



Ms Cunningham's Class



Ms Nangle's Class



Ms Farrelly's Class

Meet our three Junior Infant Classes who have all settled in very well since they joined us in September.

Our very own Orchard

This has been a busy term for St. Paul's Garden! Following on from the success of our Hazeltree planting to mark Tree Day, we have recently planted our very own orchard right here in the grounds of St. Paul's! We planted 5 fruit trees - 3 apple trees, 1 pear tree and 1 plum tree. These fruit trees were kindly donated to us by DC's for Bees Orchards in the Community Project. We are very much looking forward to making many visits to the orchard and watching the trees grow and bear fruit for many years to come.



Unfortunately, our attendance levels are still a cause for concern. To put it in context, at the end of this term in 2019, we had 232 children who had missed NO days that term, this year we have only 81. I would like to ask you to please try to send your child in to school every day. Social, emotionally and academically it is so important for them. Having said that, a huge CONGRATULATIONS to those children who were in school every day this term!

Ms. Cunningham's Class: Malik Drew **Ms. Nangle's Class:** Luke Hynes, Eoghan Conaty, Alfie Thomas Crotty. Karena Thikan, Noah Fay, Lauren Fitzgerald & Eliza Jordan. **Ms Farrelly's Class:** Eva Rooney, Elijah Gallagher Breslin, Róise Cox, Lochlainn O'Ceanaigh, Lorcan Quinn, Lilah Griffin & Bobby Coyle. **Ms Brazil's Class:** Fiachra McElroy & Ella Fitzgerald. **Ms Moore's Class:** Ella Scally. **Ms O'Neill's Class:** Pippa Murphy **Ms Preston's Class:** Éabha Chi, Charlie Quinn, Ross O'Brien, Jessica O'Brien & Nathan Cusack. **Ms Curley's Class:** Aimee Kohutova, Elliot Gallagher Breslin, Max O'Brien, Ethan Jordan, Mia Rafferty, Cara Fitzgerald & Ace Hayden. **Mr Mulvany's Class:** Mihai Cazavov, Harry Lantry, Cormac Wallace & Liepa Fitzpatrick. **Ms Ormsby's Class:** Scott Fitzgerald, Ivy Griffin, Conor Murphy, Eve O'Leary & Seán Farrelly **Ms Kieran's Class:** Cian Sheridan & Aisling O'Sullivan. **Mrs O'Brien's Class:** Matthew Wallace, Senan Finnegan, Ana O'Leary & Blake Coleman. **Ms Cosgrove's Class:** Alicia King O'Gorman, Elisabeth Giurgila & Ellie-Ann Murphy. **Ms Mullen's Class:** Goda Baltrusaityte, Ciara Corbett, Siofra McElroy, Noah Coy, Sophia Coyle, Fiadh Dempsey & Lily Rickard. **Ms. Begley's Class:** Katie Corbett, Heidi Jordan & Sarah Ocampo. **Ms Grall's Class:** Aidan Dempsey, Emma McKenna, Holly Donoghue, Lake Hayden, James Dowling, Sam Fullam, Cullen Smyth & Adam Duffy. **Ms. Byrne's Class:** Cara Rose Scally & Cáit McElroy. **Ms. Casey's Class:** Katie Conaty, Éabha Coy & Sheena Ocampo. **Ms Dennehy's Class:** Daire Connolly. **Ms Donnelly's Class:** Katie O'Brien, Isabel Winston, Eliza Prior, Ellie O'Leary, Lydia Jordan & Joe Tormey. **Mr O'Donnell's Class:** Dylan Gough & Oscar Twyford. **Mr Hogan's Class:** Caroline Woods & Ellen Daughton.



St. Paul's National School Christmas 2023 Newsletter

We've come to the end of what is always the busiest time in the school year and what a lovely way to finish up! For the past month the school has been a wonderful place to be with our Christmas Fair, the Nativity plays, carol singing, a visit from Santa, the Santa dash, our hampers, visits to the nursing home all the joy and excitement of Christmas all presented here in the newsletter. Thank you to Yvonne for this, and all her hard work all year.

Best of all, for me, is the Carol Service. I am always very proud of the children in St. Paul's and never more so than when we all headed down to the Church last Tuesday for our own Carol service. Thank you to all the children and the staff, and especially the choir, who created such a special occasion for us all to enjoy together. Now it's time to relax and amidst all the excitement of Christmas, take a break and enjoy the magic. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024! *Morag McGowan*



Christmas in St. Paul's

We had a very busy few weeks in December with lots of Christmas activities. Our Christmas Fair took place on Sunday 4th December. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association and to all the volunteers who helped make the day a huge success, a perfect start to the festivities!

We are very grateful to Santa and his helpers who took time out of their busy schedule to stop by on his sleigh on the 8th to visit all the boys and girls. More photos inside the newsletter.

The week of the 11th December was filled with lots of Christmas shows in our school hall. Thank you to our parents for all your efforts in providing costumes and to the staff who put in so much work to bring these shows to you.

We are delighted to report that we made 46 hampers for SDVP, following your generous contributions for distribution in the local area. The volunteers were delighted with them.

We had a beautiful carol service in the church on the 19th where we also presented Maeve Gallagher with a gift as she departs from our BOM after 14 years as Chairperson.

Thank you to our Active Committee for all their help with our Santa Dash on the 20th to raise money for Temple Street Children's Hospital and Our Canine Companions. We raised €890.00

We would also like to thank Ms McGowan and Mr Harte for organising the children's raffle and Christmas Panto which finished off this week and for all they have done since September to give the children as many opportunities and as much fun as possible while in school in St. Paul's!

3 in a row for the Girls Football Team

We had another very enjoyable and successful year for the St. Paul's Girls Gaelic Football Team in the Cumann na mBunscoil Division 1 League. In the group stage of this years' competition, the girls played against and defeated St. Mary's N.S, Ashbourne, Donacarney N.S, Ratoath SNS & St. Declan's N.S., Ashbourne. The team beat Cannistown N.S in the Quarter-Final and had to fight off an immense come-back from St. Mary's N.S., Trim in a cracking semi-final.

This left the team in a Cumann na mBunscoil Final for the third year in a row where our opposition was St. Paul's, Navan. Having won the title last year, the girls were not going to give it up easily and after a very tense first half, St. Paul's lead at half-time by 1-00 to 0-00. It was a more open contest in the second half with the St. Paul's forwards finding more space, and the backs marked tight not giving the St. Paul's, Navan team any easy scores. In the end, the girls produced their best display of the season when it mattered most. They are a brilliant bunch of girls who put in a huge effort all year and got their just rewards. Any time you win a Cumann na mBunscoil medal is a great achievement, so for our 6th class members of the squad to have two medals is quite special! Well done girls!!!

The team and scorers from the final: Lucy Comiskey, Amelia Cooley, Rachel Smyth, Ellie O'Gorman, Ellie O'Leary, Lydia Jordan (0-1), Ellen Daughton, Lauren Richardson (1-1), Eliza Prior (1-1), Caroline Woods, Katie O'Brien (0-4), Cáit McElroy (1-0), Jessica Hynes, Maya Moran, Holly Dowling. SUBS: Nina Mooney; Ella Bracken; Naoise Lumley; Katie Conaty; Elodie Curry; Clara McLoughlin; Abbie O'Brien; Robyn Lynam; Isabelle Sherry

Well done to Lauren Richardson who won with the Spirit of the Final award, as selected by the Meath Chronicle.



Important Notice regarding parking

This term we have had quite a few complaints from residents of neighbouring estates regarding inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times. As always we encourage the children to walk, scoot or cycle to school when possible. If you do have to drive please do not park and leave your car unattended in our neighbouring estates. Please do not obstruct a neighbour's driveway or park opposite the school gates for the safety of pedestrians. The school, and our neighbours, would really appreciate your support with this from January 2024.



Our Student Council



Our Green Schools Committee



Our IT Committee



Our Library Committee



Our Active Committee

Congratulations to our student council who were formed following an election process and to all our school committees who help support the running of the school.

Thank you Maeve!!

This year we appointed a new Board of Management and, very sadly, said goodbye to the Chairperson who has worked behind the scenes for the past 14 years. Mrs Maeve Gallagher has finally decided to retire. We would like to thank her for her warmth and wisdom through all those years and wish her health and happiness during the next stage of her life!



Olympic Handball

Our Under 11 and Under 13 Olympic Handball teams had a busy week at the end of November where we were delighted to be able to host the Regional Group phase of the Olympic Handball competition in the school hall.

On Tuesday November 28th, both our boys and girls Under 11 teams were involved in matches against Skryne N.S and Robinstown N.S. After several thrilling games, Skryne edged out both of our teams in close encounters to qualify for the County Final stage of the competition.

On Thursday 30th, it was the Under 13's turn to play the same two schools, plus Mulhussey N.S. On the day both St. Paul's team produced a string of excellent performances where they topped their groups to qualify for the County Finals after Christmas. We will have more information about these closer to the time.

Well done to all our teams who represented the school extremely well over the course of the week.



Santa Visit/Santa Dash



Athletics in Fairyhouse

We had 23 athletes competing in a cross country event at Fairyhouse racecourse in November. Each athlete ran exceptionally well on a particularly tough and muddy course. Our U13 boys and girls teams won the large schools event and brought home two shields for our ever expanding trophy cabinet! Well done to all the athletes and staff involved.



Other News

Our cash for clobber collection raised €338.80 for the school and €33.80 to The Laura Lynn Foundation.

We raised €818.55 at Hallowe'en for the Children's Health Foundation.

Congratulations to Mr Duffy who welcomed a baby girl in November.

Our New Playground

During the Summer Holidays we had a fabulous new playground built for the children. This is a great asset to the school for the children's enjoyment.

Ms Kieran's 2nd Class



Nursing Home Visit

Our school choir and some of our classes visited the Ratoath Nursing home in December to the delight of the residents. Here we see some of Ms Nangle's JI class.

