



# Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa

Christmas Newsletter

December 2024

## Science Week 2024

As part of Science Week, all 6th class students visited Hartstown Community School and conducted a range of experiments, including litmus testing. Across the school, each class explored exciting activities: designing pasta towers, blowing the strongest bubbles, and discovering which hair type produces the most static electricity.

Third and fourth classes embarked on a fingerprint hunt to match fingerprints to teachers, while infants designed and built chairs for the three bears. Science Week also featured quizzes and online experiment tutorials, making it a fun and educational experience for all. A special thank you to Mr O'Callaghan for organising such a wonderful week. Karen (Rang 6, Ms Furley, Ms Gillan)



## Student Council



Our Student Council has been very busy since September. Sixteen new students were elected to the council by their peers in 5th and 6th class. As ever, the commitment to improving the school for everyone in it, is the primary focus of the council. The members meet regularly to discuss what is happening in the school and how together we might enhance the learning experience. The students organised two very successful fundraisers at Halloween and Christmas.

They arranged to have new plants at the reception area and purchased beautiful Christmas trees too. The council members are always listening to the students across the school. They bring their

thoughts and reflections to the meetings. We look forward to some more interesting projects in the New Year.



## National Children's Choir 2024-25

This year, children from 4th class are participating in the National Children's

Choir. We have learned our first set of songs and welcomed two visiting schools from Dunboyne and Finglas for our first regional rehearsal. We will all perform in a large concert in the spring, accompanied by a full orchestra! So far, our favourite songs are Rhythm of Life and Viva La Vida. It was lovely meeting children from the other schools. We made some new friends and had a great day. Alice & Yuser (Rang 4, Ms Murray)

## Team Hope



Thank you to the children from Ms Murray's 4th class who helped to coordinate this Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Our school collected 100 shoeboxes which will be

gifted to some of the poorest children in the world. We filled the boxes with the 4 W's - Wash, Wear, Write and Wow!

We had a lot of fun sorting the boxes and making sure they were all wrapped properly and filled with appropriate items. We all worked very hard to make sure it was a success. We watched videos about it on you tube.

Please visit [www.teamhope.ie](http://www.teamhope.ie) for more information.

Hannah & Mary (Rang 4, Ms Murray)

**Keep up-to-date on everything that's going on in the school:**

Log on to our website:

[www.shns.ie](http://www.shns.ie)

Follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/sacredheartns>



## A Message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a very busy and very successful first term here in the school! Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa is incredibly vibrant and I thank all members of our school community for the role they play in maintaining the school's cohesive, co-operative and supportive environment. It is particularly pleasing to see how this positive environment has helped all of our new pupils settle in to their new school in the first term.

The vibrant nature of our school was very much illustrated this week in the many class Christmas performances and also at the wonderful *Carols for the Community* concert in the church on Tuesday evening. The look of joy and pride on family members' faces when the children performed was truly magical. Well done to all participants (including our incredible staff choir!) in the Christmas performances and thank you to teachers and SNAs for all of your efforts in organising the performances and preparing the pupils.

The school's Parents' Association has also been very active in the school this term. To name but a few of their activities they provided refreshments on the first day of term for parents of new pupils, ran the uniform pop-up shop, hosted their AGM and arranged the magical reindeer food shop also! The school struggles to operate within the constraints of Department of Education funding and your continued support of fundraising initiatives is very much appreciated and is crucial to the continued success of our school.

We had a visit from a school inspector from the Department of Education last week and it was very pleasing to hear the view of the inspector that our school is a positive environment that is conducive to learning. Our inspector complimented the children on their engagement in lessons, their educational development, the positivity they expressed towards the school and their positive behaviour and attitude. The inspector complimented teachers on the preparation of their lessons, the delivery of their lessons, the positive classroom atmosphere that they cultivate and the environment of mutual respect that is prevalent in the school. The inspector stated that pupils are clearly happy and proud in the school and that their learning experiences are positive here in Sacred Heart NS. Well done to all pupils and staff on a great report from the Department of Education inspectorate!

As we near the end of the year, I would like to say a huge well done to the pupils on a fantastic first term and thank parents and guardians for your support in 2024. I would also like to thank the Board of Management, Deputy Principal Ms Donohoe, our teachers, our SNAs, our bus escorts Monica, Pamela and Sandra, Tina in the kitchen, our lunch ladies Esther, Joan and Monica, our cleaning staff Christine, Eda, Louise, Rachael, Rita and Sandra, our lollipop lady Vera, our secretary Carmel, our caretaker Adrian and our Parents' Association for all of their wonderful efforts throughout the year. I wish all members of our school community a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Nollaig shona agus atbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

*Kieran Lyons, Principal*

# School Calendar 2024/25 – Term 2

**February Public Holiday: Monday 3 February 2025**

**February Mid-term Break: Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025**

**St Patrick's Day Public Holiday: Monday 17 March 2025**

**Easter Holidays: Monday 14 to Friday 25 April 2025 (2 weeks)**

## School Calendar



### Reindeer Food



We are delighted to share the tremendous success of our recent school fundraiser, thanks to the unwavering dedication and hard work of our Parents' Committee.

A special highlight was the sale of reindeer food, which was a huge hit with pupils, families and staff. The delightful and festive treat quickly became the talk of the school and sold out in no time! Santa's little helpers will be full heading back to the North Pole on Christmas Day!

### 3D Printing Workshop

Our class had an exciting visit to the 3D printing workshop at Blanchardstown Library this term. During the session, we learned about 3D design and printing technology. Each student had the opportunity to create their own unique egg cup holder on a laptop. It was a fun and educational experience for all involved. Thank you Ms Doheny for organising such a great event. Evelyn (Rang 5, Ms Doheny).



### 1st Class Polar Bear Art

Polar Bears have translucent fur. They grow up to 10 feet. Polar bears live in a place called the Arctic Circle. Polar bears eat fish, Beluga whales, seals and walrus. Polar bears are excellent swimmers and fantastic hunters. Cillian (Rang 1, Ms Mulcahy)



### Dyer Straits During WW2

Jamie Dyer visited Ms Kirby's 6th class and made a wonderful presentation about WW2. He brought many artefacts and had really interesting facts and stories. His visit was really enjoyed and inspired the class in many ways, including with their WW2 projects. Thank you for sharing all your knowledge with us Jamie and it was fantastic to see a past pupil return to the school to educate the children on his passion.



### Carols for the Community



We performed our 'Carols for the Community' concert in Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday, 17th December. Over 130 children from 3rd to 6th class joined the choir, dedicating themselves to rehearsals since October. We were divided into Soprano 1, Soprano 2 and Alto sections, ensuring a rich and harmonious sound for the evening.

Our staff choir added to the festive spirit with their beautiful performances. This talented group includes our teachers, SNAs, secretary, bus escort and even our lunch lady! Their contributions truly made the night even more special.

The evening was filled with joy, pride, and beautiful singing that brought smiles to everyone in attendance. Highlights included stunning renditions of 'Somewhere in My Memory' and 'O Holy Night,' which were among our favourites to perform.

The concert was a wonderful celebration of music, teamwork, and community, leaving us all eager for next year's event. We're so proud of what we achieved together and can't wait to do it all again! Zejla & Robyn (4th Class, Ms Murray)

## Phoenix Park Trip



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November all the 6<sup>th</sup> classes went on a trip to the Phoenix Park. While on the bus we saw the Wellington Monument, the Phoenix Monument and the Magazine Fort. We walked to Farmleigh House where an amazing tour guide told us all about the history of Farmleigh.

After, we walked a long to Ashtown Visitor Centre, Ashtown Castle, where there was another lady who told us all about it. My favourite place to visit that day was the Papal Cross, where Pope John Paul the Second held mass in 1979.

Everyone started rolling down the hill and having fun, we also were very dirty but that didn't matter to me. I had such a fun day and a big thank you to all the 6th class teachers for bringing us on a trip we will never forget. Megan (Rang 6, Ms Dooley)

## Champions Corner

### Karting to the MAX!

Well done Mikey. We are so proud of you and your amazing achievements at karting. He came first in his category for karting in the TKC summer championship. It



consisted of 8 rounds of racing in various locations such as Athboy, Cork, Louth and Galway. Next year, Mikey aims to race in the UK and has managed to secure sponsorship for 2025. We are very excited for him and to see where next year will take him. Watch out Max Verstappen, Mikey is coming for your world title!

(Rang 4, Ms Fagan)

### We are the Champions

There were 8 teams in our school blitz. The first few matches it was all about points and getting through to the next round. In the knock out stages it was very tough



but we managed to get through to the final. It was Holland v Germany. It was a really good game and Holland came out on top on the day and were the overall winners of the tournament. We would like to thank Mr Doyle and Mr Mullally for organising the tournament and to everyone who turned up to support both teams in the final. Taylor (Rang 5, Ms Thynne)

### Football Success for Pippa

It was the day of my final. We had to win. It was a tight game and both teams were evenly matched. Suddenly a ball came to my feet and I shot and scored. We were one — nil up. By half time we had doubled our lead and were two — nil up. The game finished 3 — 1 and I celebrated with the cup with my friends. We were delighted to get a trophy after all our hard work in training this year (Pippa, Rang 6 Ms. Dooley)



### Fire Brigade Art Competition Winner

On 2nd December, I went to the Mansion House where the winners of the Dublin Fire Brigade Art competition received an award for their achievements.

The Lord Major of Dublin Emma Blain was in the Oak Room. The ceremony started off with a few speeches and then there was the prize giving ceremony. The officer



went through each category and gave out the prizes.

When I got my prize, I took a number of photos in different places with my Mum and Dad and my Teacher, Ms Doheny. When I finally got home, I would rate my day as a 10/10. I had a fantastic time. Anabiyah (Rang 5, Ms Doheny)