



St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School

Hallowe'en 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Guardians

As we approach the midway point of our first term of the academic year, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Your active involvement and unwavering commitment to your son(s)' education makes a significant difference to our school community.

We have had a very busy and exciting start to the academic year 2023/24 and it is hard to believe that we packed so much into such a short space of time.

Junior Infants 2023/24

Congratulations to our super Junior Infants who have settled very well into the routines of 'big school'. It is always a pleasure to visit their classrooms and to see them relish the wonderful lessons their teachers have prepared for them.

A big thank you to the parents/ guardians for helping to ensure that the transition from pre-school to primary school was a positive one for your sons. A sincere thank you to our fantastic Junior Infant teachers Ms. Lynam, Ms. O'Dwyer, Ms. Martin and Ms. O'Grady along with our dedicated SET team and our SNAs who give such attention to the boys in their care.

Welcome to New Staff

We have the pleasure of working with two new staff members, Maria Carroll and Alan Robertson. We wish them the very best of luck and hope that they enjoy working in our lovely school.

School Assemblies

We have returned to our weekly school assemblies on Friday mornings where the whole school comes together to acknowledge the achievements of our boys over the week. Each week, every boy gets the opportunity to be crowned 'Gaelgeoir na Seachtaine', 'Handwriting Hero', and 'Kindness King'. As you can imagine, the teachers have a very difficult task at trying to choose who is awarded these certificates each week!

Assemblies give all the boys in the school an opportunity to come together as a community, acknowledge and praise each other for good effort and to showcase their talents as a class. We finish every assembly by singing our school anthem. Thank you to Ms. Halton for sharing her talent on the piano in accompanying the boys for our special school anthem.

Jersey Day

On Friday 13th October we celebrated 'Jersey Day' for Goal where we raised €890. Thank you for your kind and generous donations. It was great to see so many variations of jerseys on the boys!

First Holy Communion 2024

Our Second Class boys have received the important dates in relation to their First Holy Communion journey 2023/24. We look forward to sharing this special time with them and their families. First Holy Communions will take place on Saturday 25th May 2024 in both St. Gabriel's and St. Anthony's churches.

Junior Infant Photographs

Junior Infants got to say 'cheese' during their photograph session. They looked so smart and slick in their Belgrove JBS uniform! It is a lovely snapshot of this very important milestone in their lives.

Junior Infants Meet and Greet

A big thank you to our wonderful Parents' Association who organized a '*Meet and Greet*' event in the yard for our Junior Infant boys and their parents on Saturday 9th September 2023. It was a lovely opportunity for the parents to meet each other and enjoy a cuppa while their sons played in the yard.

Parent/Teacher Meetings in November 2023

Parent/Teacher meetings for Senior Infants to Second Classes will take place in a face-to face setting in the school building. Meetings will be held mid-November. Our Junior Infant meetings will take place in January 2024. We will arrange booking times via Aladdin in due course.

Prayer Service to celebrate the New Academic Year

It was wonderful to celebrate our new academic year with Fr. Pat, First and Second Classes, the teachers and SNAs, through a beautiful prayer service. Fr. Pat has also been a regular visitor to the classes this term and the boys are always so delighted to see him and ask him many questions!

Library Launch Book Fair

The school celebrated 'Literacy Week' from 9th October. The boys enjoyed extra D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) time and visits to the new library. Author Jane Landy of 'The Gringer Whinger' delivered an engaging workshop with our Second Classes while author Fiona Tierney and illustrator Úna Healy of 'Look What Blew into the Zoo' paid a visit to Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Classes.

Our Parents' Association ran a very successful 'Book Fair' in the library. It was lovely for parents/guardians to visit the space and see the fruits of the PA's labours in the library. Photos of our new library can be viewed in the gallery section of the school website www.belgrovejbs.ie.

As the school recoups 60 % of the purchases, I would like to thank parents/guardians for generously supporting this event. The gift of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children and it was wonderful to see the boys so enthusiastic when they were filling out their 'wish list' at the fair.

Stem Week

While many schools in Ireland celebrated Maths Week in October, our school has decided to combine Maths Week with Science Week later in the year, to allow the children to make more meaningful connections across these two disciplines. Further details of Stem Week will follow in due course.

Student Council

There was a very busy week of speeches, canvassing and promises from our super boys who were brave enough to put themselves forward as their class Student Council Rep!

Elections were held in 2nd classes to elect new members to our Student Council. Congratulations to our newly elected boys for the coming year. They are Rory, Seán, Harry, Max, Conor and Jack. They join Toby, William, Ethan, Senan, Leon and Peter.

The newly elected representatives were announced at our assembly. Well done to all the boys who were willing to represent their class. Thank you to Ms. McCaughey for organising the Students' Council. While I can't promise to build a swimming pool or a rollercoaster in the school, I look forward to working with them this year!

Dance, Sing, Act

This term saw the return of Rachel from Dance, Sing, Act in our Senior Infant and Second Classes. This is an exciting opportunity for our boys to nurture their artistic talents and creativity. Participating in the performing arts fosters self-expression, imagination and self-confidence, skills that are valuable both on and off stage. Rachel leads the boys in teamwork, collaboration, and communication while developing the boys' skills in dancing, singing and acting. We are very fortunate to be able to provide this wonderful extra-curricular activity to our boys. Our Junior Infants and First Classes will experience a block of these sessions later in the academic year.

Annual Quiz Night

Our traditional annual quiz night, as organised by our dedicated quiz committee, will take place on Friday 24th February 2024, in Clontarf Castle. Tickets for this event will go on sale on **Thursday 30th November at 7pm**. Please note that tickets for this event are non-refundable. As always, this event promises to be an unforgettable evening of laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, some friendly competition, all in support of our school. We look forward to seeing you there!

Evacuation Drill

Our routine evacuation drill will take place tomorrow morning, Thursday 26th October 2023.

The purpose of the drill is to ensure that our staff and pupils are well-prepared in case of an emergency or evacuation situation. We will practise our procedures for a safe and orderly evacuation of the school building.

During the drill, pupils and staff will be guided through the evacuation process, including how to exit the building safely, where to assemble, and how to account for all pupils. Rest assured, that this is a planned exercise and there is no cause for alarm. We kindly ask for your cooperation in discussing the importance of this drill with your son(s), emphasising the need to follow staff instructions for their safety.

Admissions Notice

A reminder that our Admissions window for Junior Infants 2024 and SOLAS 2024 will open on 1st November 2023 and will close at 5pm on 31st January 2024. Details of this process can be found on the school website www.belgrovejbs.ie.

Best Wishes Kris!

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our wonderful caretaker Kris. Kris has been an integral part of school life in Belgrove Junior Boys, Clontarf, for the past eight years. Kris has worn many hats during his time here, from gate keeper to sound and lighting engineer, to bus escort, to ICT Manager and best of all to “D.J. Kris” on Fridays! He will be sorely missed by all the staff and the boys. We wish Kris the very best of luck in the next chapter of his life with his family in Poland. Keep in touch Kris! We will truly miss you.

While we say a heartfelt goodbye to Kris, we extend a warm welcome to our new caretaker Alan. The boys have met Alan this week and I am sure they will think as highly of Alan as they do Kris. Welcome Alan and we hope you will be very happy with us in our wonderful school.

School Uniform

Please note that for the months of November, December, January, February and March the boys must wear their tracksuit **trousers**. **Shorts are not permitted to be worn during these months.**

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

Finally, the boys are invited to dress up in their Hallowe'en costumes in aid of 'Trick or Treat for Temple Street' this Friday 27th October. A donation of your choice to this worthy cause can be made via Aladdin. We would ask that no 'weapons' are brought into school and that costumes are not too frightening for our younger boys.

We have lots of fun activities planned for the boys and a welcome return of our 'Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Parade'. It is hoped to do our parade around the block at 9:00am sharp (weather permitting). We would ask that parents view the parade from the opposite path, as for health and safety/child protection reasons, it is vital that we keep our classes together.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, safe, and restful mid-term break and I look forward to welcoming the boys back on campus on Monday 6th November 2023.

Kind regards

Fiona Sheridan

Príomhoide