

Easter Newsletter (2025)



St. Francis Xavier Junior National School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a busy Term 2 here in St. Francis Xavier JNS. Here is an outline of some of the wonderful activities that the children have been taking part in:

STEAM Academy: In January, as part of the children's digital literacy development, all pupils got to sample robotics. Without doubt, the robotic 'dog' was a big hit with the children.

Engineering Week: Engineering Week took place from the 3rd – 7th of March and the children were busy creating walking paper dogs as well as attempting engineering challenges created by Engineers Ireland. The children in Room 10 were also treated to a talk from Jasper's mum who works in engineering. Thank you to Ms. O Connor for her work organising all the fun activities during this week.

Bee Bots: Our Bee Bots arrived at the end of March. They are child friendly robots that help the children develop their counting, directional language and programming skills. Thanks to Ms Reilly and Ms Keogh for organising.

Wellbeing Week/ Positivity Week: took place from 3-7th February. The week started colourfully, where we showed our 'bright side' through clothing. The children also practised how to breath mindfully, using their teddies. 1st and 2nd classes took part in an art activity which was displayed around the school. Bubbles and music took centre stage in yard and our 'Compliment Wall' is flourishing. Even the staff enjoyed wellbeing activites in the form of a healthy breakfast and some after-school yoga. Thanks to our hardworking Wellbeing Team lead by Ms Mulready for a great week.

First Confessions: Congratulations to all our second class children who made their First Confessions recently. They did their families and school proud. Thank you to Ms Mahon, Ms Dervan, Ms Griffin and Ms McCarthy, their wonderful teachers, who prepared them so well for the day.

Swimming: Well done to all our second class swimmers who are mid way through their six swimming lessons in Coolmine. It was noted by the swim instructors how good the children are at listening and following instructions.

World Book Day: World Book Day took place on the 6th March. It is always an exciting and fun day for us all. Staff and children enjoy this annual dress up day and most of all, it develops interest and curiosity in all things books!

Book Fair: We would like to thank you all for a very successful Book Fair again this year. Your continued support allows us to stock our school libraries with new and interesting books for the children. A big thank you also to members of our Parents's Association who helped out on both days. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Ms Cobbe and her little helpers for their work during and after the Fair.

Seachtain na Gaeilge: Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from the 11th -14th March and the children were immersed in our Irish culture for the week and even played football, as gaeilge! Ms. Corbett organised a visit from Comhaltas, who played a variety of Irish music for the 1st and 2nd class children. Geraldine Corrigan, an Irish dance teacher associated with our school, was a huge hit with the junior and senior infants. A big, go raibh maith agaibh, to our mini múinteoirs who helped Geraldine teach! Our week finished in a sea of green, with a Ceolchoirm in the halla for the whole school. Maith sibh go léir agus míle buíochas Ms Corbett!

Restorative Practice: This term, we began our journey in Restorative Practice here in St. Francis Xavier JNS. We are particularly focusing on developing the children's skills of empathy and problem solving.

Junior Juries: Ms Scannell and Ms Reilly's class are taking part in the Junior Juries Programme. The wonderful readers in Room 9 will make their own selection of suitable titles from the books shortlisted for the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards. At the end of this process each group is asked to collectively vote for their favourite book. Let's see if their selection will match that of the adult judges!

World Down Syndrome Day/Neurodiversity Week: We began our celebrations of diversity with World Down Syndrome Day on the 21st March and continued our celebrations of diversity last week, during World Autism Day. The theme this year is, Celebrating Minds of all Kinds. We celebrated in many ways, from colourful socks, to art, to a guided sensory walk, culminating in a whole school song using Lámh signs, last Friday. The funds raised totalled €271.10 and will be split between the charities, Down Syndrome Ireland and My Canine Companion. Thank you to Mr Murphy and his team for organising.

Congratulations: Congratulations to Ms Reilly and Ms Mulready who were recently appointed as Assistant Principals.

Thank you as always for your support and wishing you all a safe and happy Easter break.

Le meas,
Olivia Barrett

Principal