

St Mary's & St Gerards N.S.
Caring, Connection & a love of learning

SMSG Newsletter 5th October 2024

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK THIS WEEK

Dates for the diary

Sacraments Dates: Choir please take note of Communion Date!

First Reconciliation : Sunday 6th April @ 11 a.m.

First Communion: Sunday 17th May @ 11 a.m.* *Choir from 4th -6th please save the date*

Confirmation: Thursday 10th April @ 11 am

Walk To School Week

Our Green Schools Committee led the assembly on Thursday. They encouraged us all to walk to school this week. Please support this by letting your child walk and by leaving the car either at home or in the Bog Meadow car park. Walking to school is energising and is a great way for the pupils to catch up with their friends and build their independence.

Child Protection & Anti-Bullying

We recently reviewed our Child Protection Policies and ratified the Procedures at our B.O.M. meeting. The Child Protection Policies are on the school website. The Staysafe programme is followed in each class each year. Well-being is also taught as part of S.P.H.E. We promote anti-bullying and kindness measures on a regular basis. The emphasis in Junior Infants -2nd Class is based on kindness. From 3rd up, we continue to promote the value of kindness and we introduce the more formal approach to addressing bullying allegations.

Our Anti-Bullying Policy is in line with the agreed approach nationally. Each term, class teachers carry out an Anti-Bullying Survey with their class (3rd-6th). We also teach lessons in S.P.H.E. about recognising and dealing with bullying. We recently held an anti-bullying assembly with 3rd-6th to remind all our pupils about what bullying is, who to tell and how. We will have various assemblies and lessons about this over the year.

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Restorative Practice Approaches are used in school to resolve pupil conflicts as much as possible.

These 5 questions are useful:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking of at the time?
3. What have you thought about it since?
4. Who has been affected by these actions and how?
5. What do you think needs to happen to make this right?

Class Meetings

A big thank you to all our teachers for the class meetings that were held over the past fortnight. I hope that the meetings were useful to both teachers and parents so that we can work together as a community to support our pupils.

National Tree Day

This is so relevant to our school setting. Our pupils are fortunate to be so close to woods, trees and to be blessed with green space in abundance. 1st & 3rd Class went on a Nature walk to the Bog Meadow and followed a trail to look at the trees. 6th Class took part in a tree-themed Zoom with N.A.S.A.

Maths Week

We will be preparing for Maths Week soon. Our pupils will be using their Maths eyes to look at maths in the environment. You can read more about this here :

https://ncca.ie/media/5468/6-supporting_the_development_maths_eyes_home.pdf

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