



May Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The final term of the school year is always a busy one and this year has been no exception with so many activities and events during the past couple of months and more planned for June.

Arts Week 20th April- 24th April

On Monday, the girls were treated to a YouTube-guided sketch class. There wasn't a sound in the hall as the girls listened carefully to the instructions on how to draw a butterfly. Each class level watched a different video appropriate to their level of ability.

On Tuesday each student created a self-portrait using a pencil. After creating the portraits, they were arranged on each class's display board in rainbow order, creating one large collaborative artwork- **"A Rainbow of Us"**

On Wednesday afternoon, the girls took part in ribbon dancing in the hall and in the yard.

On Thursday, the Clontarf Ukulele Group visited our school. The girls were delighted with their repertoire of classic and modern hits.

Friday was Drama Day in classrooms. The storybook used in Junior Infants was *Elmer*; in Senior Infants it was *The Rainbow Fish* and in 1st class *The day the crayons quit*.

Thank you to all of parents who volunteered to come in and showcase their artistic and musical talents and expertise. Thank you to Ms Crossan and Ms Bonner for coordinating and organising such a creative and fun filled week!

Tennis

Our First Classes are having a wonderful term of tennis coaching. This activity is covered by the fundraising activities of our Parents Association

Fundraising

Over the past 2 years there has been a significant increase in the amount of money raised by the Parents Association. This year we have prioritized the physical space in the school, including repurposing our photocopying room as a Quiet space; purchasing some new displays for the yard; some displays for the windows to the front of the school to improve its appearance and make it more welcoming and some signage for our garden. These will all be in place for September.

During the summer a demolition of the walkway in the middle of the school yard will also take place, after which we will be able to schedule a resurfacing of the yard early in the new school year. This is a very costly project but thanks to fundraising already done and expected returns from the Bake Sale in May and the Sponsored Walk in June, we should be able to fund it almost entirely from existing PA funds and some Board of Management funds. Other activities which are covered through PA fundraising include, but are not limited to, Christmas presents from Santa, Tennis lessons for 1st class, Graduation gifts and the Ice cream van.

Bake Sale

The date has been changed to Friday 29th May.

Special Olympics Torch

We were delighted to learn that thanks to our fantastic efforts in the Special Olympics Laps for Inclusion campaign, having raised €1174, that we have won a visit from the official Special Olympics Torch as it begins its journey to the Ireland Summer Games 2026. The Torch visit is a special moment in the lead-up to the Games, and we're delighted that our school will be part of it on 3rd June. The girls will be asked to dress up in green, white or orange on that day. Teachers will send reminders nearer the time.

JI 2026 school visit

Incoming Junior Infants will be welcomed in to visit their new class on Monday 8th June from 1:30 to 2:30. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help out on that day.

School Tours

The school tour this year for 1st class is *Let's Go* tour in DCU on 24th June. Senior Infants will go to *Explorium* on 11th June. Our Junior Infants will be treated to a Role Play Village which will be set up in our school hall, a mini disco and a magician on 5th June.

Active Week- 22nd- 25th June

Tuesday 23rd will be Sports Day, 1st class tour on Wednesday and on Thursday we will have our Dress-up Sponsored Walk. We will be looking for parent volunteers for Sports Day and the Sponsored Walk. More details to follow separately.

Graduation

Graduation will be held for 1st Class on Friday 21st June. Grandparents are very welcome to attend on that day too. If your daughter will not be in school for the graduation please let her teacher know as soon as possible as many of the girls will be assigned specific tasks to perform.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent out to parents via Aladdin on Monday 22nd June.

Free School Books

The Department of Education has again provided a grant to schools to buy all the school books and copies for the next school year. This means that parents do not have to buy any books or copies or stationery. There will still be a fee for other school and curriculum expenses relating to items not covered under the Free Book scheme.

Moving Schools

Please let us know immediately if your child will not be returning in September. We have waiting lists and would like to offer places as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to inform you that after spending almost all of her teaching career in Belgrove IGS, our wonderful Deputy Principal, Ms Fionnuala Reddy is due to retire at the end of the school year. Ms Reddy has been a huge support to me personally since her appointment to Deputy in 2019. Her dedication and positivity made a real difference here and she'll be greatly missed. Congratulations on an amazing career and best wishes for retirement.

Kind regards

Dearbhla O'Driscoll