

Newsletter

March 2024

Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Glas

Seachtain na Gaeilge, the annual Irish language festival runs from 1st-17th March and we love to support it every year at GANS. During Seachtain na Gaeilge, the whole school will get involved with games, puzzles, quizzes and movies as Gaeilge. A big thank you to Fifth and Sixth Class who have put a lot of thought and energy into planning some very special activities to play as Gaeilge with the younger classes. Friday 15th March will be our annual Lá Glas, when GANS goes green to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Pupils are invited to wear green/white/orange clothes on this day.

Primary 5s

We entered two teams in this year's FAI Schools Primary 5s competition. Our girls played on 4th March and despite a super display of football, were very unlucky to be eliminated in a penalty shoot-out. Our boys played the following day and topped their group to progress to the next round. Unfortunately, they were beaten in a hard-fought semi-final. However, the excellent skills and admirable GANS teamwork shown by both teams, made the whole school so proud.



Creative Schools Week

We had a fantastic Creative Schools Week at the end of February. An initiative of the Arts Council, 'Creative February' is a celebration of art and creativity that focuses on fun and imagination. At GANS we drew, painted danced and created our way through the week indoors and out. The week was finished with a fabulous performance by the Whistle Blast Quartet who treated us to a selection of Disney, opera, jazz and movie soundtrack tunes. Our thanks to the Creative School Committee who worked so hard in making sure everyone had fun and tried out lots of new and different creative tasks and challenges.



Creative Careers Fair

As part of Creative Schools Week we hosted our first ever Creative Careers Fair to showcase how a creative passion can become a career. We were delighted to welcome parents and family members from a wide range of creative career areas including graphic design, art, jewellery-making, film, millinery, performing arts and journalism. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our older children the many different paths available for creativity. Thank you so much to all those who gave so generously of their time to really inspire our girls and boys to think creatively about their futures.



First Confession

Congratulations to the girls and boys in Second Class who celebrated their First Confession on 6th March. They worked really hard to prepare and very much enjoyed this special ceremony with their families. They are now busy preparing for their First Holy Communion. Ms O'Dowd/Ms

O'Sullivan's class will celebrate on Sunday 12th May and Ms Lynch's class will celebrate on Sunday 19th May.

Wellbeing survey

As part of our ongoing school self-evaluation process, this year we are focusing on well-being. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a moment to complete a very quick survey. The survey should take no more than a minute to complete and you can find it by [clicking here](#). Separately, we will be hosting focus groups with the children to hear their thoughts and feedback.

School queries

Just a little reminder that we are always happy to answer questions on any aspect of school life. Speculation on social media or WhatsApp groups can unfortunately lead to confusion or in some cases, the sharing of false information. The best way to make initial contact with the school is by phone on 2833961 or by email to info@guardianangels.ie.

Attendance notes

If you need to let the school know that your child will be late or absent, you can use 'attendance notes' in the Aladdin app. This way, your message will go directly to your child's teacher.

Staff news

Please join us in welcoming Ms Holland to Fourth Class. Our sincere thanks to Ms Burns and Ms O'Malley for stepping-in to teach Fourth Class until the recruitment process was completed.

Upcoming school closures

We are closed on **Monday 18th March** for St Patrick's Day.

Term two ends on **Friday 22nd March** and we will close early at 12:30 for the Easter holidays.

We return on Monday 8th April.

The school will be closed on **Tuesday 14th May** to facilitate teacher in-service training on the new Primary Maths Curriculum.

Please note that the school will be used as a polling station in the upcoming European/local elections on either **Thursday 6th or Friday 7th June**. Once the date is confirmed, we'll let you know.

Latest news from the PTA

Pub quiz

The PTA QUIZ was a big success this year. We would like to extend a *huge thank you* to our quizmaster, Barry, who kept a rapt audience throughout with lots of laughter and some challenging questions! Thank you to MF Auto Services, Radisson Blu, Jenny B Hairdressing, Dunnes Stores and The Wishing Well for donating raffle prizes.

The PTA would also like to thank those who made the effort to come along and brought family and friends. As always, these things only happen with support from our wonderful school community. A lot of energy goes into organising all PTA events from a dedicated team of volunteers.

The money raised goes towards enhancing the learning and social environment for the children at school. It covers things such as the 6th class hoodies and the interactive whiteboards for the classrooms. We now have enough funds to purchase the remaining 3 whiteboards which is fantastic news. Thank you for the continued support from the parents/guardians and the school staff 😊

GANS Readathon

The next event, which is already underway, is the **Readathon 4th March - 12th April**.

You may have heard the kids talking about the first ever *GANS READATHON*. This exciting event launched on 4th March during the much-loved Scholastic Book Fair. It will run for 6 weeks and we encourage ALL the children to get involved and read as much as they like.

There will be class prizes, rather than individual awards, as we hope this will encourage all children of all abilities to contribute to their class results. Thanks to Scholastic and Dubray books for donating prizes.

Please use [this link](#) to log all books read and a running tally will be kept per class, in the halla. An Aladdin link is now live for sponsorship, and the children will also receive a sponsorship card in school (one per family). The suggested sponsorship is €5 per family, with the children encouraged to read and raise as much as they can over the six weeks.

Friday 12th April will be the last day and we will encourage the children to come in dressed as their favourite character or bring their favourite book.

We hope this will be an enjoyable event for everyone involved - happy reading 📖 😊

Book Swap 20th & 21st March

To continue to support and encourage reading and an excellent opportunity to recycle. On the 20th March the children can take unwanted books to school (maximum 5), receive a voucher for each book, then use these to redeem from the collection on the 21st March.