



SS. MICHAEL & PETER JS SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

Hickey's Hill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow Phone: 0402 39861

Email: office@ssmichaelandpeter.ie

Website: www.ssmichaelandpeter.ie

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is almost hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the 2018/19 academic year and what a year it has been. The third term is always exceptionally busy and this year is no exception. Here in SS. Michael and Peter Junior School in the last few weeks alone we have celebrated First Holy Communion, attended G.A.A., soccer and rugby coaching, participated in an activity packed 'Active Week', opened our doors to our new Infants and our classes have been on a variety of trips and school tours.

We are proud to have been awarded our first Green Flag as SS Michael and Peter Junior School and look forward to a special occasion in September to celebrate this. We have our end of school year blessing to look forward to on Thursday 27th June at 11.30 a.m., during which 2nd Class will perform a final song for us. We welcomed parents, guardians and grandparents to this occasion alongside us.

I would like to wish our 2nd class students every success and happiness in the future. I hope that they are leaving SS. Michael and Peter Junior School knowing that they are a special person with unique talents which they can use to make a difference in this world.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and restful Summer. Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey

Lisa Dempsey, Principal

CLASS NEWS

JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infant boys and girls had a great first year in school. We have had a lot of fun getting to know each other and making lots of new friends. The teachers are very proud of all the work they did. They have worked hard at their words and sounds and are great at reading now. The children love to read at home and in school and look forward to visiting the library over the summer to read lots of new stories. Their writing in their copies has really improved. They had great fun during maths class this year learning to count and add. Their favourite thing to do in school is Aistear because they get to play with the toys. This term some of our themes were the picnic, summer, the jungle and underwater. We really enjoyed our dance session this term. It was great fun learning to dance. Our favourite event was our school tour to Kia Ora farm. It was a great day holding and feeding the animals, playing in the play zone, the maze and on the diggers. The fire engine ride was exciting. We are a little tired after the long year. We're looking forward to a nice rest this Summer so we're rested and ready for senior infants!



SENIOR INFANTS

Our boys and girls have really grown over the year; they are nearly first class now. The Mad Professor was a massive hit, the children loved the experiments and found him very funny. We had a fantastic school tour in Pirates Cove, playing bowling and golf and running in the bubble balls. We really loved Sports Day. All the teachers in Senior Infants want to wish the Senior Infants good luck in First Class, and to remind them to have lots of outdoor fun over the Summer Holidays!



CLASS NEWS

FIRST CLASS

1st class have had such a great 3rd term. We have learned lots of new and exciting things.

We've recently completed a mini project on India. We learned about the Taj Mahal, we listened to some Bollywood music and we even had one of the children bring in a sari!

We went on our school tour to Woodfield House and we had the best day. We dressed scarecrows, had sponge fights, listened to Mrs. Flowers telling stories and lots more.

Active Week was a super fun week. We had a sports day with a huge array of activities. We danced, took part in some peaceful yoga and we also had Poundfit come and visit us for a rigorous workout. We were exhausted but so happy after it all!

SECOND CLASS

Lots of our boys and girls made their First Holy Communion on May 26th and we were very proud of all the hard work and preparation they put into their special day. Well done to all!

Each class made a beautiful display board to put in the church for our Communion day. Many of us decorated chalices and made doves also.



The children have been busy preparing for the coming year in St. John's Senior School and reflecting on the many fun and happy times they have had here with us. The pupils also enjoyed a trip to St. John's recently to get to know their new school. They took part in many activities, including art and sport and are looking forward to the move to the new school.

The children enjoyed the fun magic show and the many science experiments which showed us that science can be fun and full of magic too.

The Second Class school tour took place in June and a fantastic time was had by all. The children enjoyed Lego building, face painting, bouncy castle, play zone, bowling and lots more in Wexford. The teachers were very impressed with the excellent behaviour too!

Second Class took part in Active Week. It was a fun-filled week encompassing sports, dance, mindfulness, yoga, town excursions and our Sports Day.

We would like to wish all our 2nd class Good Luck for next year. We will miss all our wonderful students.



Froggy, our Green Schools mascot, has continued to visit all the classes. He recently came to Ms. O'Rourke's class as they had been very busy recycling and helping our environment.

We are really looking forward to the summer holidays now and having a well-deserved break!

CLASS NEWS

EI CLASS

Wow! What a busy year we have had. We have all learnt so much this year and enjoyed so many outings and activities. We made lots of new friends and met lots of teachers. We can't wait for next year but first let's enjoy our summer holidays.



Junior Class

The boys in Ms. Crowley's class have really enjoyed their last term in school this year. They are full of laughter and wear big smiles on their faces. They are very active and have loved practising their football skills with their GAA coaches. They have enjoyed hearing songs and



poems at assembly. The boys liked listening to the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in class and did lots of activities based on this. They went to Funworks on their school tour and had a super time playing there!

Senior Class

The boys have had a fantastic final term in SS. Michael and Peter JS. They had a wonderful time on their school tour on Tuesday to Explorium and Marley Park where they played, laughed and experienced so much.



Well done also to the 2nd class boys who made their communion on May 26th. They made us all very proud.

We have had many trips to visit the senior school and are really looking forward to starting the new adventure in September. We loved Active Week in school. We have had so much fun exercising out bodies and brains.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and truly wish everyone well for the year to come. Best wishes Ms. O'Loughlin, Ms O'Toole and Ms Doyle.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GREEN SCHOOLS



We got great news in school last month when we received a letter from An Taisce to inform us that our application for the Green Flag award for Litter and Waste had been successful. There was huge excitement when the committee were informed and they could not wait to tell everyone!

The Green Schools Committee alongside the entire school community have been very busy the past two years. Everyone put in a huge amount of effort and commitment and all this hard work and dedication worked towards us achieving our first Litter and Waste Green Flag. Well done to everyone, what a great way to end the school year! We now look forward to continued hard work as we begin working towards on our second theme- Energy.

ACTIVE SCHOOL



SS. Michael and Peter had an incredible time taking part in Active Week from 17th to 21st June. This was our second year

taking part and we all had so much fun! Take a look! We started our week off with a Line up Mash up. We got our bodies moving and warmed up for the day by doing active exercises on the yard. During the day we set off on our 'walk a mile with a smile'.

Some of our classes used our yards, others went for a lovely walk between our two campuses and others went on a mile walk around our local town. We had so much fun! We also loved using the safe food. eu Activity wheel throughout the day for Active Brain Breaks. On Tuesday we started our day off by inviting our Parents/family members, the children and our teachers to make an extra effort to walk/scoot/cycle/skip to school. Lots of families gathered together at 9:10 in a Car-park away from the school to actively make the rest of the way to our lines. It was so lovely to see our community getting active together. Throughout the day our Active School Committee got to run around the school ringing a bell to tell everyone to drop everything and dance! We had three surprise dances. We also had music on the yard for our break times, where our freestyle dancers shined. Shout out to our super active teachers who made the trek up Croghan after school. Our sports day was a huge success this year. We really stepped it up and moved



our sports day to the secondary school grounds where we had so much more space to get really

active. The children had the best day and we were blessed with Mr Sun. On Thursday we invited some local clubs into our school to give the children a taster of something new. Our infant classes and 1st class got to try Pound with Brid and Second Class got to try Bootcamp with Conor Byrne Fitness and Caitriona. The children loved it! On Friday we relaxed into the morning by doing some yoga on the yard. We also had some feel good music on the yard and mindful brain breaks throughout the day. We also had our Active Assembly on the yard and the whole school danced the Macarena, Cha Cha slide and the children's favourite 'Old Town Road'. We also celebrated the most active classes and some children who shined throughout the week.



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

In May, our school was awarded the School of Excellence Award by Waterford IT, for achievements in Maths across the school. Our project focused on 'Hands on Maths' in the classroom. The pupils were engaged in lessons centred around the use of concrete materials and games during Ready Set Go Maths, an in-class support programme that enables children to explore and learn number skills through games.

We interviewed Senior Infant class pupils, asking them how they felt about Maths and what games they liked. The answers were recorded on a poster, along with photos of the children engaging in the games. This poster was displayed in WIT on the 15th of May. Ms.Noonan and Ms.Coates spent the day in WIT chatting with teachers about the Ready Set Go Maths Programme that is used in our school, as well as showing children from other schools how to play the games and use the concrete materials.



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Another year has come to an end and looking back I really wonder how you all completed so much over the past year. Our school has engaged in a vast and varied amount of impressive activities. From Choirs to field sports, from nativity play to endeavouring to achieve Green Flag status plus lots of learning. There were many more undertakings too numerous to mention and all were engaged in with enthusiasm and excitement.

To all the teachers and SNAs, I sincerely thank you for your efforts that go well beyond the call of duty. Your energies have contributed to making our school a place of learning excellence.

During the summer months we will have a range of jobs that will improve the school facilities such as improving some IT equipment and also re-roofing the Ss Michaels section of the school.

I am mindful of the input of the parent's committee; over the past year, your endeavours through fund raising have allowed us to improve many facilities within the school. Your input into the everyday life of the school through your efforts is gratefully acknowledged by all.

Throughout the year, the parents and grandparents continued to play an important part in the school life of their children. During the year a school grandparent's day was organised, it was a huge success and everyone involved is to be commended on their participation and involvement. I thank

all the parents and grandparents for your support to the children and school. To all the pupils who will be stepping up and moving on to St John's school I wish you every success in your new environment and hope you will bring many happy memories from your time in SS. Peters and Michaels Junior School.

Recently Valerie Gregory was appointed as our new school administrator. I wish Valerie every success in her new position. I am also conscious of the input of our ancillary staff and the excellent work they do each day for the maintenance of the school.

In conclusion our school principal Ms Lisa Dempsey and Vice Principal Ms Patricia Stokes deserve our gratitude for their management of the school and their interest in all aspects of the children's welfare. Through their efforts and aided by the all the teaching staff, our school has received excellent reports from the Department of Education. This result shows in a very tangible way the input and dedication of our entire school staff.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer holidays and please keep safe.

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James Dunne / Chairman

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Wow! What a quick term that was. It's hard to believe that the school year is already over.

It's been another eventful term for us with our Fun Day hosting the Mad Professor, the second class communion and the stepping up celebrations.

We're immensely grateful to Paul, aka The Mad professor, from Really Grand Events for coming to the school and hosting the workshops which were attended by all classes.

We've received great feedback from this event, which was enjoyed by all.

We would like to give the students from 2nd class our best wishes as they move onto new adventures in St. Johns SS. We hope that their time and experiences in Ss. Michael and Peter JS have prepared them well for their future endeavours.

Many thanks to all of our parent's volunteers who have assisted with the Parents Association events throughout the year. Your help and support is invaluable in enriching the children's education and is always very much appreciated.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank all of the parents and guardians who have supported our events throughout the year. Without this support we'd never be able to run any events. For that, we are extremely grateful.

We hope you all have a pleasant, sunny summer.

RETIREMENTS

This year we said a sad farewell to two of our long-standing members of staff – Bernie Hempenstall and Breda Kiernan. Bernie left us after 38 years of teaching the girls, and later boys too, of the town. She was a much-loved teacher, by both student and parent. Breda retired in May following an astounding 40 years' service. Her smile is notably absent from the Office. We miss them both but we wish them every happiness in their retirement.



Ms Breda Kiernan



Ms Bernie Hempenstall

SCHOOL SECRETARY

We are delighted to welcome back Ms Valerie Gregory as secretary of Ss Michael and Peter Junior School. Valerie has previously worked as the secretary of St. Peter's Infant Boy's School for 14 years.

She is well known among the teaching and parent body along with the wider school community. No doubt her great knowledge and experience will be an asset to our school. We look forward to working together with her as we go forward.



REMINDERS

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 carpark 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 school is not responsible for pupil's who are on the premises outside of the official opening and closing times. For the 2019 - 2020 academic year the school is open to receive pupil's in the St. Peter's campus from 9.15am with classes beginning at 9.20am. In the St. Michael campus, the school is open to receive pupils from 9.25am with classes beginning at 9.30am.

Nut Free School

Ss. Michael and Peter is a nut free school. This ban refers to all nuts and nut products. The use of Nutella can be extremely dangerous for children with an anaphylaxis allergy, chocolate and chocolate products are not allowed in the school.

School Re - Opening 2019 - 2020

All pupils in both the St. Michael and St. Peter building will return to school on Thursday 29th August 2019.

