

The Harold Times

Easter 2023



SCHOOL CLOSED— EASTER HOLIDAYS

As per calendar the school will close for Easter holidays this Friday 31/03/2023.

Please note THIS IS A HALF DAY

Pick up times:

S. Infants - 11.30 am

J. Infants - 11.40 am

1st & 2nd - 11.50 am

3rd—6th - 12.00 noon

We wish you all a well-deserved, happy and relaxing holiday break and

School will re-open on Monday 17th April at the usual times

Other upcoming dates next term

IMPORTANT

School Closed:

- **Fri 27/4/23 & Mon 01/5/23**
- **Thurs 11/5/23 Half Day Staff Training NEW Curriculum Framework**
- **Thurs 01/6/23 FULL DAY Staff Training Primary Curriculum**
- **Fri 02/06/23 & Mon 05/06/23**

Other dates for the Diary:

- National Childrens Choir Concert—Wed 26th April 2023
- 6th Class Graduation Tuesday 27/06/2023
- First Holy Communion Ceremonies:
3 x Sundays in May: 14th—Ms Davey
21st—Mrs Reynolds/Ms Maher
28th—Ms Kavanagh



- Confirmation ceremonies:
Tues 23/05 23 -Ms Madden/Ms Corcoran
Wed 24/5/23 - Ms Wall
Thur 25/5/23 –Mrs Ahern



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe we are at the Easter break and looking forward to a busy and exciting Summer term.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your ongoing support to the school.

A huge thanks to all our school community, caretaker, cleaners, secretaries, First Aid, teachers, SNAs who have worked so hard over the last term. We are very grateful for your dedication and commitment. Minister for Education Norma Foley praised our staff and pupils for their creativity and thoroughly enjoyed meeting our Student Council and Green Schools' committee when she visited the school at the end of February. Well done to everyone involved in her visit.

It has been an action-packed term with Book Week, the hugely successful Book Fair and Seachtain Na Gaeilge to name but a few. You will be able to read all about these enjoyable activities in this edition. This week our focus has been on Well -Being for pupils and staff. We are so lucky to have many staff willing to give of their time to organise sports, games, music and art activities for the children.

Well done to our pupils in 2nd class who have been diligently preparing for their First Confession. Thank you to their class teachers , Ms Davey, Mrs. Reynolds , Ms. Maher & Miss Kavanagh and Father Ciarán for their guidance and support.

On behalf of Ms. McKeogh, myself and all the staff in The Harold , I want to wish you all a healthy and happy Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Dervla Nic Mhathúna, Principal

First Penance

Congratulation to all the children in 2nd Class who celebrated their First Penance in two lovely ceremonies this week., and are now well on their way to making their First Holy Communion in May. Well done boys and girls!





Green schools update:

Easter 2023 :

As you are all aware at this stage our Green Schools committee has been very busy encouraging everyone in our school to be more aware of our natural environment. All the children understand now, that to make the world a better place, we must look after the natural world around us and it will in turn look after us. We have all worked hard towards getting our green flag for biodiversity and have now submitted our application. We held a poster and slogan competition this month to see if



we could find a good motto for our school related to the biodiversity theme. The children had good fun thinking of

catchy slogans and designing posters. The winning slogan came from two girls in 4th class, Holly Dunne & Isabelle McCarron- "It's our Duty to protect Nature's beauty". Well done girls and to all the children who took part in the competition.



The garden redevelopment continues as Spring marches on. The Green Committee have been a great help in the development of

the pond and with the planting of more pollinator friendly plants. We also have our own apple tree in our school garden . Thanks too to Sean who has the window boxes in the



yards planted up and looking very well. It



5th and 6th classes have been busy with their gardening sessions with Mags and Onja. They are planting vegetables and other plants in preparation for the 6th class plant sale in June.

Enjoy the Easter Holidays and A **BIG GREEN THANK you to Ms Murphy and Mrs Reynolds for their efforts in these projects, to the members of the GREEN SCHOOL Committee, and to Onja and Mags!**

WELL-BEING WEEK:

We are enjoying our annual Wellbeing week in school. We are shining a light on all the lovely day to day activities completed in our school to promote positive mental health. There is great excitement for our Bright Colours day on Friday and we can't wait to celebrate with a disco. We hope you have enjoyed discussions at home about wellbeing and sharing ideas for family activities.

Thanks to Mrs O'Sullivan for looking after this lovely event.

BOOK FAIR:

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Book Fair . It was a big undertaking and would not have been possible without the hard work and support of a large group of parents. Many thanks also to Anna Moisselle.



We raised over €3,000 euro in rewards which can be recouped from Scholastic books. This will be invaluable in keeping the school stocked with up to date reading material for the library and classrooms.

A BIG thank you to Mrs Boyle for organising this event!

WORLD BOOK WEEK:



At the end of February we celebrated 'World Book Week'. Children took part in various whole school initiatives. We were delighted with the response to our 'Get Caught Reading' photo competi-

tion. It looks like the children had great fun reading in some very unusual places!! The main event of the week was our dress up day on the Friday. Children dressed up as a character from their favourite book, and there was some wonderful reading, art, drama and other fun activities on the day. Thank you to all of the children and parents for potting such a wonderful effort into the costumes. We all had great fun! And, most importantly, this helped to further foster a love of reading.

Many thanks to Ms Madden for arranging the week's events.

HAROLD TENNIS:

The Leinster Primary Schools Tennis League has been in full swing this month and our three teams have been doing us very proud. They have been playing well and winning lots of their matches. More importantly the team managers have been reporting back to us that the teams have been really good at supporting each other and at representing our school so well. **Many thanks to Mrs Reynolds, to all the parents who have arranged these matches, brought children to matches and for their overall support of tennis! Well done everyone!**



SWIMMING: Our 6th class pupils began their Swimming lessons in Castle Park swimming pool last week. These lessons will continue over the coming weeks.

Thanks to Gráinne and Sue for

making all the arrangements!



Touch Rugby:

Our 3rd and 4th class pupils have just completed their Touch Rugby workshops with our Leinster rugby coach, Jonathan. Both boys and girls enjoyed themselves and hope to join our 5th and 6th class pupils when they participate in an inter school Touch Rugby Blitz in May.

Thanks to Ms McKeogh for co-ordinating this!



SOCCER:

We are delighted to have taken part in pilot FAI football tournaments this week in Wayside Celtic.

We had a number of boys and girls from across 5th and 6th class take part over the last few days, with some brilliant results and enjoyment for all.

We very much look forward to offering some more opportunities for lots of children in our school to participate in football and represent The Harold. School.

Well done to the boys and girls for representing their school so well and for showing so much sportsmanship and team spirit throughout the two days!

Many thanks to Ms Connolly and Mr O'Shea for organising this.

GAA:

We would like to wish the boys gaelic team the best of luck as they will be competing against The Harold Boy's School after Easter in the Séan O'Gorman Cup. They will play them three times to see who takes home the shield. We are hoping to organise a couple of matches for our girls Gaelic team after Easter too. Well done to all the boys and girls for representing the school so well! **And thanks to Ms Byrne and Ms Leahy for looking after this!**



SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE:

Cómhghárdeachas agus míle buíochas do ghach duine ar "Foirean Arait," idir dhaltaí, múinteoirí, SNAs, na cailíní san oifig agus sibhse go léir sa

bhaile a ghlac páirt in imeachtaí Sheachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana.

Rinne na páistí agus na daltaí go léir - ar scoil agus sa bhaile - sár íarracht a gcuid Ghaeilge a úsáid níos mó, agus bhí fuinneamh agus áthas le feiceáil agus le chloisteáil í ngach áit. Bhí sé go híontach dul amach sa chlós agus na páistí a chloisteáil ag labhairt Gaeilge go nádúrtha lena chéile agus leis na dhaoine fásta thart timpeall orthú. Bhí Gaeilge le feiceáil ar na ballaí agus sna chóipleabhair; le chloisteáil ar an intercom agus timpeall na scoile agus bhí atmasféar íontach ina leith cruthaithe ag gach duine.



Ghlac na páistí páirt iomláin sna raiflí gach lá ag obair go dian chun "ticéad" a bhua-chaint. Rinne said go léir sár-íarracht agus tá súil againn gur bhain said craic agus taitneamh as.

Buíochas mór ó chroí do ghach duine as an méid oibre a rinne sibh go léir. Bhí seachtain íontach againn!!

Many thanks/mile buíochas to Mrs Ahern for organising this great week!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CHOIR:

The children in 5th and 6th Classes have been very busy learning their songs for the National Children's Choir. The big concert will take place in the National Basketball Arena on April 26th and we are all really looking forward to it.



STUDENT COUNCIL 2023

Elections were held on the 24th February for a new Student Council. Congratulations to the following pupils who were voted in- *Alex Lord, Jessie Woods, Chloe Murray, Senan Nolan,*

Sarrinah Saad, Fiadh Walsh, Lennox Kelly, Seán Cosgrave, Rosa Sexton, Connell O'Kelly, Tilly Rose McMeel, Seán Quinn, Aisling Byrne, Annebelle Doo-dy and Tom Nolan. We are delighted to be working with you all.

Many thanks to our outgoing Student council who played a significant role in improving our school. They represented our school so well on many occasions such as the opening of our School Library, Grandparent's Day, and welcoming Minister Norma Foley to our school. **Thank you to Mrs Macey for looking after the Student Council.**

SCIENCE BLAST:

The Fourth classes participated in the ESB Science Blast in the RDS. Each class thought of a question to investigate, and the pupils voted on three questions and chose to investigate 'How do hand hygiene products compare at killing germs.' The pupils carried out an investigation which initially involved everyone washing their hands and using hand sanitiser, so everyone had clean hands when starting the investigation. After carrying out our normal school activities for two hours, four different hand hygiene products were used. The hands were swabbed, and agar plates were used to grow bacteria. We observed the bacteria grow on the agar plates over a period of time. On the 1st of March, 30 pupils across the classes went to the RDS to exhibit our investigation and to get the opportunity to see other school's experiments. The adjudicator gave us positive feedback and we were presented with a plaque for our hard work and commitment to the investigation. This was a wonderful learning experience for all. **Thank you to Ms Fanning, Mr Larkin & Ms Maguire.**



CYCLING RIGHT: As a follow up to the Cycling workshops done by our 6th Class pupils we have been advised by Cycling Irelaqrnd of a new onlin course for parents and Guardians.

Further details available on elearning,cycleright.ie



6TH CLASSES UPDATE:

Gardening - 6th class have been visiting Onja & Mags in the garden for gardening lessons. So far they have planted an array of seeds including sunflower seeds, spinach and rocket. They're looking forward to seeing their plants grow.

Kilmainham - On March 1st 6th classes visited Kilmainham Jail for a tour to learn about important events in Irish history. They really enjoyed their tour- the information provided was excellent and it was exciting for the children to be able to step inside some of the cells.

Mock Trial - The 6th class students recently got to take part in a 'mock trial'. Local barristers joined us to support the students in presenting their information to the judge when on the stand. T

Thank you to Senator Barry Ward for supporting this, to Ms McKeogh and the 6th Class Teachers, Mrs Ahern, Ms Madden, Ms Corcoran and Ms Wall

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Well done to our pupils who continue to make a great effort wearing the correct school uniform on non P.E/sports day. This contributes to a sense of community and pride in our School.



We are ver proud of you!

Our Students from Ukraine:



Our six Ukrainian students have been busy this term in Ukrainian club. As well as improving their English

skills, they have enjoyed baking, making crafts, taking part in an Easter egg hunt and playing outdoor games together. They have also been teaching others about Easter traditions in the Ukraine. щасливого Великодня

Thank you to their Class teachers and to Ms Lambkin and Ms Cadogan for all their support!

MESSAGE from PA:



The Parents' Association would like to thank all those who supported the recent book fair, both by buying books and by helping to run the fair.

We would also like to remind parents that we are always looking for volunteers to support various initiatives, whether it's the Building Committee (anyone with experience in areas such as planning or architecture) or fundraising, where all we really need is a desire to help. Please feel free to chat to your class rep or email haroldschoolpa@gmail.com if you think you can help in any way.



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 (in line with Department and PDST filter recommendations) 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 for [Webwise- Advice for parents](#)

BIG EASTER THANK YOU

Thanks so much to all the school's Ancilliary staff team for all their hard work in support the school and staff- your efforts are much appreciated!

Gráinne, Sue and Fiona – Reception & Admin
Sean—Caretaker
Anna– First Aid
Elaine– Housekeeping



Best wishes for a happy Easter and a lovely Easter holiday break from all the staff in The Harold School