



# St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians

As we approach the end of the second term, I would like to extend my thanks for the generous welcome I have received from the school community. I commend you on your perseverance in supporting the boys through remote learning. The start of the second term was far from ideal and it was through the hard work and dedication on the part of the teachers and SNAs that the boys enjoyed engaging lessons.

## **Return to School Phases 2 & 3**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 we re-opened our school doors for our Solas Class. It was such a joy to see the boys back in their classroom and enjoying all the wonderful activities that their teacher Ms.Martin had planned for them. Our SNAs Linda, Cliona, Vivienne and Aisling were delighted to see the boys again. The boys settled back into the school routine so well and enjoyed playing with each other in the yard.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, we re-opened our doors for our full school cohort. This was a very special day as it was the first day, as the newly appointed principal, that I got to actually meet all the boys on campus. I had engaged with the boys every Friday during our year group Zoom assemblies, but I think we can all agree, that it is just simply not the same as seeing their lovely smiling faces in their classrooms.

A huge thank you and well done to our dedicated team of teachers, SNAs, secretaries, caretaker, cleaners, taxi drivers and bus escorts for ensuring that a smooth re-opening of our school was possible.

## **World Book Day:**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 the boys enjoyed some fun activities prepared for them by their teachers. They had wonderful book recommendations and were very eager to tell their teachers and myself all about their latest read. In the words of Victor Hugo “To learn to read, is to light a fire” and there were certainly fabulous flames burning in the minds of our boys when they were chatting about their favourite books. It was a pleasure to visit each classroom and read the boys a story. Keep up the reading boys and well done!

## **Seachtain na Gaeilge:**

Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn agus in go leor tíortha eile gach bliain.

Rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge an tseachtain seo caite. Bhí féidir le gach duine a gcuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh i rith na seachtaine. Bhí go leor imeachtaí eagraithe againn sna ranganna, ina measc, nuacht and lae, rannta and amhráin, scéalaíocht agus cluichí. Bhí an- sport againn!

### **Fundraising:**

*Children's Health Foundation Temple Street:* Our boys raised €1286 through the Trick or Treat event last October.

*Aoife's Clown Doctors Ireland:* Our Christmas Jumper day raised €714.50 for Aoife's Clown Doctors Ireland. This sum of money will go directly to sending smiles to children in the hospital wards of Crumlin, Temple Street and Galway University Hospital as well as children being cared for at home via online Zoom sessions.

*Inner City Helping Homeless:* The boys also donated the sum of €714.50 to the Inner City Helping Homeless organization in the run up to Christmas.

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings:**

Parent/Teacher meetings were conducted during the week of March 15<sup>th</sup> via zoom. Many thanks to parents for using Aladdin Connect to book your parent/teacher meeting.

### **Gaelgeoir na Seachtaine:**

Gach seachtain, spreagaimid na buachaillí a gcuid gaeilge a chleachtadh! Bronntar gaeilgeoir na faire an mbuachaill a dhéanann an iarracht is mó.

### **World Down Syndrome Day**

World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. While we were a little late to the party with our school's celebration of this day, we partied none the less!! It was such fun seeing all of the odd socks! Photos of these odd combinations can be seen in the gallery section on our website. Well done boys!

### **Cycling Bus**

The cycling bus is back in operation every Wednesday. A huge thank you to all parents involved in making this a success and encouraging their boys to cycle to school. A sincere thank you to Fergus Cooney for his efforts in keeping the momentum of the cycling bus.

### **Recording devices being brought into school/ AUP policy:**

It has come to my attention that some boys are wearing watches into school which have the capacity to record. Any devices from home that can record other boys in the classroom or the teacher are strictly forbidden as stated in the school's Acceptable Use Policy

### **First Holy Communicants**

Our Second Class boys are continuing to prepare for their Sacrament of First Holy Communion. They have been busy learning about penance and enjoyed the story of Zachaeus. It is lovely to hear them practicing their prayers and responses and we pray that they will get to receive this important sacrament in the very near future.

### **Enhanced cleaning throughout the school day**

Since the phased re-opening of our school, we have employed two onsite cleaners who do a thorough clean of the classrooms twice a day while the boys are enjoying play time on yard.

### **Discouraging play dates over the Easter holidays**

As we face a very precarious juncture in terms of rising Covid case numbers, I would urge all parents to be extra vigilant over the Easter break and to avoid meeting up with other families outside of your bubble. It is imperative that we work together to avoid yet another school closure being forced upon us.

### **Return of Books**

Your son has been bringing home books in his school bag over the last two days. This is merely as a precaution to avoid another book collection should the schools remain closed. Please ensure that books are popped into a bag on the Friday before the return to school and quarantined ready for use on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **Return to school declarations**

Please remember to complete your son's Return to School Declaration before his return to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This can be done on the Aladdin Connect App.

Finally, I would like to wish you a happy and peaceful Easter and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Le meas

Fiona Sheridan

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