

**St Mary's & St Gerards N.S.**

*Caring, Connection & a love of learning*

*Happy Valentines Day!*

**Weekly Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Dates for your diary:**

**Mid-Term Break: School closed on Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> & Friday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**St Patrick's Break: School closed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**P.A. Parents Talk with guest speaker Colman Noctor: March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**

### **Big Travel Challenge**

Well done to all involved. Please continue to travel to school by walking or parking and walking. Please park responsibly in the church grounds; I have had some complaints about being blocked in and concerns about access.

Fr Bernard has also politely reminded us that his garden should not be used for the children to play in, especially between pick up times. Thank you for your support in this regard.

### **Internet Safety**

4<sup>th</sup> Class hosted the assembly on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February to mark "Safer Internet Day." We explored the advantages and negatives of the internet. We learned about the dangers we may face online and what to do if we see anything unpleasant online. The importance of telling a parent, a teacher or a trusted adult was emphasised. The audience were very engaged and it was noticeable that the cyber topic is very relevant to our pupils. Conversations around this aspect of their lives are always going to prove helpful and are necessary.

We also reinforced the value of playing, having hobbies, being creative, baking and all the ways we could spend our time, that do not involve devices. Please support this message at home also.

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**Our P.A. will host a Community event for parents on 26th March with guest speaker Colman Noctor, Psychologist. We look forward to supporting this event to learn more about supporting our children as they cope with the online world.**

**Creative February**

**We are focussing on creativity this month. Our creative activity this week is to take a photo, on the grounds or out and about with our families-and share it with your class. We want to encourage our pupils to see beauty and interesting aspects of the world around them and to be inspired creatively by these moments.**

**Our Musical Talent Assembly will happen after mid-term!**

### **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HALFWAY UP THE STAIRS, GREYSTONES**

Here are some recent recommendations from Halfway Up the Stairs:

**Little Lion Girl** by **Olivia Hope and Fiona Woodcock** is a clever picture book about a little girl who is wild and brave, until she gets lost in the big city. But don't worry, there's a happy ending!

Age JI and SI

**Rabbit and Bear: This Lake is Fake** by **Julian Gough and Jim Field**

We are all huge fans of the Rabbit and Bear series at Halfway up the Stairs and this is the latest book. Funny, wise and kind, they combine brilliant writing with exceptional illustrations.

Age 1st to 3rd class

**Fia the Last Snow Deer** by **Eilish Fisher** and illustrated by **Dermot Flynn** was our 2024 Book of the Year.

It's a brilliant book which we were proud to launch in September, written in verse and beautifully illustrated, with themes of friendship, family and adventure, set in snowy prehistoric Ireland. Perfect for young readers of 4th to 6th class.

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**The Secret of Golden Island** by Natasha Farrant (the highest rating of any book so far in Book Club!) and it was one of our 2024 Books of the Year.

It's a classic adventure story with a modern twist, about two brave children who try to win an island. A beautifully written page turner. Age 4th to 6th class

**The Weather Girls** by Sarah Webb is set during WW2 in Ireland and tells the story of two brave girls who must help save D Day with their weather reports. Based on a true story, it was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards.

Age 4th to 6th class

**Fallout** by Lesley Parr is another great favourite staff (and Book Club) read. It's about a boy called Marcus who comes from the 'wrong' kind of family, who meets a new friend who sees something special in him. Can Marcus stand up to his family and become the person he really wants to be? (5/6th class)

Coming in March:

**The Doomsday Club** by Kevin Moran

Coming in March, this is a brilliant action adventure novel for older readers of 11+ (6th class as it's a bit scary!).

Dublin Libraries are organising a national "Get Lost (in a good book)!" event on February 22nd. You may wish to take part in this at home. More information is available here [https://search.app/?link=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eirelandreads%2Eie%2F&utm\\_campaign=57165%2Dor%2Digacx%2Dweb%2Dshrbtn%2Diga%2Dsharing&utm\\_source=igadl%2Cigatpdl%2Csh%2Fx%2Fgs%2Fm2%2F5](https://search.app/?link=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eirelandreads%2Eie%2F&utm_campaign=57165%2Dor%2Digacx%2Dweb%2Dshrbtn%2Diga%2Dsharing&utm_source=igadl%2Cigatpdl%2Csh%2Fx%2Fgs%2Fm2%2F5)