

December 2015 Newsletter

Our Lady of the Wayside National School, Kiltiernan



Dates for your diary

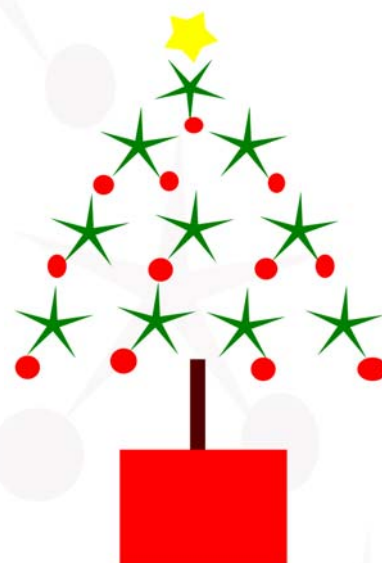
- Tuesday 22nd Dec 2015** School closes at 12 noon for Christmas holidays
Wednesday 06th Jan 2016 School re-opens following Christmas holidays
Friday 04th March 2016 Confirmation
Saturday 21st May 2016 First Holy Communion

Message from Ms. Carson:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the great support you give to our school. I wish all our pupils, their families and members of staff a very Happy Christmas and happiness and health in the New Year.

Nollag faoi sheán is faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir.

Brenda Carson (Principal)



Christmas in our school

Blessing of the Crib:

On Tuesday 8th Dec., Fr. Andrew celebrated mass at 11 am in Our Lady of the Wayside Church which was attended by children from 4th - 6th Class. After this Fr. Andrew came to the school to bless our crib. A representative from each class placed a statue in the crib.



Decorating our Christmas Tree:

All the children in our school are invited to make a Christmas decoration from reusable and recyclable materials for our Christmas Tree. The tree is on display in the main corridor. Parents are very welcome to come and see it.



Christmas Plays:

Many classes are performing Christmas plays and the hall is very busy these days with all the rehearsals.

Mon 14th	Tues 15th	Wed 16th	Thurs 17th	Fri 18th	Mon 21st
1-2pm 4 th Class	11.00 - 12.00 Snr Inf Ms. Dervan & 3 rd Ms. Galvin	9.30 - 10.30 1 st & 2 nd Classes	11.00 - 12.00 Jnr Infants	11.00 - 12.00 5 th Ms. Finnegan	1.00 - 2.00 5 th Mrs. Gannon
		1.00 - 2.00 6 th Class	1.00 - 2.00 3 rd Ms. Galavan		



Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings took place on 23rd and 30th November. Thank you all for coming to these meetings. It is important that we all work together for the good of our children.

Active Flag

We are working towards an Active Flag for our school. This involves, teachers, children and parents/guardians working together to promote healthy attitudes, skills and behaviours towards physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

To kick off our Active School programme, we took part in a Halloween Parade. To launch our Active School Slogan Competition the Active Schools Committee, along with support from 6th, 1st and 3rd classes organised a Flash Mob in the yard at playtime. It was a great surprise to many staff and children alike.

Keep an eye on the Active School's notice board for our progress to date and for upcoming events.

School Self-Evaluation

Staff have been looking at School Self Evaluation in the past few years.

Initially our work was in literacy when we adopted The Power Hour.



Last year we looked at Maths and updated all our resources and are now working on the area of problem solving. This led to a very successful Maths Week in October.

This year we are looking to PE and have registered to apply for our Active Flag. You will be getting details of this and related activities in the New Year.



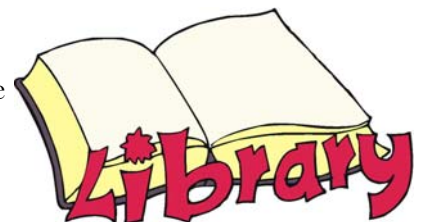
Library

We recently ran a competition in conjunction with the Book Fair for the children. Classes 1st to 6th designed a book cover of a character from their favourite book and some of the characters were amazing. Junior and Senior Infants did some fantastic colouring too. A winner was chosen from each class and they won a book voucher to spend at the Fair. All the winning pictures are on the notice board in the Library.

We have purchased lots of new books over the last few months some of which went directly into various classrooms for their class library. We are hoping to purchase some more books in the New Year with the commission which was earned from that Book Fair.

We would like to thank all the parents who have kindly donated books to the Library. The children love to see new books arriving.

Special thanks to the Parents' Association who organised and ran the Book Fair for us and thanks also to the parents who come in on a regular basis to tidy our library and to decorate it for special occasions.



Teacher News

We have welcomed several new members of staff to our school this year. All have settled in really well. I hope that they will be happy here with us and will find their time with us fulfilling and enjoyable.

Teachers have engaged in Continued Professional Development since September with workshops in Fire Safety, Health & Safety Risk Assessment and First Aid.

6th Class Retreat

The 6th Class Retreat was held on the 6th of November. Confirmation Preparation Masses are also taking place, similar to the Do This in Memory format as a lead up to the Confirmation on 4th March.

Do This in Memory Masses

The children in Second Class have begun their "Do this in Memory" masses each month in preparation for their First Penance and Communion next year.

All the masses are prepared by parents on a special committee. They are doing a wonderful job organising each mass and have been coming into the classroom to teach the children their songs. This makes the "Do this in Memory" programme very relevant and enjoyable for the children. It really helps them to understand that they are special members of their parish community.

RSE Programme

Mrs. Gemma Rowley came to speak to 6th class parents in our school about relationships and sexuality. The children attended 3 workshops in school given by Mrs. Rowley.

A big thank you to Gemma for the great work she did. This programme/workshops were funded by the school development fund and was enjoyed by all.

Our Lady of the Wayside Website

We have recently had our website totally revamped. Please take a look at: www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie.

Special thanks to Helen, our tireless secretary, who has put so much work into improving our website. From now on you will be able to read all newsletters on the site!

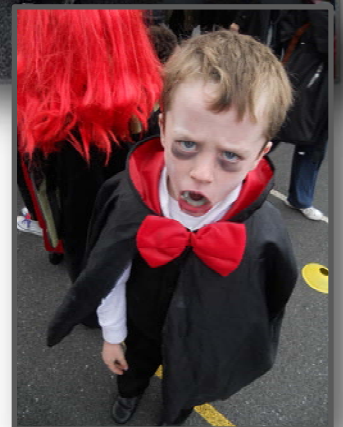
Cycling

Our Cycling Course starts on Wednesday 11th January 2016 for 6th Class. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council have contracted a company called "Cycle Safety" to run the cycling courses.

Cycle Safety will come to Our Lady of the Wayside and provide bicycles and helmets for all participants. This is a very important activity for the children of 6th Class to partake in, both in the interests of their safety on the roads and also for healthy exercise.



Halloween Fun



www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie

Academic Activities

- Maths Week – whole school activity and assembly.
- Science Week – whole school activities and assemblies
- Seiche Marine Workshop
- Cock-a-Doodle Doo – hatched 4 chickens
- Road Safety Week – RSA visits and talks
- Nutrition Workshops for Children (Orla McLaughlin)
- Visit from Garda Pat Cullen re Safety
- 6th Class Debating
- Intel Mini Scientist (5th and 6th)
- BT Young Scientist
- Fire Safety Talks 3rd & 4th Classes

Creative Activities:

Created by Ms. Galvin's third class—
Bethlehem sunset pictures.



Other events which have taken place:

- Presentation of Flag and Proclamation 22 Sept.
- Prayer Service for Fire Victims
- Minutes Silence for Famine Victims 25 Sept.
- Talk for parents in C. Of I.
- Visit of Sam Maguire Trophy (below)



Social Inclusion Week 2015:

Schools Drawing Competition winner was Kate Fensom. A delighted Kate received her trophy from An Cathaoirleach.



Safety Issues:

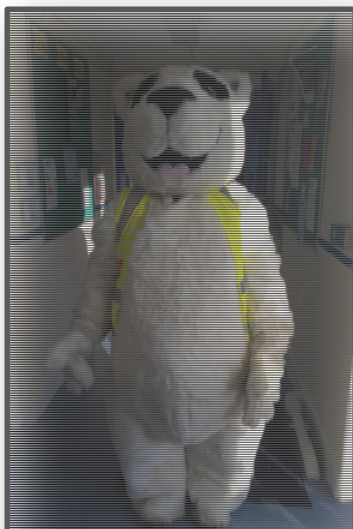
In the interests of safety you are reminded not to park on the yellow markings outside the school or on the Footpaths at the main road blocking the path for pedestrians with buggies.



Everyone should enter and leave the school by the school pedestrian gate, not by the staff car park gate. Only children accompanied by an adult may walk through the Church grounds.

Again, in the interests of safety we request that adults do not wander freely through the school. Any person coming to the school should go to the office. Teachers have requested that parents do not go directly to classrooms as this is a disturbance to their work. If a child has forgotten a lunch or any other item these may be left at the office and will be delivered to the child.

Please remind the children that they should line up in the morning and enter school with their line. Lining up time is 8.50 am. Remember: Entrance should be through the yard and not through the front door.



Preparations for the harsh winter weather!!!

Hopefully we won't experience any severe weather or heavy snowfalls this winter. However, in the event of a bad spell of winter weather, we will endeavour to keep the school open.

The school website (www.ourladyofthewaysidens.ie) will be updated regularly with school arrangements. Parents will also receive text messages informing them of any changes to the normal school opening times.

If snowfall or very icy conditions occur, please remember that it is acceptable to drop your children to school later than 8.50am, if you are in a position to do so. This will ease the traffic flow and ensure a safer environment for all.

If any parents are available to help clear footpaths of snow during the school week (particularly mornings), would they please leave their names and contact numbers with Helen in the school office.



Hopefully, we will not have to resort to any of these arrangements over the coming months!!

Charity News:

Shoebox Appeal

A huge 'thank you' to all who contributed to the Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal.



Science Week

All about our eyes:

Jacky Mountjoy from Specsavers visited. She gave a talk about our eyes and showed us how easy it is to have our eye-health checked.



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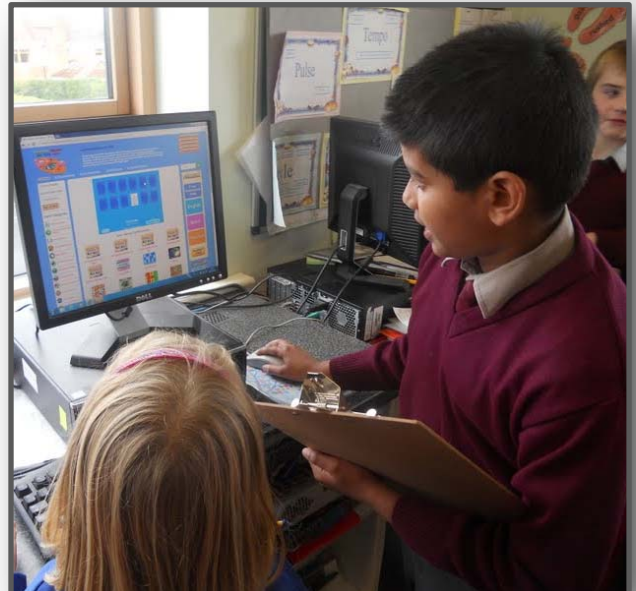
Science Week

BT Young Scientist 2016:

Ms Gannon's fifth class have been selected to exhibit at the BT Young Scientist in the RDS on Saturday January 9th. Their project is 'Is Memory Affected by Age or Gender?' They have been busy over the last few weeks testing a variety of people.

They tested Junior infants, second classes and sixth class. They also tested teachers, SNAs, parents and grandparents. Each participant completed three memory tests. We are busy analysing data and drawing up our conclusions.

Our findings will be presented in the RDS in January. We would welcome anyone from school to visit our stand on the day.



Junior Infant News

There was lots of 'egg-citement' in Junior Infants during Science Week. We took part in the 'Cock-a Doodle Doo' project and were able to look after four chicks in our classroom over a two week period. We even got to watch some of them hatch out of their eggs. The rest of the classes helped us name the chicks. Fifth and Sixth class named their chick 'Carlos', Third and Fourth class called their chick 'Cheekee', First and Second class named their chick 'Black Quack' and Junior and Senior Infants called their chick 'Fuzzy'. We learned about how to care for newborn chicks. As our chicks were roosters, we are now experts on the life cycle of the rooster!



1916 in our School:



Message from Parents' Association:

Our Santa Walk was held in Djouce Wood on 6th December. A fantastic day was had by all and Storm Desmond stayed away long enough for the children to enjoy meeting Santa and playing in the woods.

Our special day was made possible by the generosity of the following:

- Tutor Images
- Tom Keogh
- Dunnes Stores
- The Box Tree
- Topaz
- The Market
- Fire and Stone
- Kennedys of Stepside
- RTE
- Tadhg Sullivan

We would also like to thank the car park volunteers and all the children who also helped.

Happy Christmas from the Parents' Association.

New Board of Management:

Patron's Nominee:	Fr. Andrew O'Sullivan
Chairperson:	Mr. Colman Curran
Principal:	Ms. Brenda Carson
Teacher Nominee:	Ms. Catherine Mulvihill
Parent Nominee:	Mrs. Elaine Conry
Parent Nominee:	Mr. Nigel Start
Community Nominee:	Mrs. Kathryn Bennett
Community Nominee:	Mr. Hugo Doherty

We wish to thank the members of the Board of Management which has just retired for all the work they have undertaken on our behalf. The most recent evidence of their work is the new door and new windows to the front of the school. These are visual evidence of the work they do but there is a lot undertaken on our behalf for the benefit of the children and the greater school community which goes unseen. We thank them for that.

We wish to acknowledge in a particular way the work of our outgoing Chairperson, Barbara Roe. Barbara has been a tireless worker for the school for many years and has contributed greatly to the workings of the school. Barbara will always be most welcome in our school.

Santa Walk:

The annual Santa Walk took place in Djouce Wood on Sunday 6th December. A great day was had by all.

Thank you to the Parents' Association who put so much work into the arrangements for the day. It was a particularly trying time for the parents with the dreadful weather leading up to the day.



Well Done All