

'SS. Michael and Peter Junior School'

Newsletter

Hickey's Hill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
0402-39861

Email: office@ssmichaelandpeter.ie

Website: www.ssmichaelandpeter.ie

Summer Term
June 2018 Edition

Welcome to our
Newsletter!

Welcome note from the Principal.....

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of another school year in our school, may I, on behalf of all of us thank you most sincerely for your co-operation, help and wonderful support throughout the year. Before we close the door on this current year it is worthwhile and rewarding to reflect back upon and consider all the events and learning that have occurred over the past year and, perhaps for the current second class, over the past four years. Sometimes unless we take time out from our busy lives to actively do this many of our achievements can pass us by and we can forget all that has taken place. Here in SS Michael and Peter Junior School in the last few weeks alone we have celebrated The First Holy Communion, we have held our annual Sports Day and Open Day for our new Infants, all classes have been on school tour, many have visited the local library, we have participated in the Arklow Music Festival and our various student committees have been busy working towards their respective targets. This all happens alongside the learning that takes place every day in our classrooms. 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 with the self-belief to embrace new challenges and with the confidence to 'have a go' as they enter a new phase of their learning journey and they move onwards with their lives. Wishing you all a safe, happy and restful Summer.

Is mise le meas,
Lisa Dempsey

Board of Management

The Board of Management held their final meeting of the academic year on Tuesday 26th June during which they reflected upon a productive and successful year in Ss. Michael and Peter Junior School. The Annual Report will be published on the school website next week.

The Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils and their families, our Principal, teachers, SNA's, secretary, caretaker, cleaners, Parents' Association and everyone connected with our school a very happy peaceful and safe Summer holiday.

Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools Committee held a whole school Day of Action on the 16th May. Two children from every class along with some of our teachers, SNA's and the principal went out into the community and picked up litter on route to Abbey Graveyard.

At the graveyard we were met by the tidy towns and we cleaned up and weeded the area as well planting two pots.

Back at school we had a big focus on Litter, as well as the effects of Litter and each class was invited to take a walk around the school grounds to make sure we were completely litter free. The whole school then took part in a Tree Planting Ceremony where we planted a sycamore and a willow tree to symbolise the two buildings of our school, growing and working together. Jimmy, our school chairperson came and said a few words and we all recited Our Green School Code. We had a great day.



Reflection



**'All our dreams can
come true...if we have
the courage to pursue
them'**
- Walt Disney

Useful Information for 2018/19

Second Class, our Senior ASD Class and our Early Intervention Class will attend school in St. Peter's building for the 2018/19 academic year.

Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and our Junior ASD Class will attend school in St. Michael's Building for the 2018/19 academic year.

All classes will progress forward as they are. No classes are being split or mixed up.

Once staffing arrangements are finalised you will receive a text message informing you of your child's class teacher and room number.



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 loads of new friends. The teachers are very proud of all the work we did. We have worked hard at our words and sounds and we are great at reading now. We love to read at home and in school and look forward to visiting the library over the summer to read lots of new stories. Our writing in our copies has really improved. We are very proud. We had great fun during maths class this year learning to count and add. Our favourite thing to do in school is Aistear because we 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 Mini Farm. It was a great day, we were 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

Senior Infants have had a very busy final term in school with Library visits, Dance classes, their School Tour, Active week, the Green Schools Day of Action and much, much more. They learned all about mini beasts in Term 3. Some classes went on a mini beast hunt and they even created some mini beasts out of clay. Ms Prendergast's class took care of some hen eggs this term and the whole school got to see beautiful little chicks hatching. It was very exciting.

Senior infants had an amazing day on their school tour last month when they went to Imaginosity in Dublin. It was a lovely place to inspire their imagination as well as reinforcing all their learning in class throughout year.

Senior Infants loved taking part in a Dance workshop and 'Summer' has been a big theme this month. The children have been enjoying the beautiful weather and learning to stay safe in the sun by wearing sun cream.

Some Senior Infants took a little visit to the local library and they are all very excited as the holidays approach.



First Class

First class had such an enjoyable last term. We just can't believe that we are at the end of first class and ready now for second class.

During the last term we had our Active Week. That was such an amazing week participating in Sports Day, Drop Everything and Dance, Walk on Wednesday and our Active Assembly where we got to meet Mary Hickey and ask her some questions about her Lap of the Map run. We felt so energetic all week – exercise is great fun and makes us feel so good. Our school is working very hard to get our Active Flag. Keep up the amazing work everyone!

All of the First classes have read their novels and really enjoyed them. Some of the novels we read were 'The Giggler Treatment', 'The Magic Finger' and 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. We completed some lovely activities when reading our novels; designing our own book covers and creating characters in the books.

Dance class was great fun this term. We learned some really cool moves. Our robot moves were amazing – watch out Justin Bieber!

First class created some beautiful pieces of art this term. We learned about the signs of Summer, the beautiful flowers that can be seen, some countries that get beautiful summer weather and the animals and their life cycles.

Our school tour was a huge success at Woodfield House. We had so much fun with our friends; dressing scarecrows, blowing giant bubbles, wellie throwing, building using turf, washing clothes the old way, a wet sponge fight and a fairy walk but to mention a few. It was safe to say we slept well that night!



First Class continued.....

We also visited the library regularly this term, planted lettuce and carrots (and have been very busy taking care of these), visited baby chicks that were born in a senior infant classroom and went on lovely nature walks. We also had a Green Schools Action Day at Abbey graveyard where some of the children from first class participated in a clean-up and planting of flowers. It was a huge success and all the children were so helpful and well behaved. What a fantastic year we have had! ☺



Second Class

Second Class have had a very busy term!

Active Week

Second Class took part in Active Week in April and were able to 'Lap the School' running the yard every day to see how far across Ireland we would be able to reach.

First Holy Communion

Lots of our boys and girls made their First Holy Communion on May 27th and we were very proud of all the hard work and preparation they put into their special day.

Stepping Up Ceremony

Last week we celebrated the end of a milestone – finishing in SS. Michael & Peter Junior School. We had our Stepping Up Ceremony and the pupils received their certificates and badges. The boys and girls performed a lovely song during the ceremony. Well done to all!

Outdoor School's Day

Boys and Girls in 2nd class took part in Outdoor School's Day and measured how many children it would take to link across our playground. We found out that it took 35 children. 2nd class boys and girls also learned a lot about capacity and measurement in an active class based on measures.

Visit to St. John's

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.

Art Attack

As always, second class really enjoy decorating their classrooms and halls and this term was no exception. We made turtles using chalk pastel and turtles using oil pastel and water colours. Summer really entered our classrooms with our Summer Bucket List art and our yummy multi-coloured Ice-cream cones.

School Tour

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!



ASD Class

Wow!!! What an amazing year we have all had in the ASD classes. We have done everything from singing, dancing, walking, cycling, library trips, trips to the park, trips to jungle gyms, with plenty of reading, writing and number work also!

Our school tours were a great success this year. Mrs. O'Loughlin's class went to Sea Life and a play zone in Wicklow. They also tried their hand at some bowling! Miss Byrne and her class went to Well's House where they had a great time in the playground and had a lovely walk around the forest. Miss Morris and her class went to Gorey where the children played in the playground and had a lovely picnic before finishing off their day in Kidszone. All the children had a wonderful time. It's the time of year for picnics and outdoors as much as possible and the children are loving this freedom! Bubble and water play are a big hit and a great way to have lots of fun! Bikes, tractors and scooters are also great fun in the lovely weather and sometimes it can be hard to come back inside to work after such fun!!

Mrs. O'Loughlin's class are sorry to be saying goodbye to Lilly as she moves to the senior school but wish her all the very best.

We hope that everyone has a fun filled, safe and happy summer! We look forward to seeing everyone again in September, well rested and ready for another super year!

Active School

The Active School Committee were extremely busy this term. We had Active Week the week of the 23rd of April and what a week it was.

All classes took part in Line Up Mash Up every morning on the yard. The teacher's and pupils enjoyed these 15 minute warm ups and HIIT sessions, with exercises from high knees and jumping jacks to mountain climbers and the 'floss' dance.

Every afternoon 2nd class would take a day each to run laps of the school playground to accumulate a distance that we could map across Ireland and discuss with Mary Nolan Hickey when she visited on the Friday. We ran from Arklow to Ashford.

On Tuesday the Active Committee rang bells at 3 different stages throughout the day to tell everyone it was time to DROP EVERYTHING AND DANCE! All classes dropped whatever they were doing, yes, even maths! And joined in with the Cha Cha Slide.

Walk on Wednesday included all classes across the school getting up and outside to enjoy a nice nature walk around our school campus. Starting at their own building, they then walked around the grounds, noticing the sycamore trees, oak trees and many flowers that cover our lovely campus.

Thursday was our Power Hour of P.E. The day everyone was waiting for, Sport's Day. A huge thank you to all the teachers who helped set up in the morning and for how well the day ran. We had egg and spoon races, relays, sack races and parachute games.

We would like to take this time to thank Adrian our GAA Coach for his time and coaching throughout the year and for all his help on Sports Day.

On Friday everyone was super excited waiting for a visit from our own local sporting hero, Mary Nolan Hickey. Mary, a local celebrity now, ran the Lap of the Map in aid of the RNLI and as we are a school in the locality, with many of our students having ties with the RNLI we could not have been more delighted and proud of Mary. We had a wonderful talk from her and a small presentation to show our support and admiration for what she completed.

We would like to take this time to thank Mary for coming in to visit us and for informing us on all that the RNLI do.

Throughout the year we have had many great coaches in to visit and to coach us. The pupils love having these coaches in and for all that they do with our many classes. We have had soccer, rugby, GAA and dance this year and are very lucky that we get to have these sports for our pupils.



Writers Award 2nd Class

Writer's Award 2nd Class

Second Class children have been busy over the last few weeks writing stories for our Annual Writers Award. It was very enjoyable to read all the stories about wizards, princesses, unicorns and magical animals. We did a lot of work during the year on using 'story starters' at the beginning of stories and using lots of WOW words to make our writing more interesting. This year it was a difficult task to pick the winners as there were so many fantastic stories and great ideas from all the children. The following are some extracts from the stories the children wrote.

The Wizard

Once upon a time there was a lonely wizard named Walter. He lived at the edge of a quiet village near the entrance to a dark dreary forest. He lived alone and spent all his days making potions and practicing magic.

Jake Synnott Nicholson

The Lost Caterpillar

Chloe was so full and tired she slept and slept for days. When she woke up she could barely move, she was trapped in a hard green bubble and her body felt odd.

Chloe wriggled and pushed to break out of the bubble. When she got out she stretched and stretched, suddenly two big beautiful wings curled out from behind her back.

Grainne Driver

Well done to all the children for their hard work and keep writing!

