

# Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown.



## NEWSLETTER

December 18, 2024.

Dear parents,

We have come to the end of our first term of the 2024-25 school year. It has been a busy term, particularly this last month as we have had many Christmas and fund-raising events taking place, not to mention our Christmas plays and Carol Service. Excitement levels have been building amongst the children over the last few weeks.



### Christmas Fair

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers without whom we could not run this fund-raising event. The fair helps to support the running of both the Boys and Girls Schools. Also thank you to all who attended on the day to make this another successful Christmas Fair.

We appreciate all your support both on the day and in the busy preparations beforehand. We are also grateful to our staff for their work and support in the running of this event.



## Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition

We had many great entries for this competition. A winner was chosen from each class. Our overall school winner was Elva O'Halloran from Third Class. Her entry represented the school in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Schools Competition, where we were delighted to see her win third place.



## Science Week 2024



Science week took place in the school from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Every class level had a science theme to learn about and present on their door. The students all learned from the class displays as the classes followed a science trail around the school, investigating the different door displays. There was also a science themed drawing competition for every class. Everyone enjoyed this collaborative learning experience.

## Peace Proms

The Peace Proms concert will take place in early February in the RDS. In preparation for the concert, both of our 3<sup>rd</sup> classes attended a rehearsal on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December where they came together with the other schools who are participating in the event. They practised the songs and dance moves together and everyone had a great time!



## Bunny Rabbit Visit

Parichat, mum to Portia, Azura and Electra, very kindly brought their bunny rabbits to a visit several classrooms, including The Meadow classes. The children were delighted to handle the bunnies and to feed them carrots.



## New Neurodiversity Committee 2024

The first meeting of the newly formed Neurodiversity Committee was held this month. The committee is made up of parents, grandparents and school staff. We were delighted to see such a large group attend our first meeting. We are pleased to share that we have already actioned two of the ideas from the group. Firstly, we set up a sensory friendly space for children at the Christmas Fair this year. Secondly, we have created a padlet to share the details of activities and clubs that cater for neurodivergent children and children with additional needs. (Please see the 'Parent's Area' section of our website.) Our second meeting will be held in the new year with details to follow. Thanks to all of those who have contributed so far.



## Christmas Plays

Junior and Senior Infants and Second Classes performed their Christmas plays for both the school and their families this week. All the children had fun rehearsing and performing, while developing their singing and drama skills. We have many stars in the making!! We also had a fun Christmas Assembly on Wednesday morning for the whole school. (Please see the 'News Updates' section of our website for more photos.)



## Christmas Carol Service



Our last day of term is a half day. We will finish on a calm note with a beautiful whole school carol service in the church.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support and collaboration as members of our school community.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas break with your families and friends, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Kind Regards,

*Lisa Breen & the Johnstown GNS Team*

