



# 'SS. Michael and Peter Junior School' Newsletter

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Welcome to our  
Newsletter!

Easter Term  
April 2019 Edition



## Welcome note from the Principal....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last term was a very busy and productive one in SS Michael and Peter J.S. We had great success at the Arklow Music Festival, we celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Book Day, Grandparents Day, had an affirming visit from the inspectorate and finished the term on a high with our Pedal Powered Cinema fundraiser. Well done to staff and pupils for working so hard and achieving so much. The Staff and Board of Management are grateful for the continued support received from Parents. Your contribution is valued and much appreciated and your input makes a positive difference to our school. Our Pedal Powered Cinema was a very successful and enjoyable fundraiser which saw the whole school community come together. The proceeds will make a big difference to the lives of the pupils in our school by facilitating the purchase of resources for our sensory areas. We held a very successful enrolment evening and we were delighted with the response and feedback we received. If you know of any new families in the area or families with children of school going age please send them in our direction. As always, if you wish to discuss anything with me, you can arrange an appointment with Breda/Danielle in the office and I'd be happy to meet with you. We wish Breda all the best in her retirement after 40 years service in the school. We will all miss her friendly face. Valerie Gregory will taking over the role of school secretary from the 20<sup>th</sup> May and we wish her every success in the position. I hope that everyone has had a good rest over Easter and that we are all looking forward to our third and final term. Is mise le meas,

Lisa Dempsey

## Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Management

It is hard to believe another term has come and gone. Easter and the term holidays are with us again. The past term has been another success for both the staff and pupils. The school Choirs along with the many pupils competing in the Arklow Music Festival brought more honours to the school. All involved are to be congratulated on their efforts. There were many other initiatives that enhanced the school progress among others the Lá Ghlás, World Book Day and the Green School programme. It shows in a very positive way the involvement of the pupils and the commitment of the teaching staff and SNA's.

During this term one of our teaching staff Ms Bernie Hemenstall retired after giving 38 years of sterling service to our school. It is a remarkable achievement of commitment and dedication for nearly four decades. We thank her for her loyalty to the school and her input to the education and support to so many children over those years. Next Month will also see the retirement of our school secretary Breda Kiernan. Breda also gave great commitment to the school and was always the welcoming face when people arrived to the school office. We thank Breda for her service to the school and wish her good health in her retirement.

Recently the Department of Education inspectors visited the school for two days. The report back from the Department on the school and its teaching procedures was excellent. On behalf of the Board of Management I thank the school principal Lisa Dempsey and all the staff for attaining this excellent report.

In conclusion I would like on behalf of the Board of Management take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and thank all the staff for their commitment and loyalty. The parents and grandparents for their support to the school along with the parents committee who do so much good work. To all the boys and girls have a lovely Easter and don't eat too many Easter Eggs.

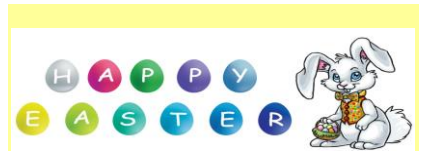
James Dunne

## Green Schools

**What an exciting term it's been for the Green Schools Committee. Our application went in and we had our first official Green Schools Assessment Visit.**

**Jim Callery, an environmental officer from An Taisce visited our school. The Green Schools committee met with Jim and informed him of all their hard work, as well as the action plan we have put in place and implemented in our school. They took him on a tour of our school as well as visiting many classes and reciting our Green School Code.**

**All the children were fantastic we were very proud of them. Jim was very impressed by everything he saw and said he would be telling An Taisce about all our hard work so fingers crossed we will be officially receiving our flag very soon!**



## SS MICHAEL & PETER JS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We hope that the children enjoyed the no uniform days which took place this term. We are very appreciative of the contributions received from these days. It's been a busy term.

We kicked off the New Year in style by hosting the school photos. We are very appreciative of the work completed by Brian from Memory Photography. He made the whole experience so enjoyable for all involved.

We got to meet and chat with some of you at our coffee morning and the jellies and crisps/popcorn sale in the classes was met with squeals of delight all round.

We also kicked off a Split The Pot raffle. Over a 7 week period, the weekly draw yielded some much needed funds for the school and we gave away in excess of €1000.

In March, we held our second fun event. The Jungle Bus arrived to the school - a fun, educational & exciting animal encounter, suitable for all ages. Those brave enough got to hold the various animals - even the snake!!

For Easter, we hosted a raffle with 10 prize hampers and a colouring competition that was held within the classrooms.

We're now working on our events for next term

If you want to keep up with our activities, events and news, please drop a mail to [pa@ssmichaelandpeter.ie](mailto:pa@ssmichaelandpeter.ie) and ask to be added to our distribution list, or join our Facebook group *Parents Association Ss. Michael and Peters JNS, Arklow*

*We'd like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!*



## Class News

### Junior Infants

Spring has finally sprung and the flowers and birds are blooming everywhere. We have been learning all about Spring, new life and animals and our Art and Music themes reflect this.

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 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 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 took part in Seachtain na Gaeilge and tried really hard to use our cúpla focail gach lá.

We loved meeting the creatures that came into visit us on the Jungle Bus..... they were amazing!!

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!



### Junior Infants



### Senior Infants

What a busy term Senior Infants have had! Over the month of February the children learned about St. Brigid and discussed ways we could show kindness to others. Valentine's Day was a day full of fun and all the classes created something special for a loved one. We had a very exciting visit for our Green School Committee and will hopefully see a lovely green flag. This flag will represent all our hard work on recycling and keeping our environment a clean place for all to enjoy. We thoroughly enjoyed participating in Seachtain na Gaeilge and were very excited when a teddy from Connemara came to listen to us speak Irish. All the children tried very hard to use Gaeilge in the classroom and on the yard. The children enjoyed listening to traditional Irish music performed by the teachers at assembly. On Lá Glas the school was a sea of green and we were looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day with our families. Mrs. Carey and Ms. Prendergast were very proud of the amazing performance from their classes in the Arklow Music Festival. During World Book Week we had a visit from the author Brianóg Brady Dawson. She read us the story 'Danny and Baby Do It All'. We gave it a 10/10 because it was very funny. We don't know who had more fun dressing up for World Book Day, the children or the teachers. Well done to all the parents for helping the children to create such wonderful costumes! More recently in our Aistear lessons we have been learning about 'The Garden Centre' and 'The Farm'. Senior Infants in Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Carey's class were busy planting seeds and learning about the lifecycle of various plants. Ms Lee's Senior Infants created beautiful pictures of pigs and learned all about animals found on the farm. In Ms. Prendergast's class the children looked at farms from long ago and today. The children looked at how machinery has changed over time and decided to make their own butter. It was very tasty with crackers! We are looking forward to our Easter break and would like to wish everyone in our school community a "Happy Easter ☺".



### First Class

First class have been very busy in our second term of the year. We've enjoyed a variety of different events.

We enjoyed learning new skills and games with our two coaches in GAA and have just begun some rugby coaching this past week.

As we love being active and moving about, we have also been taking part in Supertroopers Health Homework this term. We get to include some fun activities in our homework and try to remember to always keep active no matter the weather!

### Senior Infants



### First Class

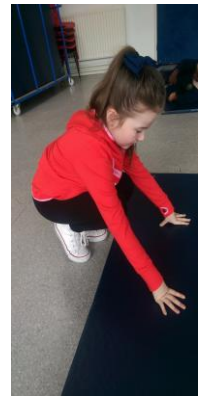




**First Class continued.....** Many of our first class pupils took part in the Arklow Music Festival and we are extremely proud of all their efforts - Well done!!

We celebrated Grandparents day in January and really enjoyed reading and chatting about the books with everyone. Some of the first classes have been enjoying reading a novel this term and also some Transition year students from St. Mary's have visited to read lots of books and stories with us. For Seachtain na Gaeilge we really put in huge effort in using cúpla focail gach lá. We've enjoyed lots of rannta, amhráin, caint is cómhra. We had a special assembly on Lá Ghlas where we performed a HAKA as Gaeilge, sang songs, and listened to some pupil and teacher musicians play traditional Irish music on their instruments. Bhí an-craic againn!

World Book Day was a firm favourite with First class, as we dressed up as some of our favourite book characters. We visited the Book Fair to browse through the lovely books and stories. We really enjoyed a visit from a real author - Brianóg Brady Dawson who read to us about Danny the pageboy. Another massive highlight this term was a visit from the Jungle Bus! Each class got to see and learn about lots of different creatures such as snakes, scorpions, owls, rats, ferrets, turtles to name a few. We even got to handle and hold some of the interesting animals. It was brilliant!!!! We continue to work hard in class and are now looking forward to our Easter break where we hope a certain floppy-eared friend has some nice treats for us- Happy Easter from First Class!



## Second Class



**Second Class** Second Class have been so busy over the past term. They were very busy preparing for The Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children worked very hard learning their prayers and songs in preparation for it – well done to all. Preparations are well under way for The First Holy Communion and we are really looking forward to the big day. Some of the second class pupils are in the middle of completing soccer training. It has been a great experience so far with some fantastic soccer skills learned.

Big congratulations to all of the children who participated in the Arklow Music Festival in either the solo verse or whole class competitions. Each child put in a great effort and should be very proud. The children have created some beautiful pieces of art this term. They learned about the signs of Spring, the beautiful trees that can be seen and baby animals that are born in Spring. Some of the children planted spring seeds and they have been busy looking after them ensuring they are getting enough water and sunlight waiting for them to blossom.



We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge this term with all classes making an extra effort to speak as gaeilge throughout the week. We are all keeping up this great effort – Maith thú! We have also been perfecting our Irish dancing steps with the classes learning different dances such as the Walls of Limerick.

World Book Day was a massive success with the children and teachers dressing up as their favourite book characters. We had a visit from the author of the Danny Brown books we read in class - Brianóg Brady Dawson. We loved listening to how she became an author and where she got her ideas from. She loved our character descriptions of Danny Brown.

Some of the second classes have been reading novels in class (Georges Marvellous Medicine and The Iron Man) and the other classes will be reading them after the Easter break. We have been carrying out activities based on our novels and learning new words and grammar.



The children also attended 'The Jungle Bus' this term in school. We got to hold, rub and look at some animals which we had never even seen in real life before and learn some interesting facts about them such as a snake, a ferret, a tarantula and many more. It was really interesting and fun to have a snake around our necks.

We hope to have a fun filled final term and look forward to enjoying our final few months in 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

## ASD Classes

**Ms. Ireson**

We have been so busy here in the pre-school class. We have learned all about spring, the farm and the zoo. We have been on walks to examine signs of spring and are keeping up to date on the happenings in Dublin Zoo through their live web cam!!

The jungle bus was a highlight of the term and we all enjoyed it. We are looking forward to the Easter holidays and a well-earned rest!



## ASD Classes

### Ms. Crowley

The boys in Ms. Crowley's class have become great friends. They have so much fun playing chase together when they are outside. They love going out for nature walks and they have started visiting the Arklow library. They love borrowing books from the library. They have been learning all about farm animals, especially baby animals born in Spring. They love to sing Old MacDonald and Alice the Camel. The boys really enjoyed painting pig masks in art.

### Ms. O'Loughlin

The boys in Ms O' Loughlin's class have earned a great rest and a break this Easter. We have had a lovely second term learning all about nature and our environment. We have been recycling so well that we have even had our Green School mascot Froggy in our room for a whole month! We have sown bulbs and enjoyed seeing them bloom into daffodils. We also welcomed a new boy; Luke to our room and he has settled in really well.

In February we paid a visit to the Seal Sanctuary in Courtown and the local RNL station in Arklow. We learned so much on these trips and hope to enjoy more trips as the year goes on.

Finally we had our first confession and we are busy preparing for our first holy communion next term. We will also be preparing for our move to the senior school.



## Grandparents Week

All the pupils of SS Michael and Peter's had a fantastic week celebrating their grandparents, which we linked with our annual 'Reading Week'. Thank you so much to all the grandparents who were able to come in and spend time reading with all the children. We marked this special occasion with our 'Finger Print Trees', on which every grandparent and child placed their finger-prints. We now have an amazing multicoloured tree, which helps us remember the very special bond between children and their grandparents. We look forward to many more visits from the many grandmother's and grandfather's in the future.

## World Book Week

World Book Week 2019 was a fantastic success in SS. Michael and Peter JNS. Our Scholastic book fair on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was brilliant, each class visited the fair and purchased exciting new books. Many parents attended the event too which was great to see and we even had a special visit from Clifford the Dog. We will receive over 1600 Euro worth of books back from the company for our school this year!! Thursday we had a special visitor Brianóg Brady Dawson who enthralled the pupils with tales of her mischievous little character Danny Browne. A huge effort was put into costumes this day too. We even made the Wicklow People. Pupils took part in a celebratory parade and Word Book Day party. We also read loads during Drop Everything And Read time. Many classes enjoyed our book day quizzes and displays. Pupils received certificates, stickers and special book tokens. Finally on Friday we culminated with a special World Book Week assembly where Ms. Dempsey shared her own favourite childhood stories. A huge thank you to the Parents Association who helped out during the weeks events and to all the Mammies and Daddies for supporting us.



World Book Day

## Reminders:

**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](http://www.staysafe.ie)

**First Holy Communion:** Pupils in second class will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sunday 26th May at 10 am in 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.

**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 9.15 a.m. Classes begin at 9.20 a.m. In St. Michael's campus the school is open to receive pupils from 9.25 a.m. Classes begin at 9.30 a.m.

**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.

**Bank Holiday/ Midterm Break:** School will be closed on Monday 6th May and June 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

