

World Down Syndrome Day

We celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing lots of different socks into school. It was an opportunity to express ourselves and celebrate individuality, inclusion and what makes us all unique! We were delighted to see lots of socks on the day.



Baby Joy

Congratulations to Ms Kennedy who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl Sadie.

Easter Gift

Thank you to the Easter Bunny who left an easter egg for each of the children here in St. Paul's. A little something to show how happy we were to see them all over the last few weeks!

Happy Easter to everybody!



Restorative Practice in St. Paul's National School

'Connection is the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard and valued, when they can give and receive without judgement' Brene Brown

We have adopted this philosophy into our ethos and culture in St. Paul's over the last two years by becoming a Restorative Practice School. We place value on the quality and health of all relationships within the school.

Restorative Practice (RP) is a value based way of being; RP aims to actively promote relationships and to respond to conflict in a healthy way that connects us to our best selves and to one another. By using the language of RP, which centres around 6 questions (see below), it helps us to move away from blame and attack and leads us on a path towards connections, solution and empathy.

The values we aim to foster and nourish through RP are respect, empathy, feeling safe, personal accountability, fairness, inclusivity, trust and a focus on the importance of community. RP promotes restoration of relationships if conflicts arise. This form of conflict resolution is a fair process where the child has a voice in the process. RP provides a space for those involved to reflect, but above all it focuses on the behaviour and not the person. It is rooted in a strong sense of fairness and has a calming effect on people, adults and children alike. RP is solution focused and encourages participants to take greater responsibility for their actions.

We ask that you consider trying RP with your children so that they may be further enabled to transfer the skills they are learning in school across other environments and settings. If conflict arises in the home environment, perhaps try to see if you can resolve the challenges/conflict through the use of the RP questions. The RP approach may enable you and those involved to resolve conflict and restore and build your relationships.

We will be building upon this approach in the years ahead. If you would like any additional information regarding RP, please contact the school.

Restorative Questions

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking of at the time?
3. What have you thought about it since?
4. Who has been affected and in what way?
5. How could things have been done differently?
6. What do you think needs to happen next?



St. Paul's National School Easter Newsletter 2021

Despite our (and no doubt your!) delight when we were allowed re-open the school at the end of February we were all on tenterhooks to see how it would go with the incidence rate still so high in the country. We are all delighted to have got to the Easter holidays with no incident to report. Overall, we are really happy with how well everything has gone. The children returned happy and excited. The teachers have reported a huge appreciation for being back in the school setting, excellent engagement, greater independence in the children towards their own learning, and a greater resilience and flexibility in their learning. Well done to all. Obviously, we will continue to revise, monitor and check progress and we will work very hard to ensure the curriculum is covered, while ensuring that the children feel safe and happy back in school. I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to the Summer term. Take care. *Morag McGowan*

Special Announcement

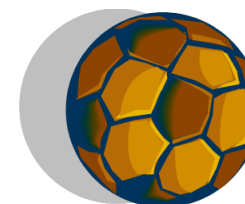
We received great news a couple of weeks ago. We finally got some space for the children to play!

That is the headline, the background is more detailed! 16 years ago, we were a school without a site. A local developer, who had already been very generous to the village, was approached. The planner from the Department of Education said that we only needed 3.5 acres for a 24 classroom school so the developer very kindly donated 3.5 acres of land to the parish, for our school. As time went on the numbers in the school grew and our needs grew. When we finally got our permanent building we were only left with 3 basketball courts as play space for 700 children. I have spent the last 15 years looking for additional space.

We have been very grateful for the support of the local clubs as we have developed sport in the school but it will be even better to have a pitch of our own, where we are not relying on buses or lifts, where we can host matches and games with minimal disruption and cost, and where we can have a proper, safe, play area for all the children without having them playing in the carpark or on the driveway!

The land given for the school back in 2005 had already been zoned residential and had planning permission for houses. That permission was supposed to have been swapped on to another site. That never happened. The crash came and we still needed land so now any additional gift of land was to be contingent on getting the zoning correct FIRST. Although I never doubted the generosity of the developer it has taken this long to get the necessary zoning and assurances from the council. We have now been promised all the land we asked for, and more. We are to get 4.2 acres! Enough for a playing pitch and, more importantly, enough for the children to play on at lunch and break times!

In the meantime, the zoning proposals will go on public display. Presuming no one objects to the children getting a playing pitch the ownership can be handed over to the parish and development can begin! We are very excited to have reached this stage and very grateful for this land. What happens next will depend on how much money we can fundraise, so watch this space!





Daffodil Day

The day of the Easter Holidays coincided with Daffodil Day. We all tried to wear something yellow to support this amazing cause. If you would like to find out more about the work of Irish Cancer Society, or to make a donation, go to www.cancer.ie.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge coincided with the return of our 3rd to 6th classes. It was not possible to hold the useful activities we associate with it, the children enjoyed the in-class activities arranged and Lá Glas where the children could wear something green.

