

The Harold Times

October 2023

Message from Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians & everyone in our school community,

This has been such an exciting week for our school community. We started on Monday with the nail-biting GAA football final in Croke Park. The boys' team played a sensational match to lift the trophy. We are so proud of the sportsmanship that our pupils displayed both on and off the pitch during the tournament. Well done to their coaches Ms Byrne & Mr Dooley for their commitment to the team. This was a historic moment for our school and pupils.

On Friday the whole school celebrated our Fundraiser '**Count Stepula**' in Hudson Park. Our pupils and staff have had such an exciting time preparing for this. Thank you to Ms Quinlan, the 6th class teachers and pupils for leading all the school side preparations. Our amazing PA events teams (led by Liz Dwyer) have also surpassed themselves with a suite of events such as the Costume **Sales, Spirit Days** leading up to the big '**Count Stepula**' fundraiser. Thank you, Parents & Guardians, for your generous donations to our school.

Our school corridors have been fizzing with excitement as we prepared for our '**Count Stepula**' fundraiser. All our pupils have created some wonderfully spooky artwork. We have seen them practising their Monster dance steps and sharing batty Halloween stories & jokes in our school over the last few weeks. I want to thank our wonderful pupils in 5th & 6th classes, and our Student Council, for the way they have inspired our younger pupils recently. Thank you to everyone on the School team & our PA team for their hard work and boundless enthusiasm.

I hope that you all have a lovely & safe Halloween with family & friends.

Dervla Nic Mhathúna

SCHOOL CLOSED— Mid Term break

As per calendar the school will close for the mid term break on **Friday 27th October**.

Please note normal times apply.

School will re-open on **Monday 6th November**.

A copy of the 2023/2024 School Calendar is available on the website www.theharoldschool.ie

Dress Up day Fri 27th October

Our 'Dress-Up' day for Halloween takes place this Friday 27th October 2023 when we look forward to seeing everyone in their colourful costumes. We ask that the children do **NOT** wear Halloween masks, long trailing costumes (which could be a trip hazard) or scary/ gruesome make up (to avoid scaring younger pupils).



Count Stepula 6th Class have been very busy planning and preparing for

Count Stepula, our school fundraiser, over the past few weeks. We have been making Tuck shop sweet bags for every student, learning Halloween dances, teaching the dances to everyone, making sashes to help with organisation on the day, and we even organised a lovely raffle with lots of exciting prizes for every year group. Everyone has worked so hard, walking their 4 kilometres and getting ready for the big day. It was wonderful to see the incredible costumes down in Hudson Field. Thank you for all the support so far. It has been brilliant to see our 6th class helping out so much, and taking on their roles, preparing for the day with such pride, positivity and responsibility. Thank you very much to our Parent Representatives and to all those who have helped out and contributed to the fantastic day. You have put in a huge effort behind the scenes and we really appreciate it. **A VERY BIG THANK YOU to the Parents' Fundraising Committee, and Ms Quinlan who has been the very committed and enthusiastic liaison with staff and pupils!!**



IMPORTANT— Junior Infants 2024

Please note that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2024 is **Friday 3rd November @2.30 pm**. All the relevant information is on the school website www.haroldschool.ie under the "Our School" and "Admission" Tabs



GAA in THE HAROLD SCHOOL

We have had a few great weeks of GAA in our school with both the 6th class girls' and boys' GAA teams competing in the Cumann na mBunscoil league.



Unfortunately, the girls were unlucky with teams pulling out of the competition which resulted in fewer matches. However, the team did make it to the Quarter finals where they lost to

Gaelscoil na Camogie, and where the teamwork and performance were fantastic.

The boys made it to the final in Croke Park on Monday 23rd October playing against Sliabh Rua. They won their match 4-8 to 0-4 and their work ethic on the pitch was superb. They played so well as a team highlighting their skills improvement since the first match! An amazing day was had by the whole team, the very enthusiastic 5th and 6th Class supporters, and indeed the entire school community.



Thank you to the parents, teachers and supporters who cheered all our GAA teams during the competition., and a **BIG THANK**

YOU to the coaches Ms.Byrne and Mr.Dooley. We are so proud of you all! Harold Abú!

Halloween Celebrations

We ask that parents/guardians be responsible in ensuring that their children do not cause injury to either themselves or others on Halloween night. If you discover that your children have fireworks/bangers etc., please confiscate them. Apart from the risk of injury, fireworks can cause great annoyance and distress to elderly neighbours, family pets and animals. They can also set off intruder alarms causing extra demand on Garda resources, and there is always the possibility of fire outbreaks.

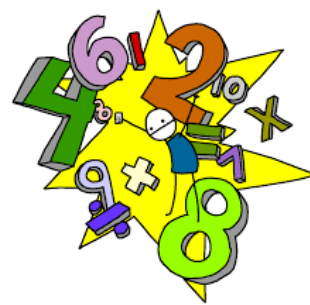


Enjoy a SPOOKY BUT SAFE Halloween!- everyone!



MATHS WEEK

The Harold school really enjoyed taking part in Maths Week this year. We played Maths games and completed daily puzzles and challenges.



The classes enjoyed visiting the Estimation Station where they had to guess the number of Pompoms or Pasta pieces in the Jar. It was a fun, active and enjoyable week.

Congratulations to Juliet Doherty from 5th class, Katie Matthews from 3rd class, Katie McCann from 1st class and Ava Crowley from Junior Infants who all won some great games for their classes. They did some super estimating!

Thank you to Ms Lester who organised a fantastic Robotics workshop from STEAM Academy this week. All classes from 3rd to 6th attended this highly enjoyable event.

A big thank you to Mrs Boyle for organising MATHS WEEK



GAEILGE

We are all working very hard to use our 'Gaeilge' as much as we can. It is great to hear everyone "timpeall na scoile" greeting each other using "Dia duit!" and replying with "Dia is Muire duit!"

Don't forget to use your "cúpla focail" over the Halloween break. You might like to watch a programme on TG4 or maybe listen to a song or two as Gaeilge. There are some great ideas for comhrá (conversation) at the link below, also available on the school website.

[Useful vocabulary for Conversation as Gaeilge \(in Irish\)](#)

Bain taithneamh as laethanta saoire na Samhna!



Buíochas le Mrs Ahern as ucht an sár obair!

Update for 6th Classes



6th class have had a very busy October! The children have been very involved with organising 'Count Stepula' and are very excited for the special day!

We had an amazing trip to Dáil Éireann, where we took part in a guided tour and learned about how our country is run.



We even spotted some famous politicians!

We have been swimming every Friday for the last 6 weeks, and we were delighted to receive an email from the swimming coach-



es complimenting the children on their excellent behaviour and amazing swimming!

We have taken part in two SEAI STEAM workshops. We also planted garlic during our gardening classes, and we are looking forward to the tasty results!

We helped the Junior Infants reach their 4km target for 'Count Stepula' and we taught them some games to play on the yard. We were a great example for the younger children.

All three 6th classes were lucky enough to attend poetry and Science workshops in The Lexicon during October.

Huge THANKS to all our 6th /Class Teachers

Internet Use/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 **Please see some very helpful information in this regard on Web-Wise [Webwise- Advice for parents](#) There will be Cyber safety workshops for pupils later in the school year**



Team Hope

Christmas Shoeboxes



As

As per our earlier message the children in Classes 3rd to 6th are taking part in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal in aid of children living in some of the world's poorest countries. Filled shoe boxes should be returned to the school **on Monday 6/11/2022**

All support of this very worthy cause would be much appreciated.

Christmas Celebrations/Concerts/Plays



We in the Harold School will, of course, be celebrating Christmas, and the relevant details, dates etc. will be forwarded shortly after the midterm break.



Happy Halloween and Happy Midterm!

Best wishes from all in the Harold School for a safe and happy Halloween and a relaxing midterm break. See you all on Monday November 6th.

