

The Harold Times

December 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have welcomed you with glad hearts and joyful songs to our Christmas concerts. Thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff for their hard work as they prepared the children for the celebrations. Our pupils have been working like busy elves since the beginning of December to 'deck the halls' and classrooms with Christmas sparkle. Everyone has helped to get our Christmas trees, cribs and Advent wreaths ready for this very special time. During the four weeks of Advent, our pupils have tried hard to remember the real meaning of Advent and to prepare well for Christmas. Our school community has reflected and given thanks several times over the last few weeks for the many blessings that we have. Our Advent Good Deeds tree and our Advent Wreath have reminded us of the good deeds we can do to prepare for the birthday of Jesus.

I wish to thank most sincerely our outgoing Board of Management, Parents' Association, Teachers, Special Needs Assistants, Secretarial, Maintenance & Cleaning Staff & the 'Count Stepula team' who have all worked hard throughout this term to keep school life happy, exciting & enjoyable for all our pupils. Congratulations to everyone involved for their dedication in fundraising for the benefit of every child in our school. I also wish to thank everyone involved in our school community and Parish including, Fr. Kennedy, Fr. Ciarán and Fr Tyrell for their continued support. May the gifts of peace, love, and happiness find you all during this most blessed season of Christmas.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir ó fhoireann na scoile. We look forward to our return to school on the 8th of January 2024- *Dervla Nic Mhathúna*

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

As per calendar the school will close for the Christmas break this Fri 22nd Dec —**half day**

Classes will finish as follows:

Senior Infants-11.40 am

Junior Infants -11.40 am

1st /2nd Classes-11.50 am

3rd to 6th Classes 12.00

noon

Children may wear a Christmas jumper to school on 22nd December.



School will re-open for all classes at the usual times on MONDAY 08/01/2024.

Other dates for next term's

diary:

Parent/Teacher meetings January 24th & 25th

Monday 5th Feb 2024 Bank Holiday

Mid term Break 11th-16th Feb 2024

Christmas Shoeboxes

Our Classes 2nd to 6th took part in the Team Hope Christmas shoebox appeal in aid of children in some of the poorest countries of the world, a very worthy cause. *A huge*

thanks to all who contributed and supported this campaign, it is very much appreciated!



Lions Club Appeal

A BIG thank you to all who supported the annual appeal and contributed loads of selection boxes.

Thank you for your support of this very worthy cause.



Carol Singing



Bravo to our 2nd class pupils from Mrs. Ahern's class who sang carols for the residents of Beaufort Day Care Centre on Monday 18th December. A great sing-song was had by all. Our pupils told some festive stories and jokes and much hilarity ensued! **Thank you Mrs Ahern and Ms Nic Mhathúna**

GREEN SCHOOL UPDATE:

WEEE Ireland are calling on schools across Ireland to be mindful of waste batteries for recycling. There are lots of places batteries might be found at home during this festive period. The Green Schools committee have distributed boxes to every classroom to collect any old batteries for recycling, so please do send in all your old batteries. In October the 6th classes attended SEAI workshops and



learned all about the importance of using sustainable energy in Ireland.

This is our first year of a two year cycle working towards receiving a green flag for Global Citizenship/ Litter and waste. We have some new projects in the pipeline for 2024 and will keep you updated in the newsletter.



The children have been busy in the garden with Onja and Mags this term. All their gardening programmes and workshops will continue throughout the year.

The children have really enjoyed these workshops to date. They have been learning about composting, propagating and they have been growing herbs and vegetables, some of which they have already brought home.

It is very rewarding for them to see their plants grow and to learn about the benefits of gardening for health & wellbeing. The Green Schools Committee will also be helping to get a pond built in the school garden in the spring, which will greatly enhance the garden area.



A BIG thank you to Mags and Onja for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Thanks also to Ms Murphy and Ms Connolly and the Green School Committee, and have a very Happy GREEN Christmas!



YARD GAMES The children have been enjoying yard time even more with the creation of different



zones for play in the yards and the addition of new toys and games. The children are especially enjoying the giant lego and the climbing walls! ***Thanks***

to Mrs Cave and Mrs Reynolds

SPORT IN THE HAROLD SCHOOL

Harold Hockey

The Harold Hockey has got off to a great start with over 50 very keen hockey players training every Tuesday. Our 6th class players are proudly representing us in a very competitive Leinster League.



The 4th and 5th class players enjoyed a fun Blitz against Monkstown Educate Together. We are looking forward to Term 2 with more training, matches and Blitzes to come!

Thanks to Ms Henderson, Trish and Abbie!



GAA

Following a hugely successful Cuman na mBunscoil campaign we have more great news. Ken Fitzgerald and Cuala donated our school 20 brand

new gaelic footballs in recognition. We'd like to thank Cuala for their continued involvement with our school.

Well done to all the 6th class girls and boys who are on the Harold Gaelic teams on a fantastic first term. We saw great team spirit and amazing skill progression throughout our matches. We will have a medal ceremony in school in the New Year to mark our big win in Croke Park. Many thanks to Ken from Cuala for providing us with new Gaelic balls. We are looking forward to some more Gaelic matches later in the New Year! ***Thanks to Ms Byrne and Mr Dooley***



Football: We were delighted to introduce a new football programme into our school this year in which 4th class took part in football sessions over the last term. We were fortunate to have Rory O'Hare from the FAI in to do this and the children really enjoyed it. We look forward to lots more football



coming up in the new year. ***Thanks to Ms Connolly***

SPORT IN THE HAROLD SCHOOL (contd)

Handball

A huge well done to all of the boys and girls who have been learning Olympic Handball with Ms Connolly and Mr. Dooley. We have been working hard this term perfecting our new skills and we look forward to showing them off in the New Year. **Thanks to Ms Connolly and Mr Dooley**



After School Athletics



The children are currently training to compete in the Santry Schools' Athletics which is taking place in May. The training is going well and the children are constantly getting better with each session. Good job to all those putting in the hard work! **Thanks to Mr Burns**

MUSIC IN THE HAROLD SCHOOL

We started off this term with a bang as second and third classes participated in a Drumming workshop on November 10th. A good time was had by all!



The choir from 4th, 5th and 6th classes was invited to sing in a concert in St Josephs Church on the 25th November with The Three Tenors. They sang Baidin Fheilimidh and accompanied the Three Tenors with a rendition of Will ye go Lassie Go. Everyone agreed that they stole the show. Thank you to Ms Nic Mhathuna, Ms Dalton, Ms Thomason and Ms Claire Ahern for accompanying the choir and to Mrs Ahern and Ms Murphy for directing the choir.

December has been busy with practising for Nativity concerts and Christmas plays. The children have enjoyed singing the old carols as well as learning some new ones . .



School Carol Service We are really looking forward to our Church Carol Service on Thursday 21st December at 12 noon.

Teachers and pupils from Classes 2nd to 6th will gather together for a service of prayers and carols. What a lovely way to feel the Festive Spirit before the holidays! **Thanks to Ms Murphy and Mrs Ahern!**

NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

A warm welcome to our new BOM members (2023-2027)

Chairperson- Pat Mc Kenna

Patron's nominee- Peter Maxwell

Community representatives- Ann Tynan & Peter Cassidy

Parents' nominees- Kevin Loughran & Julie Kin-sella

Teacher representative- Carol Ahern

Principal- Dervla Nic Mhathúna

We look forward to working with you and wish you every success!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

A BIG HAROLD THANK YOU to all our sponsors for our recent fund-raising 'Count Stepula event



- **O'Brien Fine Foods**
- **Tom O'Higgins Estate Agents**
- **Fire Sprinklers**
- **Fitzgeralds**
- **Oisín Butler Ltd**
- **Kids Inc.**
- **Azon Recruitment**
- **The Greedy Eagle**
- **Bounce Gymnastics**
- **Sock Co Op**
- **Red Rock Developments**
- **Snapfix**
- **Uniformity**
- **Core Credit Union**
- **Glenageary Montessori School**
- **Apres School Club**

The event was a great success raising over, €30,000 with more to come on 'gift matching.'





Christmas Cards

We had a very successful take up of our annual Christmas Card Fundraiser this year. Thanks to all our budding artists, their teachers and **to Anna** for all her hard work in ensuring the cards were ordered and received in time for posting. No mean feat!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Elections were held on November 10th for a new Student Council. Well done to all the pupils from 3rd to 6th who put themselves forward. Congratulations to the following pupils who were elected- Lara Connor, Rémi Brennan, Matilda Leahy, Sophie Falkner, Holly Hamilton, Alice O'Regan Mills, Robyn Lewis, Eadhard Blaney, Isabela Dalton, Tilly Kenward, Oscar Loughran, Sam McNally, Nia McGuigan, Warren Whelan and Lainey Carolan. They have hit the ground running with their valuable contribution! They helped load up the van with the many Christmas Shoe boxes for Team Hope. They also presented the Cinéaltas flag at assemblies which we received recently from the Minister of Education, Norma Foley. They spoke about how the flag acknowledges the good work that our school is already doing and will continue to do to prevent and address bullying and to promote kindness, inclusion, diversity and wellbeing. Many thanks to our outgoing Student Council who played a significant role in improving our school and represented our school so well on various occasions.



Science Week We celebrated Science Week in the Harold on November 13th to the 17th. There was a great buzz around

the school as our pupils worked on a wide variety of Science experiments and Design and Make activities. Senior classes paired up with Junior classes to showcase their great work. They also had great fun working on many home experiments. It was a very enjoyable week. Well done to all our budding Scientists!



Christmas Plays/ Concerts

Our Christmas concerts started on Wednesday the 13th December and only finished up on Friday the 19th. There were ten shows in all!! Among the casts we had shepherds, wise men, Santa, angels, elves, Scrooge and many more. The children embodied the spirit of Christmas with their smiling faces and joyful songs. Thanks to all the teachers for preparing them so carefully and all the parents and guardians who attended making it a very special time.



Thanks to our children for all their enthusiasm and acting/singing skill, to Sean for taking care of the hall, the Refreshments providers on the 5 days and the whole school community.

What a wonderful week of events it has been!

Agus an Gaeilge



Tá gach duine sa scoil idir na páistí, múinteoirí, agus an fhoireann go léir ag tnúth go mór leis an Nollag, and leis na laethanta saoire atá le teacht. Bhíomar an-ghnóthach i rith

na míosa agus tá a lán lán Gaeilge le feiceáil agus le chloisteáil timpeall na scoile anois! Tá Ghaeilge íontach le feiceáil ar na ballaí taobh amuigh des na seomraí ranga agus is breá an rud é a fheiceáil agus muid go léir ag dul thart timpeall.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh go léir an-taitneamh as an Nollag agus go mbeidh seans agaibh sos a thógaint le bhur gclainne. Ná déan dearmad ar beagánín Gaeilge a úsáid sa bhaile nuair is féidir!



FIRST CLASS READING TREAT



This week the children in First Class were lucky enough to have real life author Lucy Kennedy come to our school to read from her latest book. Lucy had great fun

chatting with the children and they really enjoyed hearing a first chapter of her new book "Friendship Fairies Save Christmas." **Thanks to Lucy for her time.**

The Incubator Project

Our school was delighted to complete The Incubator Project for the first time in November. Eggs and equipment were delivered from



Nore Valley Farm, Kilkenny and 6th class welcomed and explained to every pupil in the school about the life cycle of a chick. Pupils saw the eggs in the incubator and were given the opportunity to pet the chicks after they hatched. There was great excitement in the school and it was a valuable learning opportunity for the children. We were able to complete this project by using some of the fundraising money. Keep an eye on Seesaw for videos created by some of our 6th class pupils.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We appreciate the effort being made by the majority of our pupils regarding the wearing of the correct school uniform. We thank parents/guardians for



their support in this regard. **Just a reminder that shorts are part of our summer uniform and should only be worn in hot weather (ie. during the months of May, June, Sept and October).**

Flu Vaccination/HSE Hearing & Vision

The Harold School was very happy to host a couple of very important events during this term: **Firstly almost 400 people** (both pupils and Staff) received the Flu Vaccination. We hope that this will help ensure better health for all going forward. Many thanks to Uniphar/All Care Pharmacy and the HSE (Senior Infants). **Our newest pupils, Junior Infants**, also took part in a Hearing and Vision screening programme completed by the HSE and facilitated by the School.

CREATIVE CLUSTERS

Creative Clusters is an initiative of the Department of Education with the aim of enabling the creative potential of every child and young person through the Creative Ireland Programme. The children in 2nd Class



have been working with puppeteer Niamh Lawlor who has introduced them to the art of shadow puppetry. Niamh has already had two sessions with each class and the children have been busy making their own shadow puppets. We are looking forward to doing more exciting things in this area in the New Year! Watch this space!!

INTERNET SAFETY

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of parental supervision of children's activity on the internet as many websites can be used for cyber bullying, paedophilia, etc.



Please warn children not to give names, addresses or personal details over the Internet under any circumstance. In our school we have a filter system which blocks access to unsuitable websites. Pupils who bully other pupils from our school on the internet will be sanctioned in accordance with our school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Please see some very helpful information: [Webwise-Advice for parents](#)

Christmas Greetings!!

The Staff of the Harold School would like to wish pupils, Parents/Guardians, families, friends and all the wider school community a very merry, healthy Christmas, and every good wish for a Happy New Year in 2024!

