

NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2018

Colour Run

There will be a 5k Colour Run in the High School on Saturday the 12th May at 12 noon. This has been organised by some of our past pupils in aid of St. John's Ward in Crumlin Children's Hospital. Everyone is welcome to take part.

Photographer

School photos will be taken on Wednesday 9th May in the school. This year the photographer will be Julie McCoy. Bring a hairbrush!

Infant Induction

A meeting for new infant parents will take place on Thursday 10th May at 9.a.m. in the school hall. New infants are invited to come into school on the afternoon of Wednesday 30th May from 1.15-2 p.m.



Rathfarnham Parish Fête

25th Anniversary

The annual Parish Fête will take place on Saturday 19th May in the High School, Rathgar from 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great day out for all the family with a wide selection of stalls and activities. It's also a great opportunity for a clear out at home! If you have anything to donate to the Fête you can drop it to the Memorial Hall in the evenings of the 14th-18th May. Amy Dunne and Kate Shaw have especially requested donations of cakes and baked goods. They are happy to arrange collection if necessary. Amy can be contacted on 087 6375272 and Kate on 086 2337155. The teachers will be manning the burger stall so drop by for a tasty lunch!

Aladdin Connect

We hope that you are all finding the Aladdin Connect App a useful way to keep in touch with school news and to find out information on your child. Please note that due to data protection changes this year, school reports will only be available through Aladdin Connect.





Science Day

On Friday 4th May we had a Science Day in school. 6th class set up a wide variety of scientific experiments that they had researched in the hall and held demonstrations for the other classes.

This was a fun day with a lot of quality teaching and learning!

Insects!

A woman from the Heritage in Schools scheme will visit the school to talk to the children about insects on Wednesday 16th May. This fits in well with our Green Schools theme which this year is Biodiversity.

Digital Citizenship

We hope that some people from Google will visit the school to talk to the pupils in 5th and 6th classes on being good digital citizens on 15th May

Ace Services

The last two ACE services will be on Sunday 20th May and Sunday 17th June.

Gaeltacht

The long awaited 6th class trip to the Gaeltacht is nearly here! 6th class will be leaving Dublin on Monday 21st May and will travel to Anagaire in Donegal. During the week they will attend lessons in Gaeilge as well as taking part in many cultural and fun activities. They will be back at school on Friday afternoon. Well done to everyone who worked so hard this year to raise money to help subsidise this trip.



School Trips this term

24th May: Junior and Senior Infants to Clonfert Farm

25th May: Ranganna 3 & 4 to Causey Farm

1st June: Ranganna 1 & 2 to Squirrel Scramble

1st June: Rang 5 to AvonRí

Active Week

This year's Active Week will take place on 5th - 8th June with a variety of activities during the week.

The School Sports for pupils in 1st-6th classes will take place on 8th June at Sancta Maria school. Children will walk up to the sports leaving school at 10.30a.m. We hope to start the sports at 11a.m. Everyone will then walk back to school after the sports for collection at the normal time. Parents are welcome to come and watch!

Infants do not take part in the senior sports and will remain in school.

Memorial Garden

We have finalised the tendering process for the memorial garden and are ready to start building on 28th May. The overall cost has proven to be greater than we originally thought. However, the plan is so lovely that we are going ahead. The PTA has agreed that the money raised by the Sponsored Walk this term will go towards the cost of building the garden.

We hope to hold an opening ceremony towards the end of term to formally dedicate the garden to Claire's memory.



Sponsored Walk

Our annual Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk will take place on Wednesday 13th June. We will walk from school to the playground at Rathfarnham Castle grounds. After a rest and a play we will then return to school. Children are encouraged to be as inventive as possible with their costumes. This year we hope to raise lots of money for the Memorial Garden and encourage everyone to get as much sponsorship as they can. Children can earn house points for filling their sponsorship card.

Choir

The Choir will have a Summer Concert on Tuesday 19th June at 7 p.m. in the school.

The annual Choir trip to Clara Lara will be on Wednesday 20th June. More details to follow.



6th Class Barbecue

The annual barbecue for 6th class pupils and their parents is on Friday 22nd June. This is a lovely occasion where we celebrate the time that 6th class have had in RPNS and look forward to the future as they move on.

5th and 6th Class Play

5th and 6th Class will perform their end of year play on Tuesday 26th June in the school hall.

Incidental Inspection

On 3rd May Dr. Leo Kilroy, Inspector with the Department of Education and Skills, spent the day in the school conducting an incidental inspection. This is carried out with no notice and the purpose of it is to evaluate the quality of educational provision by pupils in every-day school situations. Dr. Kilroy spent time in Senior Infants, Rang 4 and Rang 6 as well as learning about SEN support.

The report from the inspector was very positive with literacy and numeracy standards and pupil behaviour and engagement among the many identified strengths. There were some recommendations that the board and staff will be focusing in the coming year:

- Pupil attainment in Gaeilge (already identified by the staff as the focus for School Self Evaluation)
- focused early intervention in the Junior Classes
- development of the role of the team teacher throughout the school.

In addition, the inspector noted that school is open for pupils at 8.20 a.m. but many children are not here at that time! He was very clear that the 'teacht le chéile' time is part of the school day and all children should be in school by 8.20 a.m.

School Closures & Sports Fixtures

At a recent PTA committee meeting, the PTA reported parents' complaints about the inconvenience caused by the extra school closures this year due to snow and staff training. While we have no control over the weather, and followed the minister's instructions on closures, it was suggested that the Child Protection training could have been undertaken by teachers at home during snow days. I would like to reassure parents that the staff takes Child Protection seriously and felt that the training should be conducted as a full staff for it to be done properly. Teachers are now mandated persons in law and it is important that they are afforded the opportunity to be thoroughly informed and trained in this area.

The most recent closure was for training in the new Primary Language Curriculum which is being introduced next year. This important training was organised by our Education Centre and was conducted off site with the staff of other schools. We have no say about when this takes place; all schools in the country have had this training. We appreciate that additional closures are an inconvenience for parents and therefore not something that we do lightly.

Concern was also expressed about the notice given to parents for sporting fixtures. The teachers who organise these fixtures would like to pass on to parents that unfortunately sporting fixtures are not always possible to organise with much notice as they often depend on other matches being played. This year has been particularly difficult due to cancellations and rescheduling for bad weather. Teachers inform parents about fixtures as soon as they hear of them. Traditionally parents have been responsible for transporting children to such events. However, if this is a problem for parents going forward we will look at using buses.

End of Term

School ends for all pupils on Thursday 28th June at 12 noon.

We hope you all have a happy and restful summer and we'll see you all back on 30th August!

The High School PTA event

See below for details of The High School PTA summer event. All prospective parents are invited.

