



## **School Newsletter March 2023**

**Confirmation 2023:** We congratulate our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who made their Confirmation on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March last.

### **Parents' Association:**

Thank you to the Parent's Association for organising our Class Calendars for 2023 and also for providing 'goody bags' for all our 6<sup>th</sup> classes following the recent Confirmation.

They are holding a **School Disco** for pupils on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> between 8 and 9:30pm. Please take note that no mobile phones or energy drinks are permitted and pupils must be collected by a parent or guardian. The cost is 3 euro and there will also be a Tuck shop.

### **School Calendar:**

On Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

On Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> the school will be closed for the St Patrick's Day Public Holiday.

Easter 2023: School will close on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12:30 for the holidays and reopen at 9:20am on Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Council:**

Our Student Council have been busy recently. Following petitions from their classmates, they have organised mirrors for the toilet areas in all the classrooms.

They also ran the survey on the school uniform, the results of which you can see below.

They are currently in the process of organising a fundraiser for those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. More details will follow shortly.

### **Peace Proms:**

This year's Peace Proms Concert with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland took place on February 4<sup>th</sup> last at the RDS, where our wonderful fourth class pupils joined thousands of other children in a wonderful and uplifting celebration of music and song. We are so proud of how well they performed. Grateful thanks is due to Ms Ward, Ms McDermott, Ms Enright and Geraldine McKiernan for all the time and effort they put into the practices, and the organisation on the day.

### **Corfhéile:**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class choir has been preparing for the Corfhéile na Scoileanna-Ireland's largest music festival for schools- in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght on Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> next from 10:30 am. This event runs over a number of days and participation is non-competitive. Parents are welcome to attend and support. There is a small entry fee at the venue. Huge gratitude to Ms McDermott and Mr Hodgkinson for all their hard work getting the choir ready for the big event.

### **Cross Country:**

Over 50 of our pupils will take part in Cross country races on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to Mr Sherlock for organising the school team. We wish them the best of luck!

Beidh **Seachtain na Gaeilge** ar siúl ó Márta 13ú go Marta 16ú .

Classes will be involved in a number of events at school such as an Art competition, Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine, Céilí dancing and Tráth na gCeist. We encourage you to use whatever 'cúpla focail' you might have with the children during the week.

**Friendship Week** will take place from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pupils will be taking part in lessons and activities to promote the importance of being kind to one another and to consider what good friendships look like.

### **Internet Safety:**

**This continues to be a topic of concern** with increasing reports involving pupils being unkind to their peers online or being exposed to inappropriate content on social media. Through our SPHE programme, Internet Safety Day, and Cyber Safety workshops from An Gardaí and 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](http://www.webwise.ie) and on [www.cybersafekids.ie](http://www.cybersafekids.ie)

**Uniform:**

As you are aware, following representations from pupils, our Student Council surveyed pupils, parents/guardians and staff on their opinion on the wearing of the school uniform. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

74% of parents who responded indicated that they would prefer the children to wear the tracksuit.

14% prefer the uniform.

22% said both or either.

88.5% of parents who responded said they would be in favour of the pupils' wish to wear the tracksuit all year round instead of the uniform.

8.6% said they didn't agree.

2.9% said both or either.

There were a number of valuable and interesting suggestions made in relation to ways in which uniform cost could be minimised. Pupils are already allowed to wear a generic version of the uniform or tracksuit, but a separate iron-on crest being made available or being able to buy tops and bottoms separately would certainly help. We will investigate the possibilities in relation to the ideas suggested. The result of the survey will be discussed at the next Board meeting in April. Any changes to be made to the Uniform Policy would NOT be immediate; rather they would be introduced over the next few years.

**Contact Details:** Please remember that it's important to keep 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 pupils who reach 20 absences in a school year. There is no allowance made by the NEWB on this number of days in regard to the type of absence. If a child is not at school, they must be recorded as absent. If absences are explained via Aladdin, letter, email, phone-call by parents/guardians, they are recorded as explained in the report.

Please do consider visiting our school website [www.scoilsancarlo.ie](http://www.scoilsancarlo.ie) for school information and news of activities.

Le gach dea ghuí

Clare Mac Hugh  
Principal