

Our Lady of the Wayside N.S.

Newsletter

2nd February 2024



New Board Of Management

The process to complete the formation of our new Board of Management is now complete. The Board comprises of myself and seven others. I'd like to welcome and thank our volunteers who are:

Fr. John Delany (Patron's Nominee)

Mr. Nigel Start (Patron's Nominee/Chair)

Ms. Miriam Ross (Parent Nominee)

Mr. Ricky Gill (Parent Nominee)

Ms. Kathy Mc Hugh (Community Nominee)

Mr. Larry Roe (Community Nominee)

Ms. Helena Gannon (Teacher's Nominee).

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing Board Members who gave so generously of their time for the benefit of our school. I'd like to thank *Ms Trish Blee* and *Mr. Paul Mc Inerney* who were our two former Parent Nominees along with *Mr. Stephen Walsh*, *Ms. Mary Costello* and *Ms. Eve Martin*.

Important Upcoming Dates

5th February 2024

Bank Holiday Monday- No School

12th—16th February 2024

Mid Term Break—No School

23rd February 2024

Fáilte Friday

8th March 2024

School closed to be used as a polling station.

Mid Term Break



Hot School Lunches

I am delighted to let you know that we have been approved to take part in the newly expanded *Hot School Lunch Scheme*.

This programme will see every child being provided with a hot meal each day FREE which parents can select via an app.

We are currently going through a process of procurement and consultation and I will be in touch further when the programme is ready to launch.

I'd like to thank those that are assisting in the process, a focus group which involves a number of representatives from our Parents' Association along with representatives of parents of children with severe allergies.

It is anticipated that the scheme will roll out in our school from approximately April onwards once all preparations are complete.

We are one of 900 Primary School who are joining this scheme this year however it is anticipated that it will be extended to all primary schools in the country over the coming years. We look forward to sharing more detail with you over the coming weeks.

Fáilte Fridays

The provisional dates will be:

23rd February 2024

22nd March 2024

26th April 2024

31st May 2024



**** Attendance ****

All schools must monitor, record and make statistical reports with regard to attendance. Please can I ask you to update the reasons for any absence on Aladdin.

*At several times throughout the year, **ALL families will receive an email** which will show the exact number of absences we have on record for your child.*

You will receive this email before the February mid-term break.

Please advise the class teacher immediate-

School Self Evaluation

All schools in the county are currently entering a new phase of what is called School Self Evaluation (SSE). Previous cycles of SSE in our school have focused on a number of areas including elements of literacy and Maths.

We are currently working in terms of narrowing our focus and identifying areas to be specifically targeted. We are looking at a range of areas to target which may include areas relating to Special Education, Reading, Oral Irish and aspects of Wellbeing.

Wellbeing: Relationships and Partnerships

All schools in the country will be involved in a new national Wellbeing Framework by 2025.

However, following on from Covid, I am pleased to say that as a school we have already started on certain elements of the framework as part of our SSE.

We are placing a focus on Relationships and Partnerships.

The Wellbeing Framework outlines different partnership that school should aim to develop including :

- parent/teacher partnerships
- school/community partnerships
- peer/peer relationships and partnerships

Aspects of this framework will feature in our School Self Evaluation Plan.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice

2018-2023

Revised October 2019



Prepared by the Department of Education and Skills



Policy Updates

The following policies have been updated and are available on our school website:

- ◇ Stay Safe Policy
- ◇ Social Personal and Health Education
 - ◇ Child Safeguarding Statement
 - ◇ Parental Complaints Procedure
 - ◇ Anti Bullying Policy
 - ◇ Religions Education Policy

Notification regarding the Board of Management's annual review of the anti-bullying policy

To: _____
The Board of Management of Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. wishes to inform you that:

- The Board of Management's annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation was completed at the Board meeting of 22/1/24 [date].
- This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in **Appendix 4** of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Signed Maura Spout Date 22 Jan 2024
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed Jana Downes Date 22 Jan 24
Principal

School Curriculum Inspection– Maths

We took part in a two day Maths Inspection earlier this month. This involved a team of two Primary School Inspectors from the Department of Education visiting our school to examine the overall provision of Maths in the school and the learner experiences in the area.

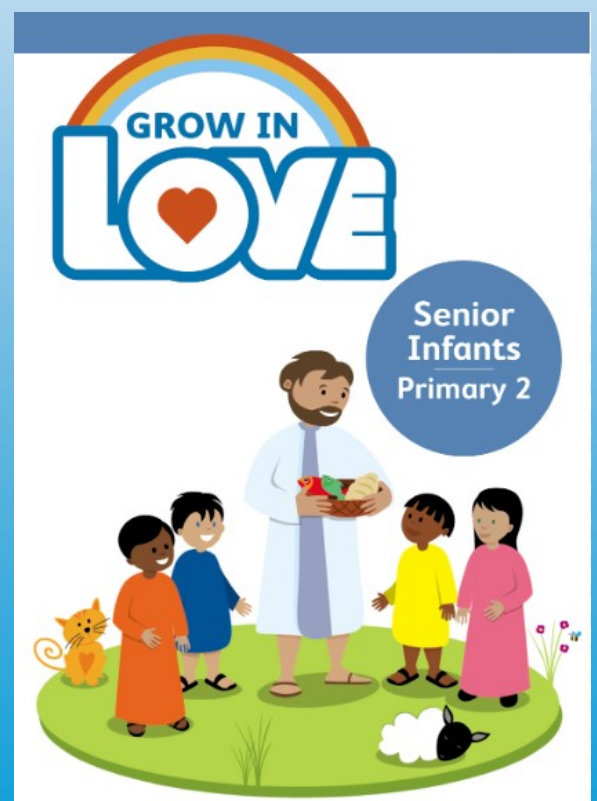
Over the course of the two days, all class levels were visited along with a range of Special Education settings. Many thanks to those pupils from 3rd to 6th who assisted with an inspector led focus group and to those that assisted with a digital display using our laptops.

We are pleased to say we were given very positive feedback and look forward to working on their recommendations once the report is completed.

Diocesan Advisory Visit

This month we also welcomed a visitor from the Diocesan Advisory Service to our school

This involved a special visitor, Sr. Maureen to our two 2nd and 3rd classes to discuss the lessons in the Grow in Love Programme which we use as part of our Religious Education Programme.



The Hospital

Ms. Keating's class learned all about the hospital and ways we can keep ourselves healthy. We built hospitals in the construction area, worked within the hospital in the role play area, acted as pharmacists making medicine from sand and completed lots of other activities.



In Ms. O Connor's class we really enjoyed doing Science with our buddies.

We had to create a boat out of plasticine and we tested them to see which one could hold the most chickpeas before sinking.



We also had lots of fun learning new skills in GAA and Gymnastics this month.



Ms. Martin's class has been having great fun exploring length in Maths! They also got their photo taken with the Sam Maguire cup!



Gymnastics

At the moment, all classes up to 2nd class are doing Gymnastics. Here are some snaps of our 2nd Class having fun taking part in a four week course with Alberto from Olympian Gymnastics Club.



Ms Gibson's—Day out at the Young Scientist!

A brilliant day attending the RDS on Jan. 12th to support Ms Gannon's 4th Class who were participating in the Primary Science Fair. A great opportunity to see their fantastic investigation and explore the work-shops, stalls and shows.



St Brigid's Day

5th showed a keen interest in making Brigid's crosses using reeds. A bit tricky to start with but worked brilliantly in pairs.



6th class were looking at natural features in the local area.

They completed projects in their groups and researched the information on the laptops.

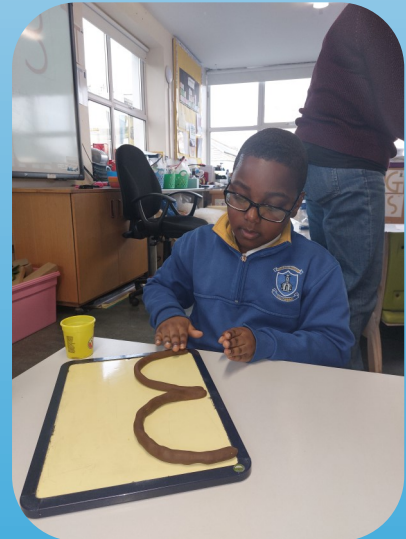
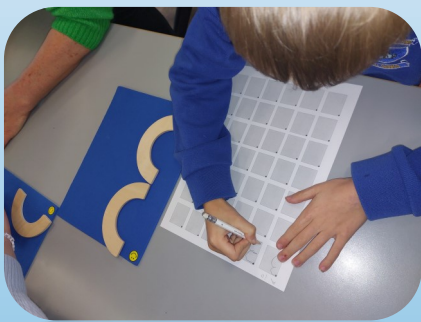
Some of the projects looked at Powerscourt Waterfall and the Great Sugarloaf mountain.

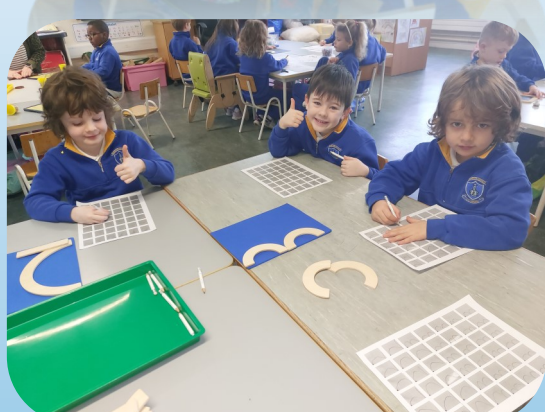
Handwriting Without Tears

Since December, we have been trialling elements of a programme called Handwriting without Tears in both our Senior Infant Classes. A HUGE thank you to our parent volunteers who were so generous with their time to support the trial of the programme.

This is a multi-sensory programme deigned by Occupational Therapists which involves lots of fun activities and engaging ways to do letter practice.

It was great to afford all our pupils an opportunity to engage with the programme which could not have happened with the generosity of Leslie, Louise and Sara, our three parent volunteers from Senior Infants.





3rd Class celebrating with the Sam!



A Busy Month in 3rd Class

Mr. Davis' 3rd Class have had a very busy start to 2024. We had a great time learning all about St. Brigid, her life story and we used rushes to make St. Brigid's Crosses.

We were also delighted to welcome Dublin Senior Footballer Liam Smith into the school with the Sam McGuire Cup. The class had some brilliant questions prepared and even managed to get some auto-



BT Primary Science Fair

Ms Gannon's fourth class had the most amazing day presenting our project. We shared our findings that fingerprint patterns were inherited. We had a higher match to our family members (61%) than our non related classmates (28%). We had our highest match to our mam at 70% and our sisters at 64%. Grand-fathers also had high matches at 67% (fraternal grandfathers) and 60% (maternal grandfathers). We had the lowest match to our grandmothers, 20% match to our maternal grandmother and 40% match to our fraternal grandmothers. We had a 55% match to our dads and 48% match to our brothers.

We had fun visiting the 3D shows and getting lots of free goodies! A great day and we were presented



Sam Maguire

We had an exciting visit from Sam Maguire during the week.

The cup was brought in by James from Stars of Erin and Liam, a member of the Dublin panel from Ballinteer St Johns!

It was great to see everyone in their blue for the Dubs!

