

# Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

## NEWSLETTER

## JOHNSTOWN

February 24 2023

Dear parents,

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

### Promethean Boards Update



As you will be aware, we are working on upgrading our classroom technology. Since my last update I am delighted to inform you that as of this week, we now have Promethean ActivPanels in all classrooms from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. The plan is to purchase more for the Infant classrooms and The Meadow classrooms as soon as possible. All of us in the school are very excited about the positive impact this technology will have on teaching and learning in our classrooms. I'm sure you have heard the positive feedback from your daughter already!

### Coding Workshops

Our two fifth classes received a coding workshop from Microsoft Ireland on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The girls were awarded a certificate for completing this. Hopefully this will inspire an interest in further developing their IT skills.



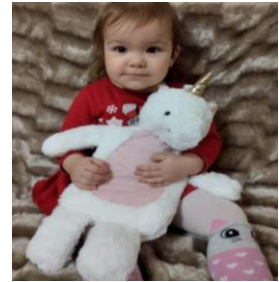
### Safety On-Line

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



## Supporting Ukraine

In my last newsletter I informed you about Oksana Shyian from Ukraine. She works with the Ukrainian children in our school and had organised a collection of hot water bottles to send to those in need in her hometown of Pavlograd. Her relatives distributed them to those who are vulnerable and have no heat. I am delighted to share some photos of the hot water bottles in the hands of their grateful recipients.



## Retreat

As part of their preparations for their Confirmation, 6<sup>th</sup> Class had a full day retreat on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. They thoroughly enjoyed the day which ended with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Centre courtesy of Fr. John.



## Confirmation

The Service of Light for 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls making their Confirmation, took place on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. It was a beautiful ceremony.



We are looking forward to celebrating the Confirmation Ceremony with our 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Table Tennis



As part of our investment in sport in our school we have purchased six table tennis tables. This has created great excitement and enjoyment and ignited a competitive spirit amongst the girls!

## Irish Dancing

The Junior classes are thoroughly enjoying their Irish Dancing lessons with Joanne McDonnell on Fridays.

## Dalkey Castle Visit



Both 4<sup>th</sup> Classes walked to Dalkey on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to visit Dalkey Castle. They had a fun day out, exploring the castle and participating in the visitor experience.

## Army Band

The Army Band will play in the church on March 16<sup>th</sup> as part of our St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Both the Boys School and the Girls School will attend together in two sessions (Junior and Senior classes). We are all looking forward to this special occasion.



## World Book Day March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day. The children can dress up as their favourite book characters on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

On-going: **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>

## On-Going: 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 reviewing 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.



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

Kind Regards,

*Lisa Breen*

