



St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School

June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your support and cooperation in what has been an unprecedented, trying and difficult year for us all.

As we draw towards the end of the school year, we reflect back on all that the boys, the staff and you the parents, have achieved. While we contended with pods, bubbles, consistent hand washing and sanitizing, restricted teaching methodologies and remote learning, it is remarkable how far we have come. And still the wonderful boys in Belgrove JBS greet the staff with a smile every single day! They are a testament to their supportive and caring families.

It is a privilege to be a part of such a dedicated team of teachers, SNAs, Secretaries, Caretaker and cleaners who always have the interests of our boys at the forefront of their practice.

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our valued member of staff, Mary Valentine, who is retiring from her SNA role. Mary has been a long-standing member of our staff and will be missed by the whole school community. However, we are not fully saying goodbye to Mary, as she will take on the role of bus escort for our Solas boys. We wish her the very best of luck in this next stage of her life.

We also say farewell to Ms. Sinead Kennedy who was in a job-sharing SET role this year. We thank Sinead for her tireless dedication and professionalism and wish her the very best of luck in her new school. I know the boys and the staff will miss her dearly.

And finally, we say a sad but encouraging goodbye to our Second Class boys who are flying the Junior school nest. The boys will celebrate their Graduation Ceremony on Monday 28th June with their teachers, myself and Fr. Pat. What fine young gentlemen they are becoming! Congratulations boys! We are so proud of you all and we know that you will thrive in the senior school.

The final few weeks of school saw all of our boys enjoying teddy bear picnics, trips to the park and seafront, sports activities on the yard and the Astro and lots more.

We had a very successful Crazy Hair Day on 4th June where we raised €1187 for Focus Ireland. We also enjoyed a visit from the RNLI who hosted a wonderful presentation on water safety and beach flags to the boys.

Wednesday 23rd June was our 'Low Energy Day' as part of our Green School's Flag initiative. We made a concerted effort to use as little electricity and water as possible throughout the day. Well done to Ms. Oonan and the Green School's Committee for the 'energy' that they put into this day!

Congratulations to our two buddy creatives, who entered our Green School Art Competition, Tom Giles and Luca Hynes. Their fabulous masterpieces can be viewed on our school website.

As per Department of Education advice, it is anticipated that we will re-open our school gates on Tuesday 31st August with the same safety measures and protocols as the re-opening in March. This would include staggered opening and dismissal times, pods and bubbles, sanitizing of hands upon entry to school, wearing of masks for adults, no parents on campus etc. Should we receive any new advice from the Department of Education over the summer, we will notify you.

Our dismissal times for the last day of school on Wednesday 30th June 2021 are as follows:

Senior Infants and Second Class: 11:40 am

Junior Infants and First Class: 11:50 am

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful, safe and healthy summer and I look forward to welcoming you back on August 31st 2021.

Kind regards

Fiona Sheridan

Principal