



St. Clare's Newsletter

February/March '24



Principal's Message

We have arrived at the St Patrick's weekend and over the past week or so we have been turning our thoughts to new beginnings. With the arrival of Spring, the school displays are most colourful and vibrant. Our St Patrick's Day celebrations came with a lot of energy and the children all celebrated their Irish Identity with the wearing of the green and concluded with a good old fashioned Ceol agus Craic in the assembly hall on Thursday afternoon.

A lot of work is ongoing throughout the school. I was walking through the corridors the other day and it struck me the amount of work which the children and teachers and classroom assistants are engaged in. Every corner of every corridor and classroom is a hive of activity. Small group work, reading groups, project work and the day-to-day busyness of the school is there to be seen. It is wonderful to see the team work so independently and yet so together if that makes sense.

In this issue of the Newsletter, we will showcase our activities through photographs, and it is a snapshot of the many opportunities afforded our pupils. There is a real buzz about the school, and it really inspired me to see everyone meaningfully engaged in the teaching and learning right across the school from Nursery to P7.

Of course, we rely so heavily on the support of our wonderful parents and without your encouragement and participation, we would not achieve the standards which we do. We see ourselves not just as a school in the community but as a community school. This was really evident during my recent interviews with all the P7 parents when selecting their post primary schools for their children. The feedback received from you our parents, as well as the help for our Newcomer families through Mrs Brennan, was an example of how the school and community are working so well together. Long may it continue. Mr O'D

St Clare's Choir Perform at the Peace Proms in the SSE Arena

What night we had at the SSE Arena on 26th February when our wonderful choir had the opportunity to with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. Having received the music in October and after many rehearsals, the pupils learned their range of songs and accompanied dance moves to pull off a spectacular performance in front of 5000 people. Anyone who was there, and every pupil had family representatives in the audience, will never forget the experience of a lifetime as the combined choirs were accompanied by a 140-piece orchestra, pipes and drums and special guest performers. Under the baton of world renowned conductor Greg Beardsell, the choir sang their hearts out. See videos of the performances on our

Twitter **Feed** **@stclaresps**



World Book Day

The pupils had such fun on world book day. Thank you so much to the tremendous efforts by the pupils and especially the parents. It all added to a wonderful buzz around the school and highlighted once again the joy of reading and the important role it plays in the education of us all.

There will be a second photo gallery newsletter distributed to all at the end of the month with photographs of World Book Day, Confirmation and Peace Proms. Look out for this on Seesaw, Twitter @stclaresps, website www.stclaresps.com , and Face Book @ Friends of St Clare's.

School finishes for all pupils for Easter on Thursday 6th April at 11.00am. Classes resume for all on Monday 17th April.

February Rights Respecting School and Pupil of the Month Winners



Sacraments

On the 7th March we had the pleasure of witnessing our P7 pupils receive the sacrament of confirmation. Fr Devlin celebrated the ceremony and with the assistance of our P6 pupils in the choir, the day was a most solemn and happy occasion. Congratulations to all our Confirmandi.

Best of luck to our P3 pupils who will be celebrating the sacrament of First Confession this coming Tuesday 21st March at 11.00am in St Paul's Church. As this is a very special occasion, the children will be allowed to go home after the ceremony. We thank the Teachers and Classroom Assistants for all the hard work getting them ready for this important step in their faith journey.

Sporting Activities

We are very proud of our sporting teams and throughout this term our P5, P6 and P7 pupils have been busy on the hurling, gaelic football, soccer and camogie fields. We are also very encouraged by the numbers attending our after schools training. This is not just great fun, but is also great for the pupils well being both physically and mentally.

The highlight this term has been the performance of our Boys' Soccer team who got through to the Finals of the Belfast Championships only to be pipped at the post on Finals Day. Well done to all and especially Team Brennan our Coaches



P6 Transfer Meeting

This coming Wednesday 22nd March at 2.15pm in Mrs Logues classroom, there will be a meeting for all Parents of P6 pupils who are intending to let their child sit the Transfer test in November 2023. There is a new format for the test this year and it will be important that at least one of the parents of each child will be in attendance. The meeting will outline the new format, provide important dates in the coming months and offer you support. We intend to run after school classes as well as a summer scheme for these pupils and details of these activities will be disseminated at this meeting.

P4 Do This In Memory of Me Mass

The next mass for the P4 children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion will take place in St Paul's Church on Sunday 26th March at 12 noon. We encourage all our pupils and parents to attend as we approach that important date on Saturday 20th May at 11.00am.

May Holidays and Exceptional Closures

As well as the May mid term break which takes place at the end of May from 29th May to 2nd June, additional days have been handed to the school by the government where the school will be closed to all pupils. Monday 8th May the school will be closed for the King's Coronation. The school will also be closed on Thursday 18th May to accommodate the local council elections.