



OLGC GNS JOHNSTOWN

NEWSLETTER January 23 2023

Dear parents,

Welcome to the first term of 2023. This newsletter includes our latest news from around the school and important dates for your diaries.

Catholic Schools Week

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week in our school and parish.



Catholic Schools Week 2023

Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love

There will be a daily reflection and prayer every day this week. We will also have some mindful reflective activities during the week.

Grandparents Day

To celebrate Grandparents Day we have invited the pupils' grandparents to visit our school on Wednesday, January 25th. The class teachers will co-ordinate with those grandparents who would like to come and share their childhood experiences with the children. We will welcome them to the staffroom beforehand to chat to the staff and have a coffee/tea with us if they would like.

Swimming Success!

Congratulations to Isabel Knight (5th class), who represented our school, swimming backstroke in the Leinster Minor Schools Swimming Championships on January 15. Isabel won a gold medal in this event! She also won a silver and bronze medal in two other races. We are all very proud of her achievements.



Supporting Ukraine

Oksana Shyian from Ukraine is currently working with the Ukrainian children in our school. Before Christmas she began a campaign to collect hot water bottles to send to those in her hometown of Pavlograd who have fled the war. Her relatives there are distributing them to those who are vulnerable and have no heat. Oksana has organised the sending of 150 hot water bottles donated by the school community. She is very grateful for everyone's support.



Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

Stay Safe

Last term we worked on the Weaving Well-Being programme in SPHE. This term all classes will complete the Stay Safe Programme. The aim of this course is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education. If you would like to read more about this, please follow this link: <https://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>

Cyber Safety



This year 'Safer Internet Day' takes place on February 7th. You will find further information about keeping your child safe on-line if you follow this link:

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

Cybersafe talks for 5th and 6th girls and boys will take place soon. More details will follow.



Promethean Boards Update



As you will be aware, we are working on upgrading our classroom technology. We currently have four interactive boards installed in the school. They are in both 1st classes and both 4th classes. Thanks to successful fundraising and DES grants, we plan to install further ActivPanels soon, in four other classrooms. Our goal is for every classroom to have one as soon as possible.

School Self Evaluation

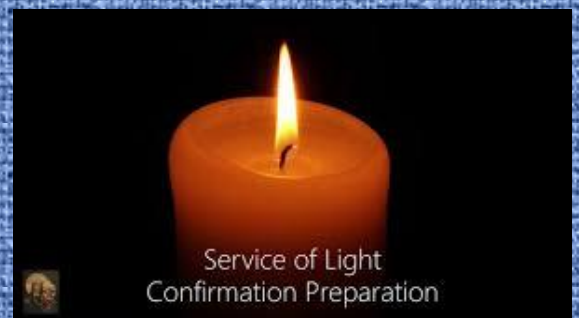
All schools must engage in self-evaluation, these evaluations run in four-year cycles. Due to the disruption caused by Covid, this year is a year of review and reflection with a focus on Well-being of the whole school community. You will hear lots about this during the year.



We are currently looking at our Homework Policy as part of our review of Well-being in the school. We will be consulting with parents as part of this review.

Service Of Light

The Service of Light for 6th Class girls making their Confirmation, will take place on Monday, January 30th at 7p.m.



Many thanks to you all for your continued support and collaboration.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Breen

