

February 2025

Mid-Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Guardians

We have had a busy start to 2025 and our second term of the academic year. I am sure that the boys are ready for their mid-term break! Please see below some of the wonderful activities and events which took place since our return to school in January.



Belgrove JBS Quiz

Friday 24th January saw the return of our traditional Annual Quiz Fundraiser in Clontarf Castle. A huge thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make this event possible. A special thank you to Aoife Harbourne and Síle Kierans who organised the event and coped with Storm Éowyn's attempts to scupper the night!

The storm didn't dampen the spirit of the night, and we had an amazing turnout and an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and friendly competition. This night is always a wonderful social occasion for our school, and this year's event did not disappoint. A sincere and well deserved thank you to our dedicated quiz committee who made the night the success that it was.

Thank you to our MCs on the night, Mick O' Keefe, Damien O' Meara and Mícheál Lehane. A huge thank you to all parents etc. who donated to this event. Because of your generosity, our school is in the enviable position of offering our boys a range of extracurricular activities that enhance our holistic approach to teaching and learning.



Junior Infant Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our recent Junior Infant Parent/Teacher Meetings provided a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to come together, discuss pupil progress, and strengthen our school-home partnership. These meetings are a vital part of supporting our boys, ensuring they receive the guidance and encouragement they need to thrive.

A big thank you to all the parents and teachers who participated—we appreciate your time, dedication, and collaboration in helping our wonderful boys reach their full potential!

Wellbeing Week



As part of our Amber Flag initiative to promote positive mental health, Wellbeing Week took place the week of 20th–24th January. During the week, we focused on how to keep our minds and bodies well with a range of fun and engaging tasks.

We replaced traditional homework with activities that encouraged wellbeing, such as taking a walk or doing some physical activity, performing an act of kindness, sharing three things we were grateful for and practising calming activities like drawing or deep breathing.

Buddy Reading



On foot of suggestions from our Student Council, our 2nd Class boys paired up with 5th Class in Belgrove Senior School to engage in **Buddy Reading**. This initiative pairs younger students with senior students to engage in regular reading sessions, fostering a love for reading and building connections across year groups.

Buddy reading offers numerous benefits:

- **For younger students:** It enhances literacy skills, builds confidence in reading aloud, and provides a positive role model to look up to.
- **For senior students:** It strengthens leadership, empathy, and communication skills.

We believe this initiative will create a nurturing and supportive learning environment for all participants. Our two schools will develop a greater connection, building on the sense of community between both and fostering new friendships.

Additionally, our boys will have the opportunity to get to know their senior buddy, creating a familiar and supportive connection as they transition to the Senior School.

It is hoped to include all classes in this worthwhile activity throughout the rest of this academic year.

The Mobile Music School



The boys had the opportunity to explore different instruments, experiment with rhythm and melody, and even try their hand at songwriting. Guided by experienced musicians, the workshop encouraged self-expression, teamwork, and confidence through music. The sessions were full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable musical moments!

Catholic Ethos



We celebrated Catholic Schools' Week during the week of 20th to 24th January. The theme this year was 'Alive in Christ'. The boys listened to a special prayer every morning, created beautiful artwork and remembered, in particular, their grandparents.

Our Second Class First Communicants have been attending their preparation masses for their First Holy Communion. They are also beginning to prepare for their Sacrament of First

Penance which will take place in St. Gabriel's Church at 1:30pm sharp, on the following dates:

Tuesday 1st April 2025: Room 7: Mr. O' Brien

Wednesday 2nd April 2025: Room 8: Ms. McGuire

Thursday 3rd April 2025: Room 9: Ms. Browne

We pray for and support our boys who are embarking on this important journey in their Catholic faith.

STEM Week



This week, we dove into the exciting world of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths** with hands-on activities, interactive experiments, and inspiring challenges! From learning about cybersecurity, wind turbines, medicine and health and exciting science experiments and maths puzzles, our boys showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills. Some Senior Infants even learned about how to fix a broken heart! Just in time for Valentine's Day!

W5 Belfast



On Monday we welcomed Matt and Benn from W5 Museum in Belfast for two "Now That's What I Call Science" shows for our students. The students witnessed some of science's greatest hits as they explored the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of STEM in this fun, interactive show with lots of volunteering opportunities. Through a series of demonstrations, they learned about inventions like the wheel, gyroscopes and wings and the science of spinning, air pressure and probability and their application to figure skating, segways and the chances of getting soaked by a water gun!

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who shared their expertise with the boys and everyone who participated in making STEM Week a success. Keep exploring, questioning, and innovating—because the future is STEM-tastic!

Internet Safety Day



On Tuesday 11th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day where the boys explored topics such as: What is the Internet? Screen Time Smarts, Fact Vs Fake and What is Online Advertising?

Welcome Charlie!



We're excited to welcome Charlie as our new caretaker! With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to keeping everything running smoothly, Charlie is sure to be a fantastic addition to our lovely school. Please join us in giving him a warm welcome and wishing him all the best in his new role!

Dismissal Time

Dismissal time will be as normal this Friday for the mid-term break.

Junior and Senior Infants: 1:20pm

First and Second Classes: 2:20pm

Solas Junior and Senior Infants: 1:10pm

Solas First and Second Class: 2:10pm

I wish you and your families a relaxing and reinvigorating mid-term break, and look forward to welcoming the boys back on campus on Monday 24th February 2025.

Kind regards

Fiona Sheridan

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