



# School News

September 2023



Welcome back everyone. A very special welcome to our new **Junior Infants Class and all our new families.**



Well done to 6th Class pupil **Alex Butcher** who recently secured his place on the Irish Under 12 Optimist Sailing Team. In August 2024 Alex will travel along with the team to the Welsh National Sailing Academy in Pwllheli, North Wales to compete at the Optimist British Nationals. This is a large international sailing event attracting sailors from all over Europe and America.



**Say Yes to Languages** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be taking part in the Say Yes to Languages Programme. They will have an eight-week introduction to Spanish.

**SAPA** SAPA are delighted to be back in action for the new school year and have already met and come up with some dates for the diary! We have also welcomed a couple of new members and are excited to get going.

We would like to share with you a short summary of SAPA's financial status. A fantastic €8,528 was raised during the last academic year with highlights including the May Fair (€2,620 raised), swimming lessons income (€1,364 raised) and numerous cake sales (€928 raised). Last year our main contribution was towards the 14 new iPads and a charging station for the school. We also gave €500 to the Dublin Simon charity, Our accounts have now been externally audited and if any parent wishes to look through them please feel free to get in touch with us at [sapa@standrewsns.ie](mailto:sapa@standrewsns.ie)

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to bringing more exciting events in the 23/24 year to raise funds for our school and to bring our community together.

## Dates for the Diary

27th Oct -  Junior Infants & 3rd class Cake Sale & when the sun sets & the skies darken we'll trick & treat at our spooktacular Halloween Disco (details to follow) 

## Gibneys Wine Fair

This year's wine fair was held in Gibneys itself and was a great night. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and bought raffle tickets. We were lucky winners on the night with 3 of the prizes going to St Andrew's families and teachers.

## September Fun Friday

We all came to school dressed in our own style for Fun Friday. The theme was 'We are all unique, we celebrate difference'.



## Around the Classes

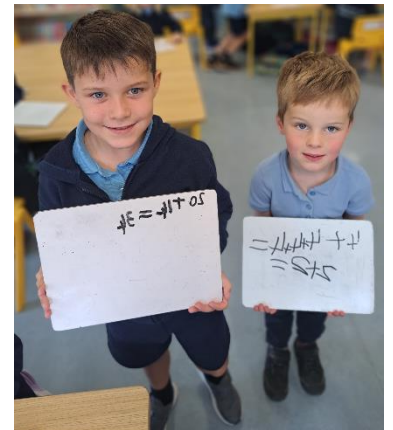
**Junior Infants** have had a fantastic first month of school, making new friends and settling into St. Andrew's NS. In Play and Learn they looked at the themes of the home and the doctor's surgery. They had a great time exploring different roles, building, creating and painting. They have been learning all about Mé Féin in Irish and have learned lots of new words, phrases and songs. They love using their new Irish phrases throughout the day in school! They enjoyed looking at their individual features in the mirror and painting beautiful self-portraits. They explored all the similarities and differences they have between each other in Junior Infants and had great fun celebrating their uniqueness! They learned the Haka Gaelach in support of the Irish rugby team in the World Cup and have been enjoying following their success so far. They have been playing some new games in PE, using the parachute and doing Daly Fitness.

They have done lots of fine motor activities to get their hands ready for all the writing they will be doing. They have been working very hard, having lots of fun and settling really well into school life!



**Senior Infants** have had a busy September settling back into school. We learned all about our school and the post office in Play and Learn this month. We did a scavenger hunt around the school, went on trips to the post office and lots more imaginative activities! The children have been learning all about the vowel letters in Jolly Phonics and can now sing a lovely song to remember them! In maths, the children learned the numbers 5 and 6 and rhymes to remember how to write them, and also used Lego bricks in maths to help with learning to write sums! We had our first visit from Mouse from 'Owls' who held a quiz for the class about lots of Irish animals. We look forward to a busy October learning all

about autumn. 🍂



**1<sup>st</sup> Class** really hit the ground running this year with not one, but two new teachers!!! They soon got used to this new routine. They have settled in very well and have already shown a great new level of independence.

It has been a busy month, starting off with some great investigations into our senses. This topic proved to be a great hit, with the girls and boys carrying out many different experiments on their senses with the "smelling pots" being a firm favourite, despite the stinky vinegar!!!

Focusing on our whole school anti-bullying theme, celebrating our uniqueness as individuals, the class had super fun creating rainbow clouds, celebrating each of their own special traits. The boys and girls were also busy preparing their first assembly of the year and really loved getting up in front of the entire school and reminding the children of the anti-bullying topic covered. They were very brave, with each and every child taking part.

Other topics that we learned about this month included addition in maths, Mé féin in Gaeilge, school in the past in history and aerial photography in geography! First class were also thrilled to begin reading buddies, where each child was paired up with a child in Sixth Class. They get a

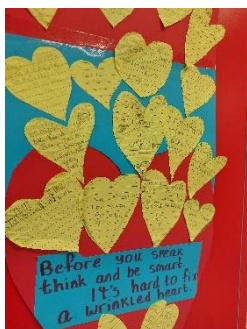
chance to read together on a weekly basis and they loved their first session together. Well done First Class on all your hard work this month!



**2<sup>nd</sup> Class** What a great start to the year with Second Class. We have had a blast getting to know each other and getting to know our beautiful new room. We feel very lucky to have an amazing library in our classroom filled with wonderful stories and to celebrate Roald Dahl Day the children worked hard in their art lessons to create individual hot air balloons. They have immersed themselves fully into the challenges carried out in their maths lessons, revising and practising skills learnt last year and also learning lots of new skills too, they even created a human number line. Second Class are working hard on their cursive writing and are keen to use their free-writing copybooks, giving each child an opportunity to

express themselves and write their own stories. There has been a focus on adjectives this month to help develop storytelling skills and a notable highlight in the class was reading the hilarious poem 'Giants I have known' by Colin McNaughton. Second Class have been supporting the Irish rugby team by learning the Irish 'Hacka' and creating their own hand-drawn Irish rugby

jerseys. The class have been working on 'Mé Féin' in Gaeilge lessons with regular visits from our special guest Walt (an t-éan oráiste) who has a real grá for Gaeilge. SESE brought us on a google tour of our location, highlighting the historical landmarks in Malahide and the surrounding areas. We are so lucky to have students born in different parts of the world, so the class explored the world map on the wall and learnt all about the continents. The anti-bullying topic for this month focuses on how 'we are all unique' and 'the importance of not excluding one another'. This allowed us to explore the 'Wrinkled Heart' activity which provided students with a powerful visual that shows the effects hurtful words or behaviours have on someone. The activity is a great reminder to be kind to others. Well done Second Class on a great first month!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** have had a wonderful few weeks being back at school. They have been working very hard as a class in all subjects. We looked back at our history and learnt that houses were very different in the past especially when it comes to household items. We examined some of the different items that people used in their homes years ago. Without electricity, people had to be very creative when cooking food and washing their laundry. We came to appreciate all the things we have in our homes today. In *Gaeilge*, we have been busy learning new phrases and vocabulary to describe ourselves. We have been singing the "Hokey Pokey" in Irish together. This has helped us to remember all the different parts of the body.

The children also created some wonderful pieces of art this month. We learnt all about Frida Kahlo who was a Mexican artist famous for her self-portraits. Using pastels and different coloured fabrics, the children created their own "Frida Kahlo" masterpieces. Third Class also hosted this month's assembly sharing the importance of celebrating differences in our classrooms. We read the story "The Dot" together and created our own collaborative art

piece. Everyone did such a fantastic job! With October just around the corner, we have lots of fun things planned in preparation for Halloween. We will continue with our Daily Exercise, GAA and try out some more fun activities.



**4<sup>th</sup> Class** have enjoyed a lovely September, settling back into school life and adjusting to different routines in a new classroom environment. In *Gaeilge*, they focused on the topic of *Mé Féin*, making fun personal posters and shoe designs based on themselves. We started our literacy stations in English, exploring and trying lots of new skills from comprehension boxes, free writing and grammar games. In maths, they revised some of the key skills learnt in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and enjoyed revision tables games adding a bit of competition to the classroom.

In SESE we began the month exploring the different seasons and the Sun and how our planet and our local community especially, adapts to changes in weather. We finished the month, diving into all things Rugby World Cup, which the class loved, getting to study different countries, players and the overall history of the tournament. In visual arts and music, we were inspired by our SESE themes and created globes, sunset drawings and rugby jerseys, as well as learning Ireland's Call.



**5<sup>th</sup> Class** began the school year by embracing the ethos of teamwork. We discussed what a positive classroom should be and devised our whole class agreement based on this discussion. As part of our well-being learning, we discussed the importance of having positive relationships. We created "positive petals" where each child was given a classmate to write six positive things about. This month, 5<sup>th</sup> class welcomed two new class members. We are so happy to have Daniel and Paige in our class! In maths we learned how to build 3-D shapes and competed to see which group could build the tallest free-standing structure in 5 minutes. We learned about figurative language in English and composed our own poems using similes. In art, we began by drawing self-portraits. We learned about the artwork of Paul Klee and recreated his famous Sun and Castle painting using either warm or cool colours. We also learned about ancient aboriginal art and celebrated International Dot Day by creating our own version of Aboriginal dot paintings.

We have been lucky to have a teaching practice student in our class for the last couple of weeks. Ms. Collins has been doing some very interesting activities with the children, such as studying the novel "War Horse", learning about life in Dublin City in the past, and what life is like for people living in Kenya. She also created some beautiful autumnal artwork with the children using leaves, twigs, petals and berries.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Class

6<sup>th</sup> class have had a wonderful month back at school. They are busy working on their organisational skills, keeping their desk spaces and cubbies tidy and maintaining respectful relationships and interactions. In SPHE they are exploring the idea of empowering mindset and are reminding themselves of their many strengths and their capacity for facing and overcoming challenges! They have begun Reading Buddies with 1st class and are really enjoying their Tuesday afternoon reading sessions. Tuesdays are busy days with swimming and literacy stations too. The class are exploring reading skills such as inference, prediction and determining importance as part of literacy stations as well as grammar skills and oral language games. The class explored the theme of space and planets in SESE. They learned about the early astronomers and the discovery of our solar system and how the names of the planets come from Roman gods. They made beautiful solar system artwork with chalk pastels which explored light and shade. The class are enjoying their lessons with Ms. McLoughlin our B.Ed student teacher, particularly the interactive Irish games and fun PE lessons. The class are also enjoying their Friday 'Daly exercise' sessions with Sean. The class have been developing their musicality, learning about brass instruments and listening to and performing songs by Miley Cyrus and Luke Kelly and are looking forwards to leading their church assembly next week.



## Assemblies

We had three assemblies in September. Ms. McElhinney led the first assembly. She welcomed all the children back to school and talked about all the things we do every day in St. Andrew's such as being kind, showing respect, doing our best work and much more!

3<sup>rd</sup> Class and Ms. Halligan led our 2<sup>nd</sup> assembly. They focussed on our anti-bullying topic of celebrating difference and including everyone.

1<sup>st</sup> Class and Ms. Ryan and Ms. Poyser led our 3<sup>rd</sup> assembly. They also focussed on celebrating our unique traits and being kind to all. Both classes led excellent assemblies and we all enjoyed them.

## September Anti-Bullying Topic

All classes focussed on our theme of 'We are all unique, we celebrate difference'. It is so important to recognise that although we are all different, we should treat everyone equally and include everyone. We should never leave anyone out, point at or laugh at anyone just because they seem different to us.

Being different  
is ONE of the  
most BEAUTIFUL  
things on earth.

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EMBRACE YOUR "YOU"NESS.  
Adrian