

# SAINT MICHAEL'S NS NEWSLETTER

## School News

February and March have been very busy months here in Saint Michael's and I would like to thank our amazing staff for all the hard work they put in to going the extra mile to organise activities, lessons, talks and trips to enhance our pupils' learning. Here is a round up of all the wonderful things that have been happening in our school:

- Dance classes started again with Dance it Out Ireland
- 4th - 6th class went to a rugby blitz at Young Munster
- 5th & 6th class started sustainability education workshops with Sinéad Nic Shiacais
- Engineering week was March 4th to 8th. 2nd - 6th class enjoyed workshops with Francesca Zanella (Rudy in 3rd class's Mammy). Huge thanks to Francesca for coming in.
- World Book Day was on March 7th and the children (and staff!) came dressed as their favourite book character.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge: we held lots of exciting events including Radio na Scoile, an poc fada competition, a concert and a céilí mór. Congratulations to Lucjan in 4th class who won the poc fada. Maybe we have a future Limerick hurling All Ireland winner in the making!
- Neurodiversity celebration week: some of our amazing pupils shared what neurodiversity means to them, Dr. Jennifer McMahon, head of the Educational Psychology Department in Mary Immaculate College ran workshops for pupils and the whole school completed a self portrait for a display entitled 'All Different, All Welcome'.
- On Friday 22nd of March 5th and 6th class organised an egg hunt for each of the classes in the yard. Thank you to them and the teachers for organising this.

## What's inside?

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On a more serious note, the teachers and I have noticed that some issues are coming up in school around social media / Snapchat / WhatsApp /online gaming. Pupils do not have access to these in school, so we would ask all parents to please speak with your children about using apps and chat features in games and how everyone can enjoy technology in a positive way. I would also like to gently remind parents that many of these apps have age limits and therefore many of our pupils are too young to be using them. I would encourage parents to inform themselves on what your children are using and be aware of who they are chatting to online. Let them know what to do and who to speak to if they see or hear anything hurtful or inappropriate. The Webwise website has excellent advice around this: <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>. Finally, The Department of Education have published guidelines for parents and school to draw up a voluntary code on no smartphones for primary school pupils, so if this is something parents are interested in, we would be very happy to start the discussion.



Seachtain na Gaeilge events





2nd & 3rd class at Engineering Week workshop

## Student Council

Our Student Council members are Hailie, Mieszko, Rosie, Loago, Lucjan, Blen, Holly and Igor. Our teacher link is Ms. Stackpoole.

The Student Council asked everyone to bring in a donation of €2 for Lá glas and they will use this money to buy new, stronger equipment for the yard as we are finding lots of the equipment isn't lasting very long when it is being used by lots of children every day.

## Green Schools

In February we had a visit from the Green Schools assessor and she was very pleased with our progress. We are hoping to be awarded our first flag before the end of the school year.

Our Green School team for this year is: Evelyn and Szymon (1st class), Freddie (2nd class), Aaron (3rd class), Zalharam (4th class), Iga (5th class), Sophie and Annabelle (6th class).

Here are ways to support the Green School Initiative:

- Every child should bring a small towel to school everyday
- Bring a reusable lunch box
- Use a reusable drink bottle
- Take any waste from lunch home.
- Bring used batteries in to our battery collection point outside the office

## Dates for you diary

**April 12th** - final dance class

**April 17th**- Villiers sports day for 4th - 6th

**May 3rd & 6th**- School closed

**May 15th**- UL sports day & in-school sports day

**May 31st & June 3rd**- School closed

## P.T.A. News

Thanks to the P.T.A. for arranging a social event 'hot chocolate and chats' on the same evening as the internet safety talk for parents. Those who were able to make it said it was a great evening.

The P.T.A. are in the process of organising the Family Fun evening which will be held at the end of May. If you have any ideas for this, would like to run a stall or help out, please get in touch: [pta@smnslimerick.ie](mailto:pta@smnslimerick.ie)



World Book Day



4th & 5th class at Limerick City Art Gallery

## Parish News

### COMMUNITY CHOIR

**8 WEEKS ON WED  
@7.30PM, ST MARY'S  
CATHEDRAL  
& AN EVENT ON 31ST  
MAY  
CATHERINE@MINISTR  
YOFHEALING.IE TO  
SIGN UP**

FREE TO EVERYONE  
TO COME ALONG! NO  
SINGING EXPERIENCE  
OR SKILL NEEDED -  
JUST BE KEEN TO GIVE  
IT A GO!

Church's Ministry of Healing



5th & 6th class at the rugby blitz



Junior and Senior Infants making pizza