Arts, Basketball, Team Building challenges, and wandered around Trinity, see how it feels. A visit to the class by the TAP team is planned later in the year.

Both Mr. Minogue's 6th and Mr. Gallagher's 5th Class have started an Engineering Project with Darren and Cian from "Steam Programme"

Ms. Madden's Junior Infants enjoyed a visit to the Library and Story Telling. They also had Craft and Reading groups with their parents. They are a very imaginative little gang when it comes to Aistear. They're great at sharing the jobs when at the hairdressers, doctors, cleaning, shop and construction – even providing sounds!

Classes for Parents have resumed as well, they made Christmas Crafts with our very own Tony, beautiful Christmas Table Centre Pieces. There is now Zumba dance lessons on Tuesdays 9.15am.

Children from 4th Class are our Friendship Keepers – the Friendship Keepers keep an eye on younger children at break times. They encourage them to join games or they'll keep them company. We have Friendship Benches in the Main and Back Yard, the purpose of the benches are, if you don't have someone to play with, sit on the bench, and another child will come over to play/talk with you.



Ms. Merry organized the Book Fair which was a great success. The theme for **Literacy Week** was Storytelling. Children are listening to stories and are telling their own stories. Some are even performing a story. You can try telling stories at home, ones you know from your childhood or a story you remember.

Why not go to our school website and see some of the fun we had

www.ourladyoflourdesns.ie



Catholic Schools Week – “Walk in Faith and Love”

A programme of activities and lessons have been planned for this special week. Mass on Friday with Pdraig, a coffee morning and a visit to Hollybrook Lodge for Grandparents Day

School Art Exhibition

We will be holding our very own Art Exhibition for 1 week only. We will launch from Thursday 27th April. Every child will have a favourite piece of their art framed and exhibited in the hall. We have some very talented artists.

St. Bridget's Day – 6th February

Ros will show the student council how to make a St. Bridget's Cross, who in turn will make a St. Bridget's Cross for each Classroom.

Student Council meet once a month to discuss matters which concern students and find ways to help each other. On 10th February, we are having a no uniform day – wear pink/red to celebrate Friendships “Our Love Bomb” donation of €2 per student



Congratulations and Well Done

Christmas Shoebox Appeal - We had hoped to be able to send one box from each class but your generosity enabled us to fill 21 shoeboxes, with clothes, toys, stationary, games etc. Well done to everyone who participated and thank you to Ms. Cusack for organizing and to Fortune and Lydia on their gift-wrapping abilities.

Mr. Weir's 3rd Class were the worthy winners for our **Christmas Classroom Door Challenge**. A class visit to the cinema and selection boxes for everyone. Each classroom designed and decorated their door with outstanding results. Check out on all the doors on our website.

Well done to Charlie Obiemhen on his First Placing, Oskar Glogowski and Denis Sofronov on their 3rd places in the Inchicore Ballyfermot Credit Union Art Competition. Great Job!

Best wishes to Kai O'Brien who has been chosen to be part of the Under 12's Crumlin United team to play in the upcoming Robbie Keane Academy Cup. Teams from Juventus, Manchester City, Benfica and Aston Villa will come together to play in the tournament scheduled for April 29th to May 1st at Pearse Park. Good Luck to all



Our congratulations to **Ms. Turner and her fiancé Oisín** on their engagement. We wish you every happiness.

School Choir



After our time out from Covid, we are delighted to have resumed the school choir. The enthusiasm is fantastic, a little out of practice at the moment but the potential is there.

Gardening Club – Thursdays after school – The Gardening Club have been tracking the growth of hyacinth bulbs. They have made bird feeders and gone bird watching recently. We are also busy planning our garden for Springtime.



We are very lucky to have great support from the community and would sincerely like to thank,

Santa for paying us a visit at a very busy time of year for him. The children were so excited to see him and even got an early Christmas present.

Mr. David Brock from BrockDelapp on his expertise and sponsorship for our Christmas Door Challenge. Mr. Luke Creighton Eurospar for his continued support to our families.

Niall Cully and Brian Dalton from St. Patrick's Athletic, and Jennifer Bredin from Lenovo on the donation of 30 laptops

James Brennan, Supervalu, Audrey Hennessy, Carambola, Willie, Bulfin News, Keatings Pharmacy, Grattan Pharmacy, Inchicore Pharmacy and all who donated generously to our Christmas Hamper Draw

Fr. Leo Philbin, Pdraig Corcoran and St. Michael's Parish Team, Kilmainham Gardaí

Interschools Football Blitz takes place on the 3rd and 6th of March in St. Catherine's Sports Centre. Boys and girls from 5th and 6th Class take part with opponents from 17 other schools. This annual event is organised by An Garda Siochana and is a favourite amongst the pupils.



Our new **Sunflower Room**, Room 9, has been renovated to provide a safe and comfortable place to meet and chat. Our Coffee Mornings are held here. It is also doubles as our Breakfast Club in the mornings.

Swimming Lessons have started again, we are using Ballyfermot Leisure Centre, 3rd Class will start lessons at the end of the month. From now on, 3rd Class will be the class of choice to have swimming lessons each year.

New Banking Details:

We have changed over to Bank of Ireland, Walkinstown

Payments can easily be made online for school books, tracksuits, etc. using the following details:

BIC: BOFIE2D IBAN: IE65BOFI90028775410952

Please ensure to use family surname and child's class or classroom number as reference

School Closures and Events



School will be closed	Dates
Bank Holiday	6 th February
Mid Term	Week of 13 th - 17 th February
St. Patrick's Weekend	Closed Fri 17 th to 20 th March. Open 21 st March
Easter	Closing on Fri 31 st March. 2 weeks holiday. Reopen 17 th April
Bank Holiday	Mon 1 st May
Bank Holiday	Closed Fri 2 nd to 6 th June. Reopen 7 th June
Summer Holiday	Closing on 30 th June

First Communion and Confirmation Preparation

Sunday 29 th January	Family Mass 11am St. Michael's Church
Sunday 26 th February	Family Mass 11am St. Michael's Church
Saturday 11 th March	Confirmation 11.30am St. Michael's Church
April (Date to be confirmed)	First Reconciliation
Saturday 20 th May	First Holy Communion 11am St. Michael's Church

School Events

January 23 rd – 27 th	Catholic Schools Week
Friday 27 th January	Coffee Morning for Grandparents Day
Friday 10 th February	"Love Bomb" Coffee Morning
Friday 3 rd March	Girls Soccer Blitz
Monday 6 th March	Boys Soccer Blitz
Friday 24 th March	Daffodil Day Coffee Morning
Thursday 30 th March	Easter Egg Raffle
Thursday 27 th April	Art Exhibition for 1 week
May T.B.C.	2023 Junior Infant Open Day

After School Activities**Contact Numbers:****Spotlight Theatre Group****0876720651****The Core Youth Project 4544791****Inchicore Sports Centre 2228598****John Bosco Youth Centre 4560100****Ballyfermot Leisure Centre 2228580****Good Counsel GAA 4559293****Inchicore Library Richmond Barracks 2228444**

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