

St Mary's & St Gerard's School
"Caring, connection and a love of learning"

SMSG Newsletter 13/09/2024

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have had a busy week here in school. Our pupils have settled back into the routines of school so well and they are already "doing their best work!"

Bail ó Dhia ar an obair!

Deirdre Morgan

Dates for your Diary:

Avondale Cross Country (relays) 24th September

Avondale (Individual) 22nd October

Dress Up Halloween: 25th October

Junior Christmas Concert:29th November (Morning)

Senior Christmas Concert:12th December (evening)

School Closure Staff Training: 20th January

Laudete Festival (CHOIR):29th January (evening)

Grandparents Day: 31st January (morning)

World Book Day : March 6th

Sports Day:10th June (or 11th if postponed)

Calendar

Please see the dates above. Can I please remind all parents that holidays should not be booked during term time. Teachers cannot set work to be completed by pupils during holidays taken in term time.

Assembly

We met our Student Council on Thursday at assembly. Each class 1st- 6th is represented by a student. Ms Dalton coordinates the council. The Student Council is an important way of hearing our pupil voice and also gives the members a chance to have their say in our school.

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Ms Hogan's 4th Class also helped us to deliver our message at the assembly about our school rules. Our rules are:

We are kind

We are respectful

We are responsible

We are good listeners

We do our best.

We frame our positive reinforcement of our pupils' behaviour around these rules. Our middle and senior classes also work on a class contract that encourages pupil cooperation and a positive classroom environment. We have the school rules displayed around the school. We also use Restorative Practice as a way of resolving differences between pupils in the older classes.

This month we will focus on being good listeners.

Uniform

- Junior and Senior Infants wear their school tracksuit only.
- 1st-6th: School Uniform
- School tracksuit on 2 P.E. days per week & sporting events
- Our School Uniform is: the Crested jumper, school shirt, kilt or trousers, navy socks, black runners .
- **The kilt and trousers are equally acceptable for girls and boys 1st- 6th.**
- Our Summer Uniform is: School crested shorts, school sweatshirt and white polo.
- Pupils can wear the Summer Uniform in Term 3 from Easter onwards and for all of September. This means that the Summer uniform is available for almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of the school year.
- **Black runners (or dark for infants if possible) are encouraged for all pupils every day as this allows them to run around and play freely.**

- October-Easter:Pupils are expected to wear their proper school uniform.Each child is aware that they also wear their school tracksuit on two designated days each week for P.E. i.e. 40 % of the school week.

In the past two years, we introduced 4 changes to make the uniform more practical-

1. As outlined above- we replaced school shoes with a dark runner.
2. Wearing the 6th hoodie in 6th class for term 2 &3. This was introduced to give these pupils a sense of independence and to mark their seniority.

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3. We have worked with parents on an individual basis to accommodate those pupils who cannot wear their uniform for sensory reasons and whose attendance is being impacted by this.
4. The school track suit is the only school uniform for Junior & Senior Infants for practical reasons.

We are very proud of our school uniform in St Mary's & Gerard's. Our pupils are always well-turned out . Thank you for your support in this regard.

Trips

Our annual excursions to the Museum of Literature Ireland (MOLI) on Stephen's Green have begun with 3rd class visiting this week. We believe these trips help our pupils to extend their horizons and to enjoy their learning experience.

Clubs

We have recently extended our Lego Club to 1st Class. Artzone have also joined our list of extra curricular providers. I am still chasing a Chess Teacher. Please let me know if you have any contacts who may be interested.