

St. Philip the Apostle Junior School



SPRING

Newsletter

March 2024

Dear Children and Parents,

We have had a very busy Spring Term here at St. Philip the Apostle Junior National School and it's hard to believe that Easter time is now already nearly upon us. Well done to all the children, teachers, SNAs, Ms Harte, Caroline & Anthony and the school wardens for all their hard work this term.



Cloud Forest

It was a rainy day for the soil prep event – but not as bad as the rain warning had us expecting! Yes, we all got wet and muddy – but sure, that's half the fun! A little gentle encouragement from the rain to work faster meant we flew through the work, and the volunteers got to have a cuppa and cake as a reward! Tree Planting day on the 5th was just as wet and successful. Four hundred trees have now been planted. Thanks to all of the volunteers, both local and from further away. It was a great day, and we loved seeing so many people engage in the process. Thanks to Cloudforest, all their volunteers and all the wonderful students, parents and staff who joined in. There are fabulous pictures and videos on our webpage.

<https://www.stphilipsjns.ie/current-projects/urban-forest/>

Lotto

We are delighted to announce the launch of the St. Philip the Apostle JNS fundraiser lotto. The St. Philip the Apostle JNS lotto is a fundraising initiative where the money raised will be used to directly support your children's education and enhance their school experience, including playground equipment, IT equipment, sports and music equipment. We would love to raise enough money to create a new soft-play area and maintain the one we already have here. We hope that the weekly option of €2.50 per line will allow everybody to contribute. Please pass the word on and invite friends and family. If you can contribute €5 for 3 lines it would be hugely appreciated and you never know you might just win. The jackpot grows each week up to a maximum of €2,000. If the Jackpot is not won, then there is still a weekly lucky winner of €20. A big congratulations to all our Weekly Lotto winners to date.

<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stphilipsjns>



Parachute Jump Fundraiser

Our lovely SNA, Sharon is registered to do a parachute jump on April 14th to raise money for our planned school sensory garden. To assist her fundraising we are doing a little fundraiser in school on the 12th April – Crazy Hair Day – Messy, arty, funky the crazier the better. Please bring €2 for the Crazy Hair Bucket!



Lá Gaeilge

We were thrilled to be able to bring back our Lá Gaeilge assembly this year. We had a fantastic day in school on 16th of March celebrating this special day. The hall was like a sea of green with the children all dressed up for the special occasion. We had Irish music, dancers, songs and poems, and lots and lots of fun. A big thank you to all the staff and children and to Ms. Scully and the team for organising the fantastic event. A big thank you to Mr. Conneely who was the host. Lá iontach agus spraoiúil a bhí ann.



Junior Infants Enrolment 2024/2025

Thank you to all the parents and incoming junior infants who attended the Open Morning on Friday 23rd February. The children had a great time looking around the school. Infant classes are full for next year and we continue to operate a waiting list. Thank you for your patience.



Adult Education Classes in St. Philip the Apostle

Our wonderful Home School Liaison officer – Ms Harte – is always looking for input from parents about classes to put on here in school while the children are in school. Yoga is on every Tuesday morning. A big congratulations to the parents who just completed the Money Matters course. English classes continue on Wednesday at 11.30-1.30. The Adult Education has great courses too. Please log on to enquire about their free courses.

<https://www.adulteducationblanchardstown.ie/>



Sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion 2024

Children in our Second Classes received the Sacrament of Penance on **Thursday the 14th March**. It was a lovely service and the children were all brilliant. They will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on **Saturday 18th May**.

Bookings for next year for Afterschool Care with Tigers is now open. Please email enquiries to <https://tigerschildcare.com/centres/st-philips-national-school-now-open/> or call 086 0104956. Early booking is recommended as places are filling up fast. Contact the National Childcare Scheme at <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/>

This NCS provides financial support to help families with childcare costs. There are two types of subsidies available for children aged between 24 weeks and 15 years of age.



HOLIDAYS 23/24

Easter Break: School closes at 12.00 on Friday 22nd March. The school will re-open on Monday 8th April.

Maths Curriculum In-Service Day: The schools (Junior & Senior) will be closed on Thursday 11th April to facilitate teacher training in the new maths curriculum.

May Mid Term: The school will be closed Monday 6th to Friday 10th of May.

June Bank Holiday: The school will be closed Monday 3rd June.

Summer Holidays: The last day of the summer term will be Friday 28th June. The school will close at 12 noon on this day.

Thank You for your continued support, enthusiasm, and cooperation.

Hoping you all have a safe and peaceful Easter .

Ruth Molloy (Principal) & Gráinne O Sullivan (Acting Deputy Principal)

