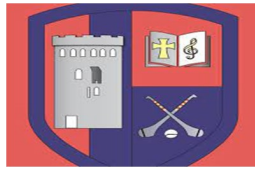


# St. Marys Primary School



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## Term 2 Newsletter



### Green Schools News

We are currently working on our tenth Green Flag. This year's theme is Global Citizenship Food & Biodiversity. Each class has been busy planting seeds to gain a proper understanding of how to grow our own food and the process involved before it arrives in the shops. It has been really interesting. Many classes are taking on different projects related to Green Schools themes and exploring the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.



### Active Schools Update

Our Active Schools Committee have continued to do wonderful work promoting physical activity in our school community. This term we have completed the Climb the Heights challenge during which all class groups jumped, hopped or skipped to the highest peaks around Europe! We have also started our run around Ireland challenge where classes get to use our fantastic walkway to run laps around the school in order to reach different locations around Ireland. It's great to see all students enjoying being active and healthy.





## Sport in St Mary's



St. Mary's has been a hive of activity in the area of sport. Our junior classes are enjoying weekly Zumba lessons with Christine. Our middle and senior classes have been enjoying their GAA lessons with Pa.

Patsy has been busy coaching basketball to our senior classes also. Each class participated in a tennis session kindly provided by Tennis Ireland. Alongside all this activity, our camogie, soccer and basketball teams have been busy training and playing matches. It's fantastic to see so many girls participating in sports for our school.



## Gaelbhratach

This term we have continued to promote the engagement with Irish language in our school through a variety of means.

In January every class in St. Mary's put huge effort into learning some new Gaeilge songs and poems. Classes showcased their learning with great enthusiasm and pride. There was a colourful variety of traditional and modern day songs and poems performed. Bhí siad ar fheabhas ar fad!!

This was great practice for Seachtain na Gaeilge, where the pupils once again embraced the Irish language through song singing, poems and drama. These are posted on our school Facebook page for all the parents to view! Classes put in such a special effort and more importantly engaged with the Irish language in a fun, creative and engaging manner, which is a baseline goal to successful learning!

To celebrate this important time of year in Irish culture we held a school raffle on 16th March. Tickets were accumulated beforehand by pupils displaying engagement with any aspect of Gaeilge. We also awarded certificates to the 'Gaeilgeóir na Seachtaine' within each class. A Seachtain na Gaeilge display was set up to join the current displays of Gaeilge visible throughout the school, including pupils's WOW work as Gaeilge as well as thematic vocabulary displays.

Thank you to the Coiste na Gaeilge for attending meetings and carrying out their allocated tasks with such interest and cooperation. Maith sibh go léir!!



## Junior Entrepreneur Programme

5<sup>th</sup> Class girls and Mr. Shanahan would like to thank the children, parents and teachers alike for a very successful Toy Sale. We raised a whopping 750 Euro! This has been invested in our JEP project. We didn't reveal this top secret project on our previous newsletter but the cat is certainly out of the bag at this stage! Our **bookmarks** have proven to be a huge success. At the time of writing we have fulfilled all orders from girls in 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and are presently working with 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Children get to choose their own message, some popular messages have been the child's names, a pet's name, a positive message such as 'Happy,' 'smile,' 'keep it up...' Pupils can choose whatever they like!



## Gardening News

Ms. Ryan's 3<sup>rd</sup> class continues to progress with the GIY Grow it Yourself programme. In January we harvested carrots, parsnips, turnips and potatoes and made some delicious vegetable soup! We are nearly ready to harvest the garlic and onion from the polytunnel that was sown before Christmas. We have a class rota for watering all the growing vegetables and flowers on our school grounds. We recently received our next delivery of seeds which will be shared among all classes throughout the school ready for planting next term. Classes will use the very helpful [www.giy.ie](http://www.giy.ie) website to learn how to correctly grow their chosen seeds.

We have also entered the Woodies Budding Gardener competition and received a €50 voucher to spend on our entry. We will concentrate on creating a Sensory Garden for all our school community enjoy.



to



## TIMSS - Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

St. Mary's has been selected to participate in the international study TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study). TIMSS assesses the mathematics and science achievement of pupils in fourth class in primary schools in Ireland.

The major purpose of TIMSS is to provide background information that can be used to improve teaching and learning. The study collects detailed information about curriculum and curriculum implementation, instructional practices and school resources. We are delighted that our pupils in fourth class can partake in such a significant international study.





### Peace Proms

On January 21st, Ms. Mary Ryan's third class made history by representing St. Mary's at our first ever Peace Proms in the University of Limerick.

Peace Proms is a choral education project for primary schools where the musical programme is tailor-made to ensure it is fun and engaging for children, fulfils important educational requirements and is rewarding to teach. The end performance on the night was an inspirational and thrilling experience for the girls in the choir, teachers, parents and the audience alike! All in attendance agreed that it was an exceptional musical experience and performance. Peace Proms celebrates culture and diversity and promotes peace, unity and tolerance through music. We look forward to many more peace proms experiences in our future.



### World Down Syndrome Day 2023



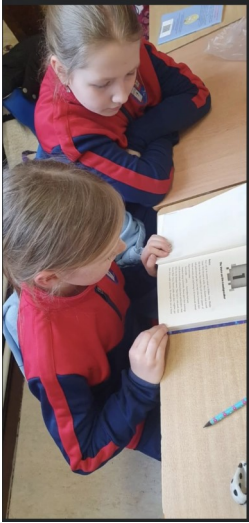
For World Down Syndrome Day 2023 the Student Council were privileged to accept an invitation from Down Syndrome Ireland Tipperary Branch to attend an event to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and learn more about Down Syndrome, the importance of inclusion and Lámh sign language.

Along with pupils from Ms Mc Avinchey's 5th Class, the Student Council travelled to Thurles where a fantastic welcome & educational experience awaited.

This was a fabulous opportunity to celebrate students with Down Syndrome in our school and to help their peers and teachers to recognise and learn some Lámh sign language. Much fun was had learning to sign, sing & dance!



### Some news from Rang 2

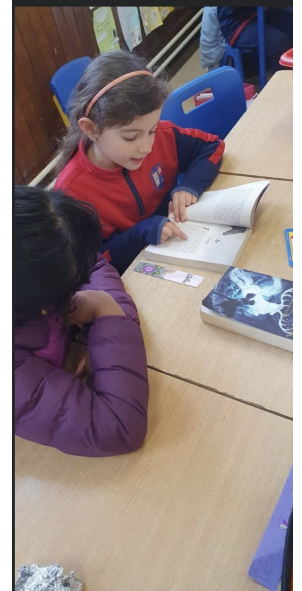


Our 2<sup>nd</sup> classes have been working so hard while having lots of fun this term. Our Seachtain na Gaeilge was a great success, with the girls enjoying learning our Irish songs and dances and performing at the Arts Centre / for other classes in the school.

We are continuing to enjoy our Literacy learning through PALS paired reading, weekly library visits and online reading with Reading Eggs.

The girls have worked in groups to create projects on *China*, *All About Ireland* and *Native Irish Trees* and in doing so have developed the skills of research, technology, team work, summarising and organising information. They have also been developing confidence, oral language and presentation skills in presenting their projects to other classes in the school. We are also enjoying Morning maths hour this term, where the girls work in small groups to maximise their learning, with fun maths games to look forward to on Fridays.

The girls have been busy learning their songs and prayers in preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation which they will receive next week. They are very excited about this special day! Both classes have taken their first steps in their knitting journey, which we will continue through Term 3. Last but not least, the girls are loving their weekly GAA skills training with our visiting coach, Pa.



Wishing you and your families a very happy, Easter.

School will re-open on Monday April 17th.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back then.

### Dates for your Diary

Friday March 31st: Easter Holidays

Monday April 17th: School will reopen

Friday April 28th: School closure-Staff planning day.

Monday May 1st: School closure- May Bank holiday.

Monday June 5th: School closure-June Bank holiday.

Friday June 23rd: Summer holidays

