



SFA

# BULLETIN

March & April 2023

## A message from the Principal

Welcome to our bulletin for March and April. Due to the Easter break, we decided to combine the two bulletins. Over the last few weeks, the children have had some wonderful achievements and enjoyed some special celebrations. In this bulletin, you will hear about the First Holy Communion and Confirmation, our newest Green Flag and some fantastic sporting and music achievements. We really value the holistic development of the children and I am very grateful to all of the staff who help develop these skills and arrange these opportunities for the children. You will also hear about the Free School book scheme which will come into effect in September.

With the warmer months approaching, let me remind parents of the importance of applying suncream to the children. Often, they can be outside at various points throughout the day.

Kind regards,  
Johanne Dunne

MARCH & APRIL 2023



## Booklists for next year

From Sept 2023, the Dept of Education will be introducing a Free Schoolbook Scheme. This means that the school will receive funding to purchase schoolbooks for all children and parents will not need to purchase these. There will still be a charge to all parents to help cover the cost of photocopying, art materials, stationery, insurance and classroom resources.

The Dept of Education is providing €96 per child as part of the Free Schoolbook Scheme. As you will know from experience, this will not cover the cost of the books that the school has been using to date. With this in mind, we will be asking parents to donate certain books that have been used this year so that they can be used again next year by other children, to help keep costs down.

We will send a message to each class informing parents of the books we would like to keep in school to form part of our book scheme for next year. Your class teacher will be in contact about this shortly.

## Home Based Summer Programme

Some children with additional needs will be able to avail of the Home-Based Summer Programme during July and August. At this point, the Dept of Education have not released any information about who will be eligible and how to apply. As soon as I have an update on this, I will inform parents.

## School Calendar

The school calendar for next year is being finalised and will be released shortly.

## School policy updates

The annual Child Safeguarding Statement and Anti bullying review has taken place. These will be added to the website over the next few days. The staff have also updated a number of other policies this term. The updated Code of Behaviour will be on the website over the next few days. We encourage all parents to read this policy and if you have any feedback or suggestions, please email [principal@sfaps.net](mailto:principal@sfaps.net) before the end of May.

## Returning to school in September?

If your child is leaving the school next year or if you think this might be a possibility, please email the office to let us know. We have waiting lists for all classes next year and need to make sure we have accurate numbers for enrolments. [office@sfaps.net](mailto:office@sfaps.net)

## Early Collections

We have seen a large increase in the number of early collections from school in recent months. Please note that children should only be collected early from school if:

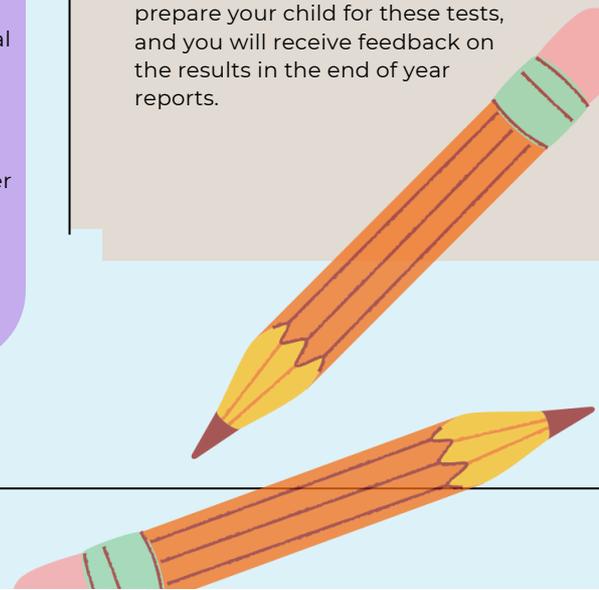
1. The child needs to attend a medical appointment that cannot be arranged out of school hours.
2. There is a family emergency. If you need to collect your child early, you need to inform your child's teacher beforehand. Collections cannot take place between 1 and 1:30 pm as the office is closed for lunch. All early collections are recorded as part of the child's yearly attendance.

## School Tours

You have received information from your class teacher about the upcoming school tours. You will also have received a payment link on the Aladdin app. You will appreciate there is a huge amount of organising that goes into the sixteen school tours. We ask that parents make the payment online as soon as possible to ensure we have everything organised for the day of the tours. Payment for school tours need to be made online. If you have any queries regarding your tour, please contact your teacher directly.

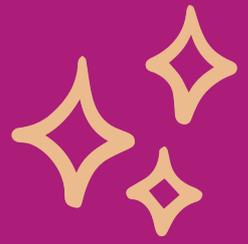
## Standardised Tests

Children in classes from Senior infants to 6th class will be taking part in standardised testing in areas such as Literacy, Numeracy and Spelling over the coming weeks. It is really important that children are in attendance for these tests as they help us track progress and set targets for the year ahead. Obviously, if your child is unwell, they should not attend school. You do not need to prepare your child for these tests, and you will receive feedback on the results in the end of year reports.





# School updates



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Active Schools Week May 8th-12th
- Communion Photographs May 9th
- Standardised Tests Senior infants to 6th class May 15th to 25th
- Junior Infant Parent Meeting May 17th at 7.30pm-parents only
- New Junior Infants school visit, June 1st from 2-3pm.
- June 5th and 6th- school closed for bank holiday
- Summer Fun Day Fundraiser June 10th 1-3pm
- 6th class Graduation June 23rd 1pm



## Gates

Reminder that children should not be on the school grounds before 8:50 am. There is staggered drop off from 8:50-9:00 am.



March & April

# CLASSROOM NEWS



## Communion

On 2nd March, the 2nd classes celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Holy Trinity Church. We were joined in the church by the children's families, Fr Gerry, Kristen, visiting priests from other parishes and 2nd class children from St Kevin's school. Ms Caulfield and Ms Doolan would like to thank the children for all their hard work learning their prayers and songs, and their families and the church community for helping to prepare them to receive the sacrament. We look forward to celebrating the sacrament of First Holy Communion in May.

## Botanic Gardens

Ms. Linehan's class really enjoyed a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens. We learned many interesting facts about the various trees that are growing both outdoors and in the huge glass houses.

## DCU Lego Superpowered programme

Ms Heavey and Mr Hughes' classes are taking part in the DCU LEGO Superpowered programme. We have all been working very hard learning about all types of energy sources, renewable and non-renewable. We have built a robot slug, an electric car, wind turbines, merry-go-rounds and power stations. We are going to DCU in June to present our own designed models using our new coding skills and to explain it all we are going to design posters using our great creativity.  
By Liliana in 5th class.

March & April

# CLASSROOM NEWS



## Confirmation

The pupils of 6th Class celebrated receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation Ceremony on the 27th of April at Holy Trinity Church. The ceremony was officiated by Father Gerry Corcoran. The school choir sang and delivered a lovely atmosphere to this special event. Thank you to all the staff who prepared the pupils for the sacrament, for the choir and music and assisted on the day. Congratulations to all the pupils on receiving their sacrament of Confirmation. We wish you many blessings for the future.



## Choir

For the past few months 4th and 5th have been practising songs for the National Childrens Choir Concert Which was held on the 24th of April in National Basketball Arena. We are so proud that we got to represent our school at this amazing event .We got to sing in different languages such as Latin, Gaeilge, Italian, Spanish, Slovakian and Ugandan. We also got to sing songs by famous composers like Mozart, Enya, U2 and ABBA. Our conductor was Anne Purcell and we had the best time ever. This is a memory that we won't forget. By Sarah, Kara and Caoimhe, 5th class



# Sports news



This term has been packed with sporting fixtures and events across all our school teams. Check it out below.

## Senior boy's & girl's GAA football

The Senior boys and Senior girls GAA teams both made it successfully through their groups' to the semi-finals of the Fingal league recently. Both the boys and girls met Gaelscoil Baile Brigín in their semi-finals' in Balheary. The boys led at half time but a flurry of goals from Baile Brigín early in the second half proved too much for St Francis. Even with a brave comeback in the second half. The girls lost to a strong Baile Brigín side and courageously displayed all the skills they had been practicing all year. Both teams represented their school so well and we are hugely proud of all their efforts throughout the year.



## Junior boy's & girls GAA football

The Junior girls team had a very successful campaign with some girls playing for their very first time in competition. Well done girls! The Junior boys GAA team are continuing their run and look forward to a semi-final in the Fingal league.





# Sports news



## Senior boy's hurling

This is the first year we have ever had a hurling team and our senior hurlers are still in the Cuman na mbunscol competition enjoying two wins from two so far. Onwards and upwards.



## Cross country

Well done to the children from 3rd to 6th who participated in the recent Dublin City Council Cross Country event on the 20th of April in St. Anne's Park. This event was a great experience for our athletes with over 1,300 children from schools in Dublin in attendance. The children had been very dedicated in the lead-up to the event, attending weekly morning training sessions before school.

We were delighted to take home some silverware on the day. Congratulations to Victor, Joe, Franio, Evan and Charlie from 3rd class and Matthew from 5th Class.



# GREEN SCHOOLS NEWS



## New flag for Global Citizenship

The Green Schools Committee was delighted to hear that our school has been awarded the new flag for Global Citizenship for Litter and Waste! We have been working toward this flag for two years and have been awarded it for our Green Schools Practices such as the Star Trophy, recycling, litter picking and using our organic waste in our wormeries. We have also maintained our other flags through promoting biodiversity, green travel and saving water and energy. The awards ceremony will be held in the Helix, DCU on the 23rd of May '23. Erin Gallagher 4th Class, Aaron Davidson 5th Class and Andrew Leslie 6th Class will represent the school and attend the ceremony. We want to thank all the students for working together towards this flag!

## *Note from* **The Student Council**

The Student Council are planning to run a bake sale on Friday 19th of May, with the help of the PTA in aid of Wells for Life and other Student Council projects. We will be asking families to donate cakes on the day. More info to follow on Aladdin.

# PTA UPDATE



## Summer Fun Day Fundraiser!

The PTA are excited to announce our Summer Fun Day Fundraiser that will take place on June 10th from 1-3pm to mark the end of a great year in St Francis of Assisi. We had originally planned to have a Summer Fair, but we have decided to postpone that until next year.

The Summer Fun Day will include a magician, face painting, sports activities, cake sale, uniform sale, outdoor games and a mega raffle!

As with all of our PTA events we need your help to make the day possible. **We are looking for:**

1. **Raffle donations-** unused gifts, gift vouchers, children's toys etc. If you work for a company or know of a company who may be able to donate a gift, we have a letter available to accompany the request. Please contact Johanne Dunne for this: [principal@sfaps.net](mailto:principal@sfaps.net). Donations can be dropped to the office at any time.
2. **Cakes!** We hope to set up tea/coffee and a cake sale on the day. Cakes can be dropped to the hall on the day at 1pm.
3. **Face painters!** We are looking for three or four helpers to do face painting on the day. This was a great success at our Culture Day earlier in the year. Please contact [principal@sfaps.net](mailto:principal@sfaps.net) if you are available.
4. Closer to the day, we will be looking for donations of **unwanted uniforms**. This event held earlier in the year was also a great success and parents found it really helpful.

We will be in touch closer to the date with more info and reminders.

PTA