



School Newsletter March 2022

Wonderful Wednesday Fun Day in aid of Neurofibromatosis: Many thanks to everyone who donated to this important cause which is close to our hearts as 3 of our current pupils are living with this condition. Over €870 has been raised!

Confirmation 2022: Congratulations to our 74 pupils who made their Confirmation in two ceremonies on Friday March 4th 2022.

Parents' Association: We thank the Parent's Association for organising our Class Calendars for 2022 and also for providing 'goody bags' for all our 6th classes following the recent Confirmation.

The P.A. is currently planning future fundraisers.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contribute so much to the social and academic life of the school. More volunteers are always needed so if you feel you could spare some time to help at any events please get in touch with any member of the Parents' Association, or directly with the school and we will forward your details.

School Calendar:

Easter 2022: School will close on Friday 8th April at 12:30 for the holidays and reopen at 9:20am on Monday 25th April.

N.B. The following are recent changes to our school calendar-

- On Wednesday March 30th the school will **close at 12:30** in conjunction with the Junior School in order to facilitate In-Service training for staff on the Primary Language Curriculum as sanctioned by the Department.
- In Term 3, there will also be a **full day's** In-Service training for staff on Monday May 16th. School will be closed for pupils on this date.
- In place of the Public Holiday assigned to March 18th last, we will now be taking our remaining school holiday on Friday June 3rd

Peace Proms: This year's Peace Proms Concert with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland was postponed until Saturday May 7th and Sunday May 8th in an effort to go ahead with live performances. Ticket release dates have not been set yet. In the meantime, our fourth class pupils are busy learning the repertoire of songs for the concert.

Rugby Blitz: All classes have been invited to take part in a Tag Rugby Blitz at Barnhall Rugby Club on Tuesday 5th April. 3^{rds}/4^{ths} will play in the morning; 5^{ths}/6^{ths} will play in the afternoon. €3 will cover the cost of hiring buses to transport pupils to and from the venue.

Cross Country: 53 of our pupils took part in the Parkside race on March 2nd where three of our 6th class runners won medals! Well done to all our runners and good luck in the next race on March 29th.

Roof Repairs: We are delighted to report that the long-awaited roof repairs have finally been completed.

ASD Special Class: The building project has passed the tender stage and we are awaiting an update on when building works could begin. The class is scheduled to open in September 2022.

Student Council: Following successful class elections held in November, our current student council has been formed with 2 representatives from each of the 8 classes from 4th to 6th. They promoted both the International Day for People with Disabilities on December 3rd and the Christmas Jumper Day/Santa Visit on December 6th in aid of Crumlin and Temple St Children's Hospitals. They also helped to organise our recent Wonderful Wednesday Fun Day in aid of Neurofibromatosis. They meet regularly to represent the ideas of their classmates.

Active School's Committee: The committee was formed in December from volunteers from each class. They recently conducted a survey of Parents' views on P.E. Pupils have been taking part in the 'Fyffes Fit Squad Initiative' and the 'Run Around Ireland Challenge'. The committee have also made suggestions for the purchase of additional P.E. equipment which will be purchased with the support of funds gratefully received from our Parents' Association.

Internet Safety: We have been made aware in the last few months of issues involving pupils being exposed to inappropriate content on social media. Through our SPHE programme and more recently for our 3^{rds}, a Cyber safety workshop from Barnardos, we try to raise the children's awareness of online difficulties and safety, but it is vitally important that parents/guardians inform themselves

of their children's online activity. We urge you to talk with and listen to your children on this very important issue. Suggestions for parents are available at www.webwise.ie

Uniform: Due to the ongoing need to provide additional ventilation over the past two Covid-19 years, we relaxed the wearing of the school uniform. This has allowed pupils to wear the **school tracksuit** more often for additional warmth indoors and to cater for the increase in outside activities.

However, please note that this does not mean pupils may wear non-uniform clothing.

Contact Details: May we remind parents/guardian of the importance of keeping the school informed of any changes in contact details in order to ensure that we can contact you without delay in an emergency situation.

Absences: All schools are mandated to send a 'return' to the National Education Welfare Board for any pupil who reaches 20 absences in a school year. There is no allowance made on this number in regard to any type of 'Covid-19 related' absence. If a child is not at school, they must be recorded as absent. However, the NEWB is well aware of how Covid-19 has impacted on school attendance across all schools. For the purposes of these school returns to the NEWB, if absences related to Covid-19 are explained via letter, email, phone-call by parents/guardians, they are recorded as explained in the school returns, thus satisfying requirements.

Please consider visiting our school website www.scoilsancarlo.ie for school information and news of activities.

Le gach dea ghúí

Clare Mac Hugh

Principal