

Digital Technology in Sacred Heart

As many of you will know, we are the lead school in the Dublin West ICT cluster. As a result of our participation in the initiative, it has been a hugely successful term for the development of ICT in our school. The pupils have been using iPads to improve their oral language skills as part of the primary language curriculum. We have seen excellent improvements in the pupils' attainment levels in literacy as a result and most importantly the pupils are thoroughly enjoying the experience of using digital technology!

We have received excellent feedback from the Department of Education regarding the school's approach to teaching ICT and this has led to our nomination as a model school for the European Digital Schools of Distinction initiative. In February, we had a visit from a group of principals from Malmo, Sweden. They were all very impressed with the positive ethos that has been created in our school and the standard of work produced by the pupils using digital technology.



The pupils should be very proud that their work has been commended on such a high level.

Developing coding skills with Scratch Junior in 2nd Class

RTE News2day came to visit the school in March and once again the pupils excelled! They demonstrated their impressive communication skills and knowledge of digital technology in their usual confident manner. As a staff we are very proud of the way the pupils

6th Class Science Blast



Congratulations to the boys and girls from Mr Burke's 6th class who were recently invited to take part in the ESB RDS Science Blast event. Their investigation "Which liquid makes the best bubbles?" drew a huge amount of interest from the public and received great praise from the judges. The children received excellent feedback from the judges in relation to the



Our Special Needs Assistants celebrating

An Active Term

There has been so much happening in our school this term as part of our participation in the Active Schools programme. Well done to all for taking part in our recent "Kilometre a Day Challenge". Students clocked up countless kilometres each day, taking them all around Europe. Our Active Flag Committee also set up a "Climb the Heights Challenge" where everyone was encouraged to take up their skipping rope and record the number of skips they completed each day. This week has been particularly exciting with several activities taking place each day as part of Active Schools Week. Children have been delighted to escape

A Message from Mr. Lyons

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are having our official Active Schools Week in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa this week, however I can assure you that this school is a hive of activity every week of the year! We have had a very busy term here in Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa since Christmas and there have been many notable events.

Pupils performed an Intercultural Concert for all classes on 5th March and for parents and guardians on 28th March. This was a very successful and hugely enjoyable event; well done to the backstage crew, announcers and performers and also to Ms. Dixon, Ms. Bacon and Ms. Mullany for the Trojan work that they put in to organising the concerts.

We held our annual Book Fair at the start of March and hosted a visited of author Marguerite Toney on World Book Day on 7th March. Thank you to parents and guardians for supporting the Book Fair and to the Parents' Association for helping to run the event.

Many children in 2nd class received the Sacrament of Forgiveness at their First Confession on 12th March. They are now looking forward to receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist at their First Communion on 25th May. Many 6th class pupils had their Ceremony of Light on 2nd April and are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 3rd May. Well done to all of these pupils and thank you to their teachers and SNAs for helping them to prepare for the sacraments.

Well done to the 5th class pupils, teachers and SNAs on their National Children's Choir Concert in the National Basketball Arena on 26th March. Their incredible efforts definitely came to fruition on the night and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Our Coiscéim classes really enjoyed their recent music therapy classes and are looking forward to their horse riding lessons after the Easter holidays. Staff and parents are also looking forward to a talk in the school that will be delivered by ASIAm founder Adam Harris on May 14th.

The school's use of ICT in supporting the delivery of the primary curriculum continues to develop. The purchase of an additional 16 iPads for use in the school was facilitated by the great efforts of the Parents' Association in organising the Christmas Raffle and the support of the raffle by our school community. Mr. Hanley's 2nd class showcased the school's use of ICT on the News2Day programme on RTE recently and they certainly did themselves, their families and the school proud. We are currently revising our ICT Acceptable Use Policy in the school. A draft policy will be issued to parents after Easter and we will invite contributions from parents/guardians at this time.

The Active Schools Flag initiative continues at pace in the school. Congratulations to Mr. Shelly and the Active Schools Team for all their efforts, in particular for the fantastic Active Schools Week that will finish in the school on Friday. The pupils will have earned a rest over Easter after all the running, skipping, hoola-hooping, 10 at 10s, Get Up, Shake Ups, Tug of Wars and Active Homework that took place this week!

I thank parents and guardians for their continued support and thank staff for their professionalism and commitment to school community of Huntstown. I hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you after the holidays.

Kieran Lyons

Parents' Association Update

It has been a busy term as always and we would like to start by thanking you all for your support in the Christmas Raffle which raised over €10,000 and enabled us to purchase 16 brand new iPads for your children's education and development.

We continue to support the progress of the IT department and have written to the Department of Education on your behalf to secure further investment in our school.

It was great to see the children appear on RTE Junior as part of the Dublin West ICT cluster, it gave them a platform to show the skills they have acquired with your support.

Under the guidance of Ms. Mullany, we helped to man the annual book fair, with this year being the best yet. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm the children have for reading! We also helped to sell the tickets for this year's intercultural show which was a great success and showcased the best of the children's talent from Senior Infants right up to 6th class.

We have funded new equipment for the girls' soccer team, with new shorts, socks and footballs being purchased.

We also ran a poll on our Facebook page to see how many of you would be interested in a new optional school jacket. The overwhelming majority was in favour and it will be available for the coming year, the purchase of which is at your own discretion.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to our Facebook page and our noticeboard at main reception where you will find contact details if we can help represent your voice in the school.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter!

Sacred Heart of Jesus NS Parents' Association

Please Note:

- ⇒ Parents/Guardians are invited to attend a talk on autism by Adam Harris (Founder & Chief Executive Officer AsIAm.ie) in the school at 1.30 p.m. on 14th May.
- ⇒ The school will be closed on Tuesday 7th May 2019 to facilitate Primary Language Curriculum in-service training for teachers.
- ⇒ The school has been requisitioned to act as a polling station for the European Parliament and Local Government Elections and Referendum on Friday 24th May 2019 and will be closed as a result.

School Calendar – Term 3, 2019

Easter Break: Monday 15th to Friday 26th April 2019 inclusive.

School will reopen after the Easter break on Monday 29th April 2019.

May Public Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019.

School Closure - Teacher Inservice:

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 7th May** to facilitate in-service training for teachers in the new Primary Language Curriculum.

School Closure - Elections: The school will be closed on **Friday 24th May 2019** due to Local and European elections.

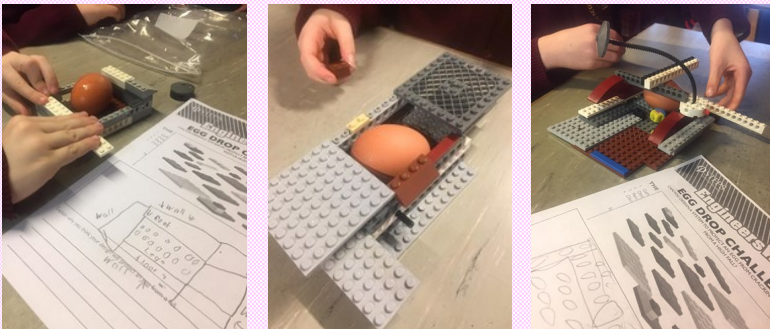
Important Notice

Additional Closures

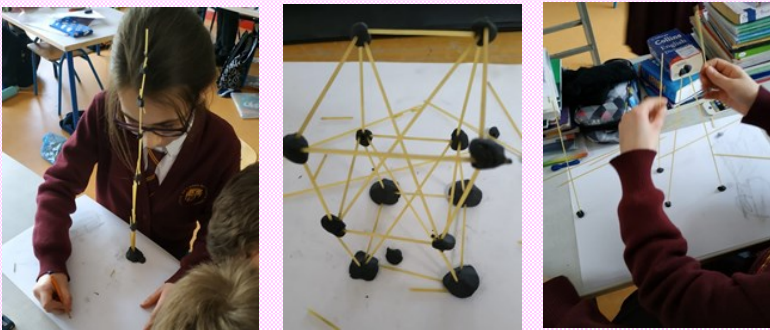
June Mid-term Break: Friday 31st May to Tuesday 4th June 2019 inclusive. School will reopen on Wednesday 5th June 2019.

Engineering Week 2019

Engineering week 2019 was thoroughly enjoyed with lots of activities across the school. Look at the ingenuity of our boys and girls!



Ms. O' Connor's 2nd class were tasked with designing and making an egg protection device.



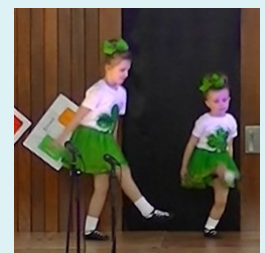
Meanwhile Mr Thynne's 4th class took on the task

Art and the Environment



Ms. Gillan's 6th class students were delighted to welcome Emily Robyn Archer to the school in February. She is an environmentalist and artist who shared with them a workshop on the health of our oceans and the impact of plastic on marine life. The students created sea turtles using

Rejoice!



Our Intercultural Concert on 28th March was a wonderful celebration of culture and heritage.



Log on to www.sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com