

The Harold Times

December 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year it has brought us great joy to welcome you to our Christmas concerts and our wonderful Christmas pageant in St Joseph's church. Our hearts and heads have been full of joy and wonder at the performances and talents of our pupils. How lovely it has been to wonder at their singing and applaud their acting skills.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers and staff who have spent many hours working with the children to prepare these happy events. All the teachers and staff of The Harold School would like to thank you all for the help and support we have received from the beginning of the school year to the present day. Our pupils have been busy since the beginning of December to ensure that our Crib, Christmas Trees, and lots of other colourful Art displays and decorations were ready to sparkle all around the school.

I wish to thank most sincerely our Board of Management, Parents' Association, Teachers, Special Needs Assistants, Secretarial, Maintenance & Cleaning Staff & the 'Harold Goes Crackers team' who have all worked hard throughout this term to keep school life enjoyable and happy for all our pupils. The memories of the amazing World Record event will happily stay with us for many years. Congratulations to everyone involved for their dedication and for raising so much money 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. Christmas is a time when we remember those we love. We hope that the New Year brings hope to all. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir ó fhoireann na scoile.

We look forward to our return to school on the 6th of January 2023.

Dervla Ní Mhathúna

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

As per calendar the school will close for the Christmas break on 21st December—**half day**



Classes will finish as follows:

Senior Infants-11.30 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 21/12/2022.

School will re-open for all classes at the usual times on FRIDAY 06/01/2023.

Other dates for next term's diary:

- Thursday 26th Jan 2023 Staff Training school closing early—times tbc
- Monday 6th Feb 2023 Bank Holiday
- Book Fair w/c 1st March 2023

Christmas Shoeboxes

Our Classes 3rd 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 thankyou to all who supported the annual appeal and contributed loads of selection boxes.



Thank you for your support of this very worthy cause.



Green school December 2022

We have had a busy few weeks in the Green schools. Here are some of the events that have taken place in this term.

The 4th Classes had a woodlands workshop on 18th October. This was greatly enjoyed and very informative.

Green School committee prepared a site for planting a pocket forest in the New year. They also painted rocks to decorate the area and to keep it separated from the rest of the garden area. Some native trees will be planted in the area in January.



The Green School committee helped clear and prepare the garden for redevelopment. New benches and beds have been installed ready for our workshops. Thank you to our fantastic caretaker Sean who has been working very hard on this.



Senior Infants ,1st ,2nd ,3rd ,4th , and 5th classes have started their gardening programmes during the month of November and workshops will continue throughout the year. Junior infants and 6th classes will commence their programmes in the Spring.



We have thoroughly enjoyed these initial workshops and look forward eagerly to our sessions in the garden. Some of the topics covered are bulbs, composting,

Many classes have entered the Recycled Christmas tree decoration with DLR. Each class champion will get a certificate of completion and we are hopeful for some prizes. Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle over the Christmas period and check out locally for the opening times of a recycling park near you.



Our school is participating in a battery recycling competition run by WEEE Ireland so please recycle your batteries after Christmas in school .

Have a very merry Green Christmas!

Thanks to Mrs Murphy and the Green School

Harold Hockey

Our 6th Class hockey players continue to represent The Harold School very well in the Leinster Primary School Girls League. Well done girls!



Our 4th and 5th class hockey players have also been very busy with both training and matches.

Unfortunately the hockey blitzes scheduled for last week were cancelled due to the weather.

We look forward to more activities in this regard in the new year. The girls have had a great time and we wish to thank them for representing The Harold School so well both on and off the pitch!

Thanks to Emma Meir (Coach) & Ms McKeogh for co-ordinating this, and to parents for lifts and support for the girls at matches etc.

Christmas Carol Service

The Harold School Christmas Carol Service was held last Thursday in St Joseph's Church, Glathule, and was truly a wonderful occasion.



After an interval of three years we were delighted to see the Church filled with pupils, staff, parents and all the Harold School Community, and to hear the wonderful hymns and music.

A huge thank you to everyone connected with this event – pupils from Classes 4th to 6th, their teachers and SNAs, parents/guardians, Glathule Parish Office etc. A special mention goes to Mrs Ahern & Ms Murphy, for conducting, to Ronan Murray, our organist, Ms Dalton, our harpist, Mr Burns, our guitarist, our Student Council for performing the bells, all our soloists and readers, and to the whole congregation on the night.



It was a wonderful way for us all to become full of Christmas Spirit!



6th Classes UPDATE

Mural - 6th classes completed a mural to brighten up the Pres Yard in November. The theme the children chose was space and looking to the future.



The children helped the Bloom the Art Project artists to create the 'Shoot for the Stars' motivational mural. This will be a lovely reminder the class of 2023 will leave behind them.

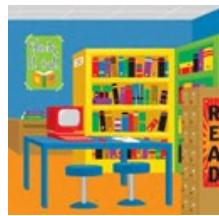
Marathon - All of 5th and 6th class completed their final kilometre run of their marathon in Fernhill in November. The children participated in fun warm up activities before moving to the track to finish their marathon. They all received their medal and a winter woolly hat on completion of their run. Well done to all 5th and 6th class for completing this.



Christmas Crackers - 6th Class worked as ambassadors for our fundraising and world record attempt. In the run up to the event they all linked with partner classes throughout the school - sharing information about the event, choosing team names, preparing tuck shop sweets and sharing cracker making materials with students. Well done to the 6th class students for leading the event so well. They stood out on the day welcoming everyone to our event with Christmas carols. **Huge thanks to our four 6th Class Mrs Ahern, Ms Madden, Ms Corcoran, Ms Wall**

HAROLD GOES CRACKERS

The 'Harold Goes Crackers' Committee was out in force this term! Parents and children kicked off their Halloween holidays with a spooky drive-in movie at Retro Drive-in Movies. The next big event took place on 18th November. The children from The Harold School and our friends from CBC, HC Sallynoggin, Cluny, HC Killiney and Loreto Dalkey broke a world record pulling over 1700 crackers—**A staggering total of €52,000 was raised so THANK YOU!** **Thanks to Ms Wall and Mrs Cave for being the staff liaison for this event!**



School Library

Our school library is now timetabled so that every class can visit twice a month. It is a lovely, quiet, colourful space and the children really enjoy visiting it. They take pride in choosing their books and reading them during school time. Many thanks to Anna Moisselle who is managing the care and organisation of the books, to all who have donated good quality used books in the recent months and to those who took part in the 'Strictly' fundraiser which made this possible.

Thanks also to Mrs Boyle

Gaelic Football

Well done to the 6th class girls and boys who took part in the local GAA blitz over the last few weeks. We had four teams taking part in the blitz.



Each team made it to the final and represented the school so well throughout. We have seen great team work and skill development throughout each match. We are very proud of all the 6th class boys and girls for their commitment throughout the blitz. A huge thank you to all the teachers who were involved - **Ms. Byrne, Ms. Leahy, Ms. Boyle, Ms. Kavanagh, Mr Dooley & Mr. O'Shea.** Thanks to all the parents for providing lifts and support for the students. **Well done everyone!**



Harold Goes Crackers (contd)

A shout out to all our sponsors and friends, including @98fm@lewismotors@NewstalkFM@HuntersDublin@RetroDrive-in. Thank you also to Azon, Fire Sprinklers, CocoBrew Coffee Co., SockCoop.com, Pharma Nord, Alpack Ltd., Moondance Business Consultants, Ashton Electrics Ltd., ART Zone, Xtreme Signs and Graphics, Key Green, Hunters and Bounce Gymnastics. **A special thanks you to our parents and wider Harold School Community who gave so generously to our Go Fund Me page.**

Thank you and Merry Christmas!!



Science Week

We celebrated Science Week in the Harold on November 21st to the 25th. There was a great buzz around the school as our pupils worked on a wide variety of Science experiments and STEM challenges. Senior classes paired up with Junior classes to showcase their great work. They also had lots of fun working on many home experiments. It was a very enjoyable week. Well done to all our budding Scientists



Sponsors for Jerseys

We are delighted to have placed an order with O'Neills, for new gaelic jerseys for our boys and girls football teams and another order for vests for our school athletics team.

We would like to say a big thanks to our sponsors Sherry Fitzgerald and Albany Office Supplies for their very

generous donations.

Thanks to Mrs Reynolds for looking after this.



Message from PA

The Parents Association

would like to thank the entire community for their support of Harold Goes Crackers, but particularly the amazing Events Committee who helped raise so much money and brought together the entire community to break a world record. The volun-

teers in the Events Team will be taking a well earned break, so we need new volunteers to take

up this important role. If any parents would be interested, please

email haroldschoolpa@gmail.com.

Many thanks to the PA who organised the Christmas Cards again this year, all the hard work is much appreciated.



Christmas Plays

What a wonderful week we have just had with performances of Class plays on three days by all our Classes from Junior Infants to 3rd Class inclusive. We were delighted to welcome parents and family members back into the School Hall after too long an absence (3 years!) to see their children perform. All the children did a wonderful job, and we are sure that all parents were so proud of them all.

Thanks to everyone involved,

- Our children for all their enthusiasm and acting/singing skills,
- All the Class Teachers, Sna's, SET team their commitment, all the extra practices, support, music system etc
- Parents/Guardians for all their help with costumes and learning lines, and for attending in such big numbers
- Sean and Elaine for taking care of the hall
- The whole school community



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!

Nollag Shona agus Athbhlian faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir. Bain taitneamh as! **GRMA Mrs Ahern**



CREATIVE CLUSTER

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 Harold School has been selected to participate in this very exciting initiative in collaboration with the Blackrock Education Centre. More information to follow in the new year! **Thanks, Mrs Ahern**

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 info:

[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 2023.

