

Newsletter

September 2024

Welcome

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to school and to see so many happy faces return to GANS after a great summer break. We also extend an especially warm welcome to all our new pupils and are glad to see everyone settling in so well. We are already in the swing of the new school year and are very much looking forward to a busy year of learning and fun ahead. Thanks to the PTA and their brilliant fundraising efforts, our ancient audio system has been updated with a new audio and lighting system in the Halla. Thanks to Glenveagh Homes, we had new tarmac laid in the yard - where the old prefabs were removed - making it a much bigger and safer space for the children to play. We also laid new marmoleum in the foyer. Please join us in welcoming two new teachers to GANS - Ms Horan (Senior Infants) and Ms Hurley (Junior Infants). Both teachers were with GANS in previous years, and we are delighted to welcome them back.



Secondary school open evenings

There are lots of open evenings happening in secondary schools over the coming weeks. You can apply for a place in First Year in secondary school when your child is in Sixth Class however, the schools welcome visits from children with their parents/guardians in Sixth, Fifth and even Fourth Class. A full list of open evenings is available to view in the 'news and events' section of our website.

Junior Infants

What a fantastic start our Junior Infants have had! The whole school is so impressed by how well-behaved and mature they all are. We are very lucky to have such a lovely bunch of new pupils at GANS. At this point in the school year, we ask all parents to please 'hug & go' and allow the children to join their line and walk into school independently, with their classmates.

Applications for Junior Infants 2025/26

We will be accepting applications for Junior Infants 2025/26 from 1-31st October. Our admissions policy, admissions notice, and application form can be found in the 'Admissions' section of the website.

General housekeeping

A reminder that we have a healthy lunch policy in the school. Please don't include fizzy drinks or sweet treats in lunches – and please note that we are a strict nut-free zone. We are making a special effort this year to wear the school uniform every day and to keep it clean and tidy. Your co-operation in this is really appreciated. The tracksuit (First to Sixth Classes) should only be worn on PE days and on days when your child is doing sports associated with the school. Finally, with the recent warm weather, we have a huge amount of jumpers and hoodies in lost property – and none of them are labelled. Please please label all of your child's belongings so we can return them when lost.

'Wake-up & shake-up'

Thanks to Tim Chapman, we 'wake-up & shake-up' every Monday morning from 8.35-8.50. We encourage all pupils to join. It's a great way to start a new week with energy and motivation.



Afterschool activities

There are some places still available for most activities so it's not too late to join. There is a wide range of sports and activities available – from Spanish, chess and sport to Kung Fu, robotics and dance. To view the schedule, please visit the 'For parents' section of the website. If you have any questions, need more information about any of the activities available or want to book a place, please contact the provider directly.

Sacraments

A reminder that any child in Second or Sixth Class who wishes to make their First Holy Communion or Confirmation during the 2024/25 school year, must return a completed registration form to the parish office as soon as possible. The parish office will contact parents/guardians directly once the sacramental programme is ready.

Sports

We have a very busy sports schedule in the school. We have swimming lessons for Third to Sixth Class (starting with Sixth) every Tuesday in Newpark. Johnny Magee has returned to coach GAA every Wednesday. Leinster Rugby and Granada FC coaching begins in early October. Fifth Class will take a cycling safety course in November and athletics is due to begin shortly.

GAA

We have two teams taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol league this year and matches are already underway. Our girls were narrowly beaten in their first match but took victory with a

brilliant win in their second. Our boys scored a win in their first match – thanks to a nail-biting, last-minute goal and were narrowly beaten in their second. We've seen a fantastic display of skills and teamwork and are looking forward the matches ahead.



Carpark

A reminder that the carpark at the front of the school is not ours, it belongs to the Church of the Guardian Angels. Last year we had endless complaints over issues with the carpark which we very much hope to avoid this year! The carpark can be very busy at drop-off and collection times – particularly in bad weather. Please don't block each other in - and please don't blow your car horns or raise your voices, as the children find this behaviour very upsetting. Unless you have a valid permit, please don't ever park in a disabled access space, even if it's just for a few minutes. Finally, please remember that there are some very small pedestrians crossing the carpark, so please drive very slowly. Thank you for your understanding. Hopefully we can all continue to use the carpark without complaint for the remainder of the school year.



Update from GANS PTA



Upcoming Events

- 4th October - Sponsored Walk
- 17th October - AGM in the school Halla. All are invited to attend and if you are interested in signing up for the PTA please contact your class rep or email ptaguardianangels@gmail.com
- 24th October Halloween Disco in the school Halla for 1st to 6th class. Further details to follow.

Other items to note

The Uniform Swap/Giveaway on 11th & 12th of September was a great success. A fantastic way to clear out, recycle and pick up something you need. Thank you to everyone who popped by for a look, donated and volunteered.

The new sound and lighting system was installed in the Halla over the summer. This is a great addition to the school and thanks to the money raised by the school community at PTA events.

Parents are reminded that the use of mobile phones is NOT permitted on school premises, at any time. Whilst the school is aware that some children carry devices for their journey to and from school, parents are encouraged to be aware (and make their children aware) of the relevant school policies and guidelines, which can be found on the school website:

<https://www.guardianangels.ie/policies/>

Please pay particular attention to the Code of Positive Behaviour, Anti-cyber Bullying, and Social Media policies. Thank you.

Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA.

<https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/>