

St. Helen's JNS

Newsletter - April 2022

World Book Week

We had such fun celebrating World Book Week in March. We enjoyed sharing lots of stories in school and during DEAR time we read ourselves.

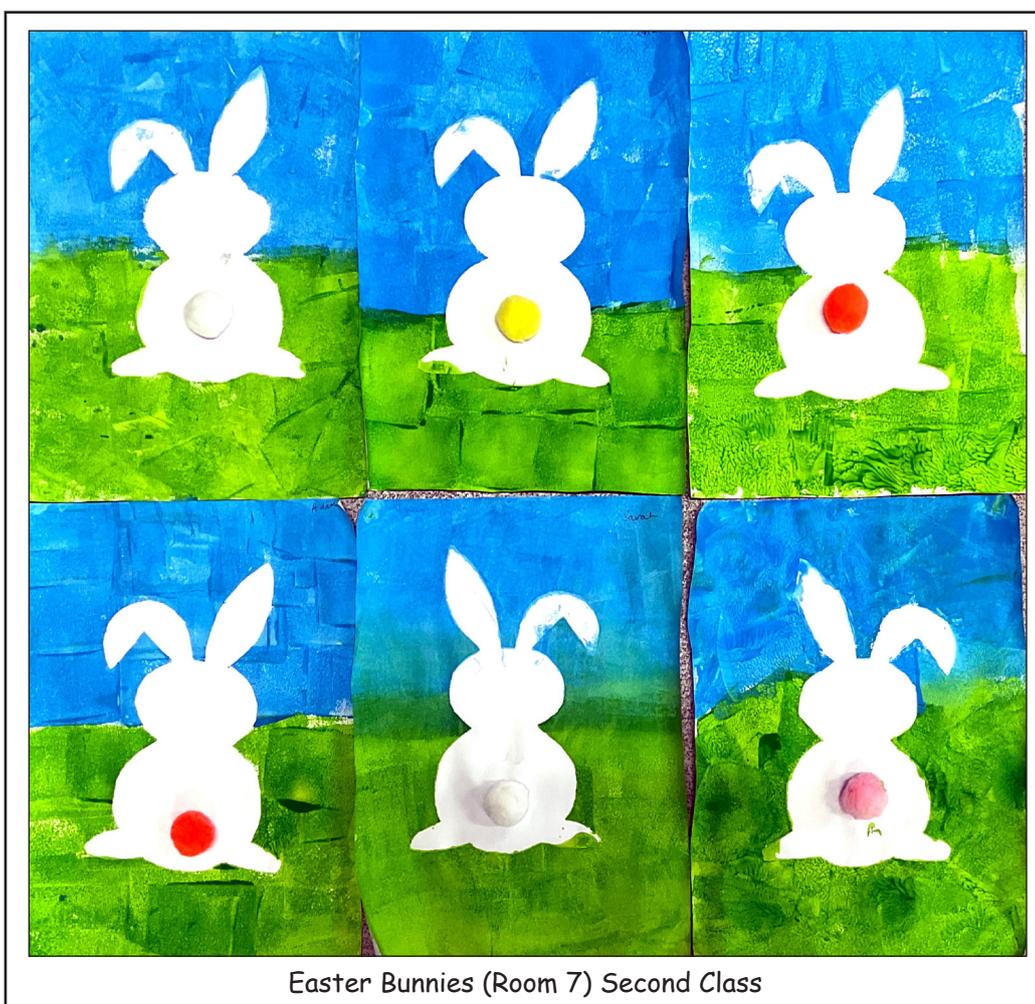
Junior Infants designed fantastic masks inspired by their favourite book characters which included some very impressive Gruffalos. Senior Infants designed new covers for their favourite books.

It was amazing to see the variety of books even among such young readers. First and Second class children chose their favourite characters to illustrate and describe. Some of the descriptions were very detailed and observant.

I'm sure we must have some budding authors in the Junior School! A very special treat for all the classes was hearing Mr Read bring picturebooks and excerpts from novels to life. On World Book Day children wore their own clothes, some even came to school as their favourite characters!

Each child received a book token to enable them to purchase a new book to enjoy themselves. Many thanks to all the parents, staff and especially Mr Read for making World Book Week so special.

1Carine Natin



Easter Bunnies (Room 7) Second Class

New PE resources and learning outdoors

During term 2 we got some fabulous new storage cupboards installed in the P.E hall to accommodate all our Aistear resources and sports equipment. With the generous voluntary contributions, we also recently purchased lots of new PE resources, such as goals, hurdles, ladders, footballs and skipping ropes to name a few.

It was great to see so many classes taking advantage of the lovely spring weather we had (for 1 whole week). Lots of classes took their learning outdoors- playtime, DEAR time, work time and as always our fun G.A.A classes with the brilliant coach Ronan.

Louise Rooney

Dates to Remember...

Monday 25th April:
School reopens after Easter break

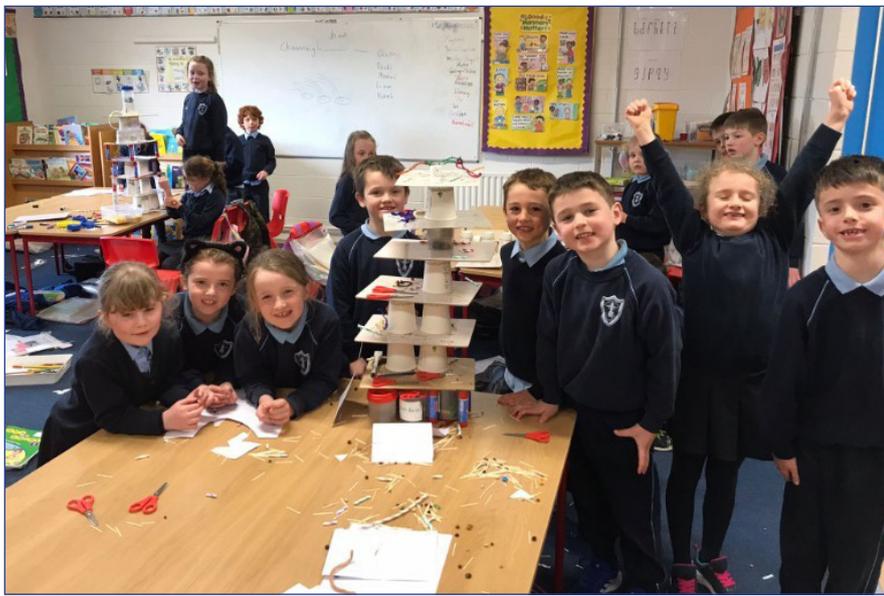
Monday May 2nd May:
Bank Holiday - school closed

Friday 20th May:
In-service for teachers - school closed

Friday 3rd June & Monday 6th June:
June Bank Holiday - school closed

Wednesday 29th June:
School closes for Summer holidays





Engineering Week 2022



In March we celebrated Engineering Week in school. The children listened to engaging stories and completed some very interesting building and STEM challenges. Each day they enjoyed listening to our 'Engineers of the Day' and learned all about the work they do. Thanks to all our Engineer parents for completing the interview form and for providing great insight into the world of Engineering!

Eimear Kane

A word from the Chairperson

Happy Easter - and congratulations to everyone for another term when the school stayed safely open thanks to everyone's hard work and commitment, in particular the children.

There was a huge amount of work carried out in the school over the last term. The new school signage is fabulous and the school and grounds are looking pristine. Thanks to our caretaker Gerry for all his wonderful work. We all enjoyed watching the virtual Seachtain na Gaeilge assembly showcasing all the hard work, excellent performances and fun that is happening every day in school. The Wellbeing Hot Chocolate Day for all in aid of Pieta House was a great success and a very exciting day for all in the school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their generosity and support during the appeal for Ukraine.

Finally, a huge thanks to all the children, to all the teachers, Special Needs Assistants, Marcella and to our traffic warden Clare who make the school such a safe and happy place for our children. A particular thanks to Ms Lavin, the Principal, who, with the help of the school staff, work tirelessly and are so committed to the education and wellbeing of our pupils and their families. Thank you.

The Board of Management would like to wish all our families and staff a healthy and happy Easter break.

Celine O'Connell

Chairperson of the Board of Management



Busy At Work - Room 24 - Junior Class



Outside Learning - Room 20 - Junior Infants



Our 'Pupil Wellbeing Officers'

Amber Flag Initiative

In order to promote positive mental health and wellbeing at St. Helen's J.N.S., we have decided to take part in the Amber Flag Initiative. The Amber Flag initiative is run by Pieta House and recognises the individual efforts of schools to support mental wellbeing.

Successful completion of the Amber Flag initiative involves the whole school community coming together in order to create a safe, positive and healthy attitude towards our general physical and mental health and well-being.

Events so far have included the wonderful fundraiser for Pieta House on March 11th. Our Hot Chocolate Friday was a very memorable day where Orlando of Aventura Coffee provided a complimentary delicious hot chocolate, donuts and flapjacks to all throughout the school!

We were very proud that this fundraiser raised €455 for Pieta House. We are making Wednesday our Wellness day when classes consciously take time out of their busy day to slow down and take part in a wellbeing activity. We have enjoyed to listening to Mindfulness stories, practising yoga poses and reflecting on all for which we can be so grateful.

To promote healthy eating we will be participating in the Food Dudes programme next term. If any parents are willing to share their skills and talents with us in terms of meditation, mindfulness, fitness, art, etc. please get in touch with Ms Ahern.

The Amber Flag Team and Pupil Committee have been working tirelessly to outline lots of innovative ways to promote positive mental health and wellbeing amongst our pupils.

Our Wellbeing Team are: Ms. Mary Ahern; Ms. Eimear O' Malley; Ms. Aideen Byrne

You will also be able to see all of the wonderful wellbeing work and exciting events and initiatives that are being completed in our school on our school website www.sthelensjunior.com

Mary Ahern



Pieta House Hot Chocolate Day - Room 11 - Junior Infants



Pieta House Hot Chocolate Day - Room 18 - Senior Infants



Pieta House Hot Chocolate Day - Room 19 - Senior Infants



Pieta House Hot Chocolate Day - Junior Class Cabhair Centre



Over the past 6 weeks the 1st and 2nd classes have enjoyed Ceol sa halla with the energetic and talented Mr. Paul Maguire and Mr. Vincent Conway and could be heard on Paddy's Hill belting out a few spring tunes. Sícin beag buí was among the favourites!



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 - Scoil Naomh Léan Shóisearach

Ó thús an tseachtain bhí gach rang an-ghnóthach agus rinne gach dalta a ndícheall Gaeilge a labhairt chomh minic is féidir leo i rith an lae.

Bhí ceolchoirm speisialta againn ar an Luan nuair a thug ár gceoltóirí cuairt dúinn agus thaitin an seisiún go mór le gach duine. Bhíomar ag canadh os ard agus ag damhsa sa chlós! Bhí athas an domhain orainn iad a fheiceáil ar ais arís agus thug na daltaí fáilte mhór do Noel, Don, Margaret agus Mr Horan!

Chomh maith le sin bhí cluichí tráth na gceist, cúpla amhrán, dioscó, an Haka Gaelach, aclaíochtaí agus alán spraoi eile againn trí mheán na Gaeilge. Bhí an ghrian ag taitneamh orainn agus an-chraic againn ag an bparáid mhór do Lá Fhéile Phádraig.

Míle buíochas a Ms Kavanagh, Ms Walsh, Ms Cummins, Mr Jennings agus Mr Horan do gach rud a d'úllmhaigh siad chun an tseachtain iontach a eagrú dúinn.



St Patrick's Day Parade - Room 7

Picker Pals

In Second Class, Mr Jennings students have been actively participating all year in the Picker Pals programme, taking responsibility for keeping the school grounds and surrounding areas clean and free from litter.

They have taken part in regular litter picks throughout the school year, both as a whole class, and at home with their families, and recently, they have been rewarded for all their hard work by each being given their own personal litter pickers!

As the warmer weather arrives, expect to see Mr Jennings and his litter pickers cleaning up an estate near you very soon!!!

Ciarán Jennings



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) promotes a safer internet for all users, especially our young people.

It is promoted in Ireland by the PDST technology in Education and Webwise. Our Parents' Association also supported Safer Internet Day and informed the school parent body of The National Parents Council's (NPC) campaign to support parents in their engagement with their children's lives online. The #TalkListenLearn campaign helps to support families in creating a safer and better internet.

Eimear Kane



Fáilte to our new pupils Makar and Anastasiia from Ukraine who joined St. Helen's J.N.S this week. We are also delighted to have welcomed new pupils Alwande, Ella, Sophie and Amelie this term.



Daffodils - Room 13 - First Class



Appeal for Ukraine

Thank you to Natalia and our Parents Association for the organisation of the Appeal for Ukraine. As always our families rallied and showed tremendous generosity in your supporting this worthy cause.



Easter Art - Room 14 - Senior Infants



Aistear - Junior Infants



Room 17

- Easter Bunny 2022 -



Room 25



Room 21

School and COVID-19

From 28 February 2022, the specific protective measures in schools such as staggered breaks and mask wearing are no longer in place however, infection prevention and control measures will continue, including ventilation, hygiene measures and advice to stay at home if symptomatic.

The Department provides advice and resources for parents and students to support them during COVID-19.

From Monday 25th April all pupils will arrive in school for 8:45am.

Junior and Senior Infants will finish and can be collected from the Junior yard at 1:30pm

First and Second classes will finish at 2:25pm.



Monets Water Lillies - Room 6 - Second Class



Leprechauns - Room 7 - Second Class

Hello from Ms Lavin

A thuismitheoirí go léir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of staff for all their help and marvellous work that has taken place over the last busy term. To the parents, grandparents, creche facilities and other minders, míle buíochas for all you do to support the school community. The pupils in second class made their First Confession earlier in the month. Thank you to the teachers and Special Needs Assistants involved in supporting the children. We would like to convey our appreciation also to the parish team in St. Anne's and especially to Ercilia and Canon John for all their help in preparation for the Sacraments.

Many thanks to our Parents' Association for their dedication in making all our school events very special this term and especially for giving the Easter Bunny such help during our annual festive egg hunt.

We have been practicing lining up in the yard with all our classes in preparation for the *revised arrival and dismissal times & procedures which will be implemented when we return after Easter on Monday 25th April, (*see page 1 of

the newsletter).

In the interest of Health and Safety we would ask that all parents observe that scooters, bikes and/or dogs are not allowed on the school avenue/ grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

All classes have done a wonderful job throughout the term coming up to the office each week to lead the prayer for the whole school. During Lent our prayers have remembered specially the people of Ukraine, all who are sick and cannot be at school as well as our own little intentions. Ms. Lambkin is very thankful for our thoughts and prayers as Alex continues to undergo treatment in Crumlin Hospital.

Thank you to all for the marvellous contributions to the Easter Newsletter. We are extremely grateful to Simon Archer for his expertise in compiling and publishing the termly newsletter with such kindness, patience and professionalism.

Finally on behalf of all the staff of the Junior school, I would like to wish all families a very Happy Easter. Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!

Lorna Lavin and all the staff of St. Helen's J.N.S



School website

We hope you are all continuing to enjoy our school website. As well as being an effective communication tool for parents and the whole school community, it's also a lovely way of viewing photographs and videos of the children's work and what activities they are doing in class. (sthelensjunior.com)