**St Mary’s & St Gerard’s Weekly Bulletin**

**22nd March 2024**

Book Sale

Our Second Hand Book Sale on World Book Day raised a total of €485! This is a huge achievement and we will use these funds to update our school stock of Library books. Thank you to all our families for the generous donations of books, to our P.A. for their organisation of the event, to our 6th who ran the day so well and most importantly to all our pupils for supporting this event!

School Tours

The staff have looked at tours and are booking the annual tours at present. As you are aware; bus hire has increased considerably. We had tried to keep costs per pupil at €20-€25 per pupil. I have now had to raise this figure to €30 per pupil. Please keep this figure in mind for your budgeting in term 3.

We always try to do tours which use the local bus and reduce costs in addition to the main School Tour.

Easter Egg Trail

Thank you to the P.A. for organising the annual Easter Egg Trail this morning. They were ably assisted by the 6th Class who were such good role models for the other pupils, as always.

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Well done to the Student Council for organising DS Day on Wednesday. Thank you fro supporting the event and I hope we have increased our awareness of Down Syndrome by taking part .

Anti-Bullying Surveys

Our classes from 3rd- 6th have completed their Anti-Bullying Surveys. The teachers have followed up as needed on any issues arising from these surveys. These surveys are conducted regularly in these classes to ensure that we can pick up on and address any bullying. We have a system whereby any pupil who admits to this behaviour signs a Behaviour Promise. There may be a follow up Restorative Piece. If a pupil continues to engage in such behaviour, parents will be informed. We promote our anti-bullying and Kindness messages in class and at assemblies.

Knocksink Tour

Our 3rd & 4th Classes went to Knocksink Wood on Thursday. The visitors centre had been closed for some time and we are hopeful that this marks the re-opening of this valuable resource. We are so close to the wood and we are lucky to be able to build on our connection to nature and to give pupils an experience of learning about nature so close to home.

Science Blast Feedback

Our 6th Class received very positive feedback from the judges recently. The judges commented on the “high degree of critical thinking” and on “the quality of the research.” Our pupils were commended for their exuberance and pride in their work.Well done to all our pupils and Ms Dalton.

I wish all our families a wonderful Easter and I hope you all enjoy the holidays together.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!

Kind Regards,

Deirdre Morgan