



SS. MICHAEL & PETER JS EASTER NEWSLETTER 2018

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Staff and pupils at SS. Michael and Peter Junior School have been very busy over the past few months. All classes have enjoyed Assemblies, Activities for Valentine's Day, Lá Ghlás, Seachtain na Gaeilge, GAA Blitz, Active School activities, World Book Week, Character Dress Up Day, Book Fair, Author visits, Easter Raffle, Easter Bonnet Display and Green School Activities and lots more.

Training in the Child Protection, Maths Curriculum Development, Managing Challenging Behaviour and Development of SEN plans was undertaken by staff which will enhance the delivery of the best possible education for our pupils.

Our Junior Infant classes have had their school photographs taken and look so well. First classes

have been busy practicing with their choir. Second classes have had their First Penance and look forward to their First Holy Communion. Senior Infant classes learned all about the artic this term which came to life for them with the snow and brought great excitement.

Thank you to parents for your flexibility and consideration with arrangements for recent adverse weather. As always your interest and support is always appreciated.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter. Enjoy the holidays.

Kindest Regards,
Patricia Stokes,
Principal

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infants have been super busy in our second term of school. Friendships continue to blossom and we are working hard on gaining more social confidence. We loved seeing a magic show in January where we laughed and laughed at all the funny tricks the magician showed us. Some of our very own Junior infant boys and girls performed magic tricks themselves too!

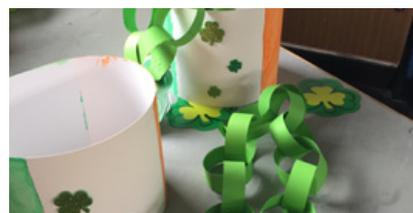
Spring has finally sprung despite a chilly snow-covered start to March! We have been learning all about Spring, new life and animals and our Art and Music themes reflect this. We are two-thirds of the way through our Jolly Phonics sounds and nightly practice with blending is helping the children in their quest for reading. We are continuing to work very hard in maths and have been focusing on counting up and

back from 10 and the numbers 1-5.

We have enjoyed reading *The Ball is Lost*, *Teddy is Lost* and *The Big Box* to name a few and are really looking forward to our next book *Splash!* We loved dressing up for World Book day! Our costumes were very creative and we enjoyed talking about and sharing our favourite books and stories. We took part in a parade of our costumes and enjoyed some song and dance with our fellow classmates. We've spent time at the Book Fair too browsing through the lovely books and stories. We are really turning into bookworms!

Leading up to Saint Patrick's day, we have been taking part in Seachtain na Gaeilge. We've been putting in lots of effort in using cúpla focail gach lá. We've enjoyed lots of rannta, amhráin, caint is comhrá.

We are now looking forward to Easter and are on the look-out for a certain floppy eared creature, we hope will be visiting over the holidays. Happy Easter from Junior infants!



CLASS NEWS

SENIOR INFANTS

We have been very busy in Senior Infants since Christmas. Classes have been learning about Polar animals and weather, the change of seasons from winter to spring, farm animals as part of SESE and Aistear play. There have been many important dates that we created art about, wrote about and did many interesting activities like Valentine's day, Pancake Day, Seachatin na Gaeilge and St Patrick's day. We really enjoyed dressing up as our favourite character for World Book day. We are looking forward to the final term and exciting times ahead.



FIRST CLASSES

First class have been learning lots of new things this term and have been excellent students.

We explored the season of Spring and what changes we now see around us. We wrote poems and stories and did some lovely art work.

We celebrated St.Valentines Day and learned about the history of some traditions like Pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. We also made some Lenten resolutions.

There was great excitement when we had a Bring and Buy Sale in our school. We each got to go shopping with our own money. We have been learning about money in our maths lessons and we are getting good at working out change. We also have been practising our addition tables which we have been learning for home-work.

Some of us have done Literacy Lift Off this term which has really helped us with our reading and writing.

As always we have been keeping active as we are working towards getting our Active Flag. We

have been doing our Operation Transformation, 10 at 10 and Go Noodle.

The GAA day we had was lots of fun and we really enjoyed the rugby lessons we have been having also.

First class have been really looking after the environment this term as we now are taking turns to do litter picking after break-time. We are working towards getting our Green School Flag. It was lots of fun preparing for the Action Songs and individual poems for the Arklow Music Festival. We love performing.

A Magic Show came to our school. It was really entertaining. We laughed so much.

Last but not least we celebrated World Book Day. We all got to dress up as a character from a book. It was a great day and now we love reading even more!



CLASS NEWS

SECOND CLASSES



PANCAKE TUESDAY

We have all been very busy learning new and exciting things in second class this term. Some of the things we have enjoyed doing are making pancakes. We learned about all the ingredients needed to make pancakes, how they blend together to create a mixture and how it changes from a liquid to a solid when cooked. We love when science is really messy and when the end product tastes so good!!!

ASD CLASSES

Ms. Byrne's class had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! We revised all our favourite stories from the year so far. Our number 1 favourite is We're Going on a Bear Hunt and we even made our own book about it. We also attended the costume party and some students even dressed up as their favourite book character. We have been going on lots of nature walks to look for signs of spring. After all the snow we are hoping that spring has finally sprung and the daffodils can hold their heads up high again. We loved making presents for our mammy's for Mother's day and got into the green spirit of things to celebrate Patrick's Day!

The boys in Ms. Morris' class have been working so hard since we came back at Christmas time. They have started PE with another Junior Infant class which they are doing exceptionally well at, learning all about gymnastics, turn taking and walking in a line! The boys are doing lots of dancing and they have really impressed with their moves for the Maxarena!! They also enjoy Maximo every morning for a yoga session to stretch their muscles and help them to relax before their busy day! We did some lovely Spring art but we quickly reverted back to painting snowmen when the Beast from the East arrived!! We went for a short walk in the snow, wearing our wellies so that our feet stayed dry... nearly!!! We saw a big snowman that the girls in St. Mary's had made and he didn't melt away for a long time. We decided to name him "Snowny"!!! We got a bike recently which is great fun and is great for teaching turn taking and waiting. The boys love it and their cycling skills are really improving.

Everything has been going great in Ms O Loughlin's room. We have been working so hard learning about springtime and the life cycle of the frogs.

We've done brilliant crafts for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day and hope you all liked them.

World Book Day was a great success thanks so much to all the parents for sending the children in with super costumes. We're excited for the book fair and are getting ready for our Easter holidays!

WORLD BOOK DAY

The snowy weather didn't stop us celebrating World Book Day! We dressed up as our favourite characters from our favourite books and got busy reading to younger classes, writing short stories and poems, listening to our teachers reading our favourite Novels and chatting about all things books and more.

SPRING

It is now the season of Spring. Even though our weather hasn't heated up much it has not stopped us learning all about what happens during Spring. We have been learning about new life and everything wonderful that grows and is born in Spring. Our corridors and classroom were given a Spring clean and decorated with colourful art and all the beautiful colours we see in the Spring.

FIRST CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Rang a dó made their First Confession this term. The children worked hard to prepare for this sacrament by learning new songs, poems and prayers and they reflected on times when they did not live as Jesus asked them. The children drew pictures, talked to each, their families and Fr Michael and received the sacrament of First Confession in Ss. Mary and Peter Church. The Children really enjoyed preparing for this sacrament and are now busy getting ready to make their First Holy Communion.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL CHOIR

Ss. Michael and Peter's School Choir have been preparing for Arklow Music Festival. We have made props, painted scenery, choreographed some funky moves and learned to beautifully sing The Beatles' 'Octopus' Garden! What a busy time for us! The Festival has been moved to April 23rd which gives us some extra practice time. We look forward to seeing familiar faces there supporting us!

GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green Schools Committee has been working hard trying to raise our schools awareness of our theme this year which is Litter and Waste. They held a competition throughout the school to come up with our Green School Code. We received lots of fantastic entries and it was a tough job to pick only a few winners. After much consideration the Green School Committee choose 3 winning posters. These winners were from Ms. Griffith's 2nd class.



Look at our Green school Code winners. Together their entries have now formed our Green School Code. Well done!

Our Green School Code

Don't be a skunk
And recycle your junk!
Let's go 'Green'
To keep our school clean.
Reduce,
Reuse,
And Recycle!



REMINDERS

First Holy Communion: Pupils in second class will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sunday 27th May at 11.30am at Ss. Mary and Peter Church, Arklow.

Access and Parking: In the interests of health and safety there is no vehicular entry/parking or drop off facility available on the school grounds for either the St. Michael or St. Peter Building. Parking in the staff carparks is strictly prohibited. All pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate to access either school grounds, not the car park gates. The school is not liable for any loss or injury that may occur as a result of people not following these guidelines. They are for you and your child's safety.

Contact Details: Please inform the school immediately if there is any change of collection or emergency contact details etc.

Supervision: The B.O.M. would like to draw your attention to the fact that the school is not responsible for pupils who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing times. In St. Peter's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.10 a.m. Classes begin at 9.20 a.m. School finishes at 3 p.m. In St. Michael's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.20 a.m.

Classes begin at 9.30 a.m. School finishes at 2.10 p.m. for Infants and 3.10 p.m. for 2nd class. There is no supervision outside of these times.

Nut and Sesame Seed Free School: A reminder that SS Michael and Peter is a nut and sesame seed free school. This ban refers to all nut and sesame seed. The use of Nutella can be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy, chocolate and chocolate products are not allowed in the school.

Stay Safe Programme: During the final term all classes will be participating in the Stay Safe Programme as part of the SPHE Curriculum. If any parents/guardians have any questions about the content of the programme it can be accessed online by visiting www.staysafe.ie

School Website: Don't forget to check out our school website www.ssmichaelandpeter.ie



SS MICHAEL & PETER JS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The children had great fun in January at the magic show – everyone wanted to know how to get a drawing of a face to talk – totally magic! 😊

The 3 buddy benches have been installed, one in each yard, and are a great addition to the play yards.

A big thank you to everyone for their donations and support of the Bring & Buy sale, we raised over €1300.

We hope the children enjoyed their Paddy's day non uniform day and had fun making their Easter bonnets.

After Easter we will be organising keepsake cards for Holy Communion, organising book rental and aiding in the preparation and planning for the Stepping Up Ceremony for 2nd classes. We are hoping to have one more fun day before the end of the year though, more details to follow once it has been organised.

Once again thank you for all your support and we wish you a very happy Easter!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Holidays: The school closes Friday 23rd March 2018 at 12.15pm (St. Peter Building) and 12.25pm (St. Michael Building) and reopens Monday 9th April 2018.

Bank Holiday/Midterm Break: School will be closed from Monday 7th May to Friday 11th May 2018 inclusive. Normal closing times apply on Friday 4th May 2108

Staff Training: The school will be closed on Tuesday 1st May 2018 for staff training in the new Primary Language Curriculum

Arklow Music Festival: Rescheduled for week commencing Monday 23rd April 2018

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON JAMES DUNNE

I am delighted again to pen a few words for our school newsletter. This newsletter is a platform for our school to inform and communicate not just with the parents of the pupils attending the school but importantly with the wider community. The contents also reflect the wonderful creativity and imagination of the pupils. Within the pages one gets a real appreciation of the many undertakings within the everyday school curriculum, plus the extra curriculum such as music and the many sporting programmes. It is hard to believe that we are now moving into the last quarter of our school academic year.

Many of the pupils are preparing for their first Holy Communion and are eagerly looking forward to their special day. I wish them well in their preparation. We have much to be proud of in Ss Michael and Peter Junior School. Thanks to our acting principal Patricia Stokes and all the staff who do wonderful work in ensuring our school is a centre of excellence for the children of our town. I wish everyone a Happy Easter and enjoy the holiday.