

Holy Child Boys' School Larkhill

Newsletter January 2020

NEW SCHOOL TRACKSUIT

We are introducing a new school tracksuit from September this year. The quality has been rigorously tested over the past couple of months by one of our pupils! It will be available for all classes to purchase from July. It is **not** compulsory for any boy to have the new tracksuit for September. Boys can continue to wear our present tracksuit for as long as they have it. It can still be ordered from KSport and is available at a 50% discount while stocks last. The polo shirt will remain the same.



HOMEWORK

We have had excellent feedback from pupils, parents and teachers regarding our Thursday homework initiative which we are continuing for this term. It is wonderful to hear about the efforts of both pupils and parents when boys present their homework on Friday. We will be surveying pupils at the end of the term to assess their attitudes to homework following on from the initiative. Pictured are some homework projects!



THE AFTERSCHOOL DEN

We are delighted that The Afterschool Den is now up and running and we hope that is proving a useful service for parents. Any queries in this regard can be addressed to Ciara Bell at afterschoolden@gmail.com or she can be contacted by telephone at 085-7634643.

MOBILE PHONES

We are currently updating our mobile phone policy. Boys are only permitted to bring a mobile phone to school in exceptional circumstances which must be explained in writing to the boy's teacher. The phone must be handed to the teacher at the start of the school day and will be returned at home time. If boys are found to have a phone without permission it will be handed to the principal and will only be returned at the request of the parent. The school will not be liable for the replacement of lost, stolen or damaged devices.

STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

Boys in 2nd, 4th & 6th class are currently being taught the Stay Safe Programme. We sent an email notification to parents which included a link to the programme. We encourage parents to discuss the lesson content with their children. This programme is compulsory for all pupils and is in line with our Child Safeguarding Statement.

SWIMMING

1st to 4th Class boys can look forward to swimming lessons again this spring, with 3rd & 4th Class starting on 26th of February.

Lessons for 1st and 2nd Class boys will begin on 22nd April. All the information will be sent home beforehand. 5th & 6th Class boys are very fortunate to be offered a series of PE lessons in DCU which are starting on 12th of February.



GREEN SCHOOLS

The senior boys completed a survey relating to Energy consumption at home. Some of the interesting statistics were:

- 12% of homes are putting on their dishwasher and washing machine when it's not full
- 28% of homes are boiling full kettles of water for one cup of tea
- 11% leave lights on when they leave the room

The Green School team has come up with some targets for everybody to work on at home:

- Take shorter showers
- Switch off unused sockets
- Wash clothes at a lower temperature
- Switch off lights
- Wait for a full load of washing



Maybe if we all make one small change it can make a big difference!

ATTENDANCE

Our overall attendance is down because of the large number of pupils absent due to illness recently. We hope that our figures can improve significantly over the coming months and that we can still reach our target of 94% for the year. We want to remind parents that if a boy is absent, the reason for his absence must be communicated either by note, email or telephone call. The school is obliged to report all absences of 20 days and over (including the reasons) to the TUSLA Education Support Services (TESS).

Around the classes

Room 4

We were very happy to get back and see all our friends after Christmas. We are moving on to much harder work in class now including working on a 100 square in Maths, counting in 2's and 10's and working on our own. In English we are finally getting the hang of the magic 'e' and how it changes the sound of some words and we have also moved on to new readers. Happy birthday to Sean, Tyler, Finn, Harry D and Zach!



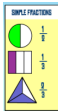
Room 6

We are delighted to welcome Abel to our class this month. Eoghan, Jess and Oran celebrated their 8th birthdays recently. Matthew and Thomas have coaches from Leeds United FC training their football club lately. We are very excited about our assembly performance at the end of the month. We plan to sing 'You're Welcome' from the movie Moana as well as a folk song from China. In SPHE we have started the Stay Safe programme and we are discussing the importance of feeling safe. In Maths we are calculating change and in Irish we are learning about pastimes.



Room 9

We have been working very hard this month. Our times table are improving and this January we have focused on fractions, area and data. We have also learned a new poem as Gaeilge called "An Sneachta". We are currently learning an Irish dance called "Balláí Luimnigh". Everyone in the class really likes it. We like it so much that we are even doing it on yard! Happy Birthday to Tymon Kocierz and Yahya Al Tulaihu who both turn 9 this month.



Room 12

We are enjoying learning about the Vikings in History and we are happy that we get to work on our Viking class projects for our Thursday choice homework. We are also really enjoying our class novel 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl. We are having great fun experimenting with our voices when reading in class and trying to sound like the evil Grand High Witch! Well done to recent student of the week winners, Billy and Mantas. Happy birthday to Alex and Billy this month.



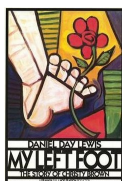
Room 14

We are delighted to welcome Nikita to our class this month! Our recent 'Pupil of the Week' winners are Luke, Shane and Maciej. On the 22nd of Jan we visited the National Gallery of Ireland. The experience was very rewarding and the boys were inspired by many of the paintings on display. Be sure to ask them about their highlights! In English we focused on 'Fantasy' and Mythical Creatures. We have started reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and are eager to discover Bruno's story. We are enjoying learning the tin whistle. In Science, we are learning about 'The Digestive System' and food nutrition.



Room 17

We would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year. We all had a great Christmas and we are delighted to be back in school. We have been hard at work learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. We are really enjoying doing Power Hour again with Ms. Phelan. We have been reading about the Easter Rising and are doing loads of research for our projects. We read a story about Christy Brown and how he wrote and painted with his left foot. We looked at warm and cool colours and how to make them in Art. Happy Birthday to Timmy who is 12 this month.



Room 5

We are off to a great start in the new year in room 5! We have been learning all about 'an aimsir', exploring weather around the world and keeping our own weather records each day. We even learned about weather maps and making predictions for the weather, pretending to be meteorologists in class! In Maths, we have been measuring lots of things around the classroom using cubes, lollipop sticks, and even our own handprints. In PE we have been dancing to Peter and the Wolf and Ms McLoughlin is so impressed with our creative dance moves. We are listening to the music in class and have made some brilliant wolf pictures!



Room 8

Many new goals and resolutions have been made in room 8 after Christmas and we are all looking forward to an exciting 2020! This month in English our focus was report writing and all the boys presented excellent oral reports which we all enjoyed. China and Chinese New Year has also been a major theme for this month which we explored through our Art, Geography and History. In Maths we were learning about time which can be quite tricky, however, everyone is making great progress. We hope Dhanush and Charlie who celebrated their birthdays in January had wonderful days.



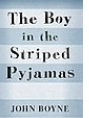
Room 13

We've settled back after Christmas break and are already enjoying a busy and fun term! We had an interesting visit from Brendan Collins of Dublin Bus to talk about safety and care while using the bus. We are learning about report writing in English and many of our reports are displayed on the wall outside our classroom. We are enjoying dance in PE and learned an Irish line dance to the song 'An Dreoilín'. We are also learning a tune called 'The Kerry Polka' on the tin whistle which is fun!



Room 19

Birthday wishes go to Ryan, Cillian, Robert, Alex D, Christian and Luke this month. We really enjoyed our recent trip to the National Gallery, we liked looking at all the different exhibitions and discussing our favourite pieces of art. We have been learning about our digestive system in Science and learning about the journey that food makes through our bodies and why healthy eating is so important to stay fit and strong. Before Christmas, we read the novel 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne, which the whole class thoroughly enjoyed. We are working on character profiles, new book covers and diary entries to summarise our novel.



Room 18

We have been really busy since we've come back. We have been learning about the Titanic disaster and we have been working on various projects based on the Titanic. You can see photos of our projects on the school website! In English we have just finished our class novel Far Away Home. It was an excellent read about a refugee moving to Ireland during World War 2. We are enjoying our dance lessons in P.E and are working hard to prepare for our confirmation. Well done to Evan Kelly, our first Pupil of the week for 2020!

