

Holy Child Boys' School Larkhill

Newsletter November 2023



PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you to all parents who attended our Parent/Teacher meetings this month. We find that the meetings are a great help to us and we hope that parents benefit as well. If you would like to see your boy's teacher at any time during the year, just get in touch with the office to arrange an appointment. We encourage you to keep in contact with your boy's teacher as the year progresses and the Aladdin app is also very useful in this regard.

SNIPPETS...

All after school clubs will finish on the week of the 11th to 15th of December which means only 2 weeks of clubs remaining. We would hope to run clubs again in the next term and all details will be emailed to you when school re-opens in January.

Our PA are once again planning a Christmas raffle in the school and have been busy collecting prizes etc. Members of the PA will come in on Thursday 14th of December and all boys will have the opportunity to buy tickets then if they wish.

Our 2nd and 5th class pupils will go to the Pantomime 'Treasure Island' in The Helix on Thursday the 7th of December. Following consultation with our PA it was decided that pupils would attend the pantomime in 2nd and 5th class only and that gives all boys the opportunity to attend twice during their primary school years.

We hope you are enjoying our new Instagram page, we're delighted to have such good engagement.

Our attendance currently stands at 91.1%. Any boy absent over 20 days will receive a letter to inform them that they are being referred to TESS, the TUSLA Educational Support Service.

The boys in The Lark are enjoying yoga on Wednesdays and this is something we hope to be able to continue.

We are delighted to be included in some cricket coaching which has been arranged by John McDonald, sports officer with Dublin City Sport & Wellbeing Partnership. The boys in 6th class are really enjoying the sessions and there is even talk of setting up a school team next year.

All classes are currently doing the Weaving Wellbeing programme as part of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

The following is a list of arrangements for Christmas plays/Carols in school. Parents/grandparents are welcome to attend any or all of the performances.

Wednesday 20th December at 1.15pm - 1st Class - Nativity

Thursday 21st December at 1.15pm - 2nd & 3rd class - Tinsel & Tea towels

Friday 22nd December at 9.30am - 4th class - Christmas Songs & Poetry

Friday 22nd December at 10.45am - 5th & 6th class - Traditional Carol Service

All performances will take place in the Assembly Hall on Glenan Road and we hope that you enjoy whichever you attend.

SNIPPETS...

Our Green Schools team organised talks on road safety for 1st and 2nd class which took place this week.

As the weather turns colder we ask that all boys bring a jacket and if possible a hat also each day.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Our Board of Management is now fully constituted and will have their first meeting mid December.

The new Board for the 2023-2027 term is:

Chairperson: Mr. Con O' Halloran

Patron's nominee: Fr. Dominic Kwikiriza

Parent Nominees: Gráinne Jenkins & Alan Robinson

Teacher Nominee: Úna Farrelly

Community Nominees: Kathleen Berry & Eithne DeLacy and Principal, Cathy Timmons

The board will govern the school on behalf of the patron and will ensure the best care and education is provided in a safe and comfortable environment for all pupils in the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing board members for their dedication and hard work throughout their term of office. We would also like to thank all parents who put themselves forward for nomination and all those who voted for parent nominees.

Room 3

We have had another busy month since returning from our midterm break. We have enjoyed taking part in GAA with Seán Cleary. We have completed some lovely winter artwork which is on display outside the classroom. The boys have really enjoyed the classroom discussions and activities around the Weaving Wellbeing programme and look forward to more lessons in the coming weeks.



Room 4

We've been very busy in Room 4 this month. We were able to go to the science fair to discover and get involved in various experiments for Science Week. We have also been exploring vocabulary associated with the Aistear theme 'the cafe' which we have been finding really enjoyable. We recently started practising our songs for the Christmas play, which we are really looking forward to.



Room 5

Before mid-term, we performed our Haka with real passion and emotion at the junior and senior assembly. Since coming back we have benefited from power hour with Ms O Neill, Ms Gordon and Ms Kenny advancing our reading, writing and oral language skills. This months Aistear theme of Cafe has been very enjoyable for us and integrates nicely with our maths theme of money. In art, we have been making hats and gloves for the cold weather and painted snowmen in the hope of some December snow! The class have been experiencing some of the challenges faced by the visually impaired by guiding each other through obstacle courses and identifying tactile paving around the area. We are thoroughly enjoying this months games theme in PE with competitive games of dodgeball and benchball, as well as a football tournament with room 6 before we head to the pantomime together next week!



Room 6

We've had a super month learning about Data in Maths. We even designed our own surveys and asked other classes different questions to make our block graphs. We have also been enjoying our new Aistear theme "The Restaurant", where we learn new words each week and have fun too! We also had lots of fun at our 2nd class football blitz organised by Ms Byrne and Mr Murchan. We are looking forward to December and making lots of beautiful Winter Artwork.



Room 9

We've had an exciting month filled with lots of fun and interesting activities. Science week took place during November and we really enjoyed visiting the science fair where the older boys in the school showed us lots of cool experiments. The boys showed a lot of curiosity and enthusiasm and it is clear that there are budding scientists in our classroom. As Christmas is fast approaching, we have been busy preparing for the festive season. This month we explored tessellation in mathematics. We applied this knowledge to our art work where we created our very own tessellating Christmas tree. The boys really enjoyed collaborating with each other for this activity. Additionally, the boys explored their artistic talents with delightful oil pastel drawings of steaming cups of hot chocolate to keep us warm on these cold winter days. As December is just around the corner, the boys are eagerly anticipating the festive joy of the Christmas season.



Room 8

We enjoyed exploring 2-D shapes in Maths this month. We cut out our own tangram shape pieces and made very creative pictures with them. We also made beautiful flowers for our 'In November, We Remember' display. In SPHE, we have loved our 'Weaving Well-Being' lessons so far. The focus for our lessons has been on Positive Emotions. During 'Clean Air Week' we learned about the small changes we can all make to improve the air quality around us and we designed banners to promote these changes!



Room 12

We have been very busy writing some snowy stories and creating some beautiful winter art. We are really enjoying our new class novel *How To Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell and look forward to reading each day. We loved attending the school science fair as part of science week. Well done to recent student of the week winners in November: Mathew, Bobby and Suliman. Happy birthday to Ahmad who celebrated his birthday this month.



Room 13

We have had a busy month in Room 13. We have really enjoyed our music lessons this month. We have learned about tempo and the value of each note. We also had the chance to play different musical instruments such as the cow bells, maracas, tambourines and a variety of wood instruments. All our music lessons have helped us to practice for our assembly performance this week, where we will sing 'We Will Rock You'. We have also been working hard on our 'Science Blast Project' throughout November. We are investigating how our bedtime routine influences our sleep. We have been collecting our own data each night and trying out many different routines. We are very excited to be welcoming a sleep neuroscience expert to our class to help with our investigation before our Christmas holidays.



Room 14

We have started our class novel 'Under the Hawthorn Tree' in English and began our Literacy circles which are very enjoyable. We did some really cool experiments about Density during Science week and our Density Tower experiment was brilliantly demonstrated and explained to the other classes in the school. We had great fun in Art this week making fruit and vegetable self-portraits inspired by Giuseppe Arcimboldo and our mission is to eat healthy as a class! As well as health and nutrition, we have continued working on our speed and fitness this month by completing 3 laps of the yard a day. We have been working hard on long multiplication in Maths and we began exploring lines and angles. We even created our own protractor art which turned out extremely well! We are nearly finished our Boxing with coach Oisin and it has been great to see the engagement and improvement of each of the boys over the weeks. Some boys will be chosen to attend a boxing showcase on Wednesday 6th in Ballymun BC. Congratulations to Finn, Jackson, Gleron, Musa and Awdai who took part in the Marathon Kids program and completed their final mile in Morton Stadium.



Room 17

The boys in Room 17 are really enjoying reading the novel 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. We are looking forward to watching the movie and comparing it to the book. We focused on cool tones in Art and created beautiful winter landscapes - we added texture to the background using salt. We are excited to begin preparations for our last Christmas Carol Service in the school. We designed special remembrance cards for all of our deceased loved ones. This month we talked a lot about the importance of team work and how we are stronger together. Our Weaving Wellbeing programme is ongoing and we're encouraging more positive self-talk, showing kindness and celebrating our efforts in all we do.



Room 18

November has been a very busy month for us. We are really enjoying our cricket lessons with Fintan and will hopefully be setting up a school team in the Spring. The toy show got a big thumbs up from everyone who watched it. We are working hard on our narrative writing stories. We finished our class novel 'Holes' and are currently watching the movie to compare. We couldn't put the book down. We gave it 10/10. We have finished long division in Maths and have moved onto fractions. We really enjoyed the science fair and we made some very interesting projects about famous scientists which are on display outside the room.



Room 19

We've had a very productive month and we have covered a lot of work and made some great progress. In Maths we have been studying Long Division, we found it difficult in the beginning but now it all makes sense. In History, we looked into the complex life of Leonardo da Vinci, we even drew some self portraits, just like da Vinci did. Mathew celebrated his birthday this month and turned 11 years of age. Donnchadh treated the class to cookies last Friday in preparation for the Late Toy Show. They were well received. Go raibh maith agat Donnchadh.

