

The Harold Times

Spring/Easter 2023



SCHOOL CLOSED— EASTER HOLIDAYS

As per calendar the school will close for Easter holidays this Friday 22/03/2024

Please note THIS IS A HALF DAY as follows:

Junr & Snr Infants 11:40

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 8th April at the usual times

Other upcoming dates next term

IMPORTANT

School Closed:

- **Staff Training 15/05/2024 and 30/05/2024 New Curriculum**
- **Fri 3/5/24, Mon 6/5/24**
- **Fri 31/5/24 , Mon 3/6/24**
- **Half day 28/06/2024 Summer Holidays**



Other dates for the Diary:

- 6th Class Graduation and last day in

School Tues 25/06/2024

- First Holy Communion Ceremonies:

3 x Sundays in May:

12th—Mr Larkin

19th—Mrs Reynolds/Ms Maher

26th—Mrs Ahern



- Confirmation ceremony
- 3 Classes
- Wednesday 22/05/2024



Principal's Message



Dear Parents/
Guardians,

This month our school values have been kindness and care. Our pupils have been working hard to show everyone that they understand how being kind and caring helps build a happy school community for all. We have had a hugely exciting and busy term. We are so fortunate to have a school community with dedicated teachers & staff who are so willing to give time to develop the many talents and skills of their pupils. In this newsletter you will read about some of the wonderful experiences that our pupils have been involved in over the last few months.

Recently our school choir took part in the Córfeile. They received a wonderful adjudication for their beautiful part singing and tone. Our gifted Quiz team made it through to the District finals and finished strongly in the competition.

At the start of March our 4th class pupils and teachers presented their innovative Science projects at Science Blast in the RDS. The adjudicators spoke highly of the pupils' enthusiasm, presentation skills and creativity.

On the field of sport our athletes won many medals in the recent Cross-Country trials. More about this in the newsletter.

We have just completed a fantastic fortnight celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge and encouraging every child to use Irish at every opportunity. Do chat to your child about the events such as our Ceolchoirm, Céilí and Taispeantas. This week our girls' hockey team reached the schools' Final. It was a thrilling match and I was so proud of the girls for their spirit and sportsmanship throughout the match.

I am hugely grateful to our staff, PA & volunteer parents who work so hard to make all of these events such a success. We couldn't do all of these great activities without their 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.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir!
Dervla Nic Mhathúna, Principal



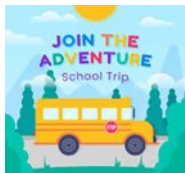
IMPORTANT: Any School Leavers

We would ask that any parents/guardians who know that their child will not be returning to The Harold School for the 2024/2025 school year please let the school know immediately (in confidence if required) as planning for next year's classes is already underway. Please email admin@haroldschool.ie and also state the name of the school to which they will be moving as this is required for the Primary Online Database (POD). Thank you!



Passport Forms

As the holiday season approaches parents may wish to have passport applications signed etc. While we are happy to provide this service an appointment must be made in advance by emailing reception@haroldschool.ie to arrange a suitable time.



School Tours

Any parents/guardians wishing to accompany their child's class on their summer school tours must be Garda vetted.

To apply for Garda vetting or to check if your Garda vetting is still in date please : Email reception@haroldschool.ie
SCHOOL UNIFORM:

As the warmer weather approaches (hopefully!) we would like to remind you that the wearing of shorts (**Plain Navy Knee length shorts ONLY**) is permitted during May, June, September and October **ONLY**



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 school community and we are proud of the efforts made.

Behaviour Code

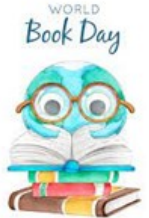


Code Of Behaviour:

We would like to remind all Parents/Guardians that under the school's Code of Behaviour **SMART WATCHES of any kind are forbidden. Any such items found will be confiscated . **We would ask for your support in this matter****

World Book Day

On March 7th, we celebrated 'World Book Day'. Throughout the school, children and staff dressed up as characters from their most cherished books, showcasing an array of wonderful costumes. Throughout the day there were a multitude of engaging activities in our classes, including quizzes, art sessions, dramatic performances, and, central to it all, dedicated time for reading. Thank you so much for the immense effort put forth by children, parents, and staff in crafting these imaginative costumes. Most importantly, the day helped us to nurture a love of reading within our school community. ***Thanks to Ms Madden for organising this lovely event!***



School Library

Our school library has had some new additions and is looking wonderful. We have added some colourful new shelving and bright new couches which the children really enjoy using. This was possible because of the great response to the annual Christmas Card fundraiser. Many thanks to all who supported it.



We were also able to buy some fantastic new books in Dubray thanks to the super prize which was won by one of our pupils Esmé Moriarty. She entered the Specsavers Short story competition and her story won an amazing €500 prize for her school library. Congratulations Esmé and thank you.

Thank you Mrs Boyle!

Tag Rugby

Our 5th and 6th Class boys and girls participated in a Tag/Touch Rugby programme over the last few weeks. This was facilitated by Luke Sloyan from Leinster Rugby. The boys and girls had fun and many enjoyed trying their hand at a new sport! ***Thanks to Ms McKeogh for arranging this!***



Hockey

We have had a fantastic year with hockey in The Harold. Our 6th class teams represented us in the Leinster League. Their level of skill, commitment and dedication was outstanding. They made it to the final of the Leinster League in Marley Park. We are so proud of them all.

The 6th class boys, and 4th and 5th class girls played an exciting blitz against Johnstown and trained so hard each week with such enthusiasm. On the 23rd April the teachers are going to play 6th class in a fun match in Cluny. Keep the date free, the teachers may need your support!

Thanks to Ms Henderson, Trish and Abbie for their coaching, and to all parents for their support with lifts etc.



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 starting their campaign with three wins out of three., one for each team. **Many thanks to Mrs Cave, and parents Suzie Egan, Gillian D'Arcy for organising things this year! Thanks also to all the parents who have brought children to matches and for their overall support of tennis!**

Soccer

We were delighted to get the opportunity to partake in the FAI Schools 5-a-side tournament again this year. We had teams from the 6th Class boys who represented their school in a fantastic way with one team reaching the quarter

Thanks to Ms Connolly and Mr Dooley for looking after this.



GAA: We had a medal presentation for the boys Gaelic team for the Cumann na mBunscol final. Ken Fitzgerald (Cuala) came in and presented the boys with their medals. **ALSO**

We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Ken for all that he has done to promote Gaelic in our school. The initial introduction provided by him (as a Games promotion Officer in our local GAA Club, Cuala), has been invaluable and may of our pupils now play Gaelic Football (both boys and girls), Hurling and Camogie in Cuala and other GAA clubs.

Ken is taking a step back from Cuala, and so will not be taking GAA sessions. In our school going forward. We wish Ken all the best in his new endeavours and thank him most sincerely. Our pupils made a guard of honour for Ken on his last day working in our school.

We hope that an alternative coach will be provided to continue GAA in the school.

Míle buíochas, Cionnaith!

Athletics.

Some of our pupils have been taking part in after-school athletics with one of our teachers, Mr Burns as coach.

On Thursday the 14th of March, boys and girls across 5th/6th class participated in a Cross Country race in Monkstown Junior School. Three medals were won along with a plaque for the best performing team. An amazing effort from everyone involved! Congratulations to all, and **many thanks to Mr Burns for all his hard work!**

SWIMMING:

Swimming lessons have been ongoing in the school during this year. Pupils from Classes 3rd to 6th have already completed their swimming modules with the pupils from 2nd Class commencing theirs on Friday 10th April 2024. Thanks to Gráinne and Sue for organising this and to Castle Park for providing the facilities and coaches which is helping to foster a love of swimming in our pupils who are learning a very valuable life skill!



For your information:

There will be a Swim Camp taking place in Castle Park over the Easter break



STUDENT COUNCIL 2024

The Student Council have had a busy and productive term working on various initiatives. They were a great help on Grandparents' Day escorting many grandparents around the school. They were so polite and respectful and did a great job. They have made suggestion boxes for their respective classes and have been encouraging their classmates to put suggestions into these boxes on ways to improve our school. In so doing, everyone gets to voice their opinion. We have been discussing these suggestions at our Student Council meetings and will be putting many into action. A big thank you to the Student Council for all their hard work and commitment!! ***Thanks to Mrs Macey for looking after this!***

SCIENCE BLAST On 6th March the 3 x 4th Classes took part in the Science Blast exhibition in the RDS. Science Blast is a non competitive educational programme for primary schools



involving the whole class investigating the science behind a simple question. The topics of propagation, gravity and mechanics were explored. The children did a fantastic job presenting all their hard work to the judges and answering their questions. Thanks to all our wonderful parent volunteers, the students then got the chance to explore all the other exhibits, watch a Science show with Mark the Science Guy and explore under the sea using VR equipment. A great day was had by all. ***Thanks to the 4th Class Teachers Ms Lambkin, Ms O'Brolcháin and Ms Jordan for all their hard work.***

STEM Grant.

We are delighted that our school has been selected as a recipient of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant from the Department of Education, following a successful application in November. We are using this grant to enrich the teaching and learning of STEM in our school through the use of playful learning experiences. Over the coming weeks, we will be sourcing new games and equipment to implement these positive learning experiences across our school.



Curious Minds Award.

Classes across our school, led by 5th class, have been working hard to achieve the Curious Minds Award this year. We are hoping



to achieve the Silver Award following our application next month. The Curious Minds Award gives our school the chance to not only develop STEM learning and engagement, but also receive recognition for your amazing work.

Thanks to Ms Lester for looking after this and organising the purchase of additional STEM equipment purchased by the school!

6th Class

Recently, 6th class have engaged in lots of exciting and enriching activities. The children are thoroughly enjoying our tag rugby sessions, led by Leinster rugby coaches. Additionally, our exploration of Irish culture and the Gaelic Revival really came to life for us during our visit to Croke Park, where we delved into the rich history of Gaelic games and Irish culture. The commendable behavior exhibited by the children throughout the trip filled our teachers and SNAs with pride. In 6th class, we have been enriching our lessons with the use of iPads. On World Book Day, 6th class students showcased their creativity by writing wonderful stories using the Book Creator app. Their effort and hard work made for an amazing story telling session, where our 6th class pupils read their stories to the Junior Infants. All children, from both 6th class and Junior Infants, showed great imagination and a love of story telling.



Thanks to all our 6th Class Teachers for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Cómhghárdeachas agus míle buíochas do ghach duine ar “Foireann 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 bhuchaint. 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!!

Míle Buíochas le Mrs Ahern

CórFheile

The school choir sang along with 5th classes in The National Basketball Arena on March 5th for the Corfheile na Scoileanna festival of music. They sang *Beidh Aonach Amarach* and an arrangement of *Nothing compares to You* and *Rainy night in Soho* in a tribute to Sinead O Connor and Shane Mc Gowan. They were accompanied by Ms Thomason on the piano and Mr Burns on guitar. Lara Connor from 3rd class played the tin whistle. Catherine Mc Evoy-Mc Gorman was the reviewer for that day and she provided excellent feedback to the choir. “Lovely tonal quality”, “lovely arrangement”, “very moving performance” were some of the very positive comments. Well done to all for their hard work. **Thanks to Mrs Ahern and Ms Murphy who conducted the choir. See the website for some pictures.**



Green School: Patrick Earls from Swift Conservation Ireland has been in contact with the school and we are going to provide some of the external walls of our school for installation of swift nesting boxes. The swift is an endangered bird which migrates to Ireland’s towns to breed each year. The children should be able to spot these birds from the playground once the boxes are installed in April. There will also be some talks given by Swift Conservation Ireland introducing them to these endangered birds.

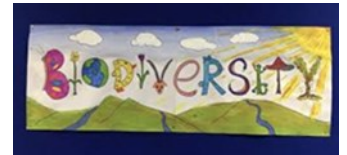
Green School Committee



The Green Schools committee have been holding regular meetings and have conducted a global awareness survey which is a starting point in our steps towards our next green flag. A question from the survey asked if the children recognised the Fair Trade Logo and we will be working hard to increase awareness among the school community of this great initiative. The children on the committee also designed posters for their classrooms to ensure that the milk cartons are being recycled correctly and there will be a school wide drive to encourage bringing reusable water bottles to school.



There has been lots happening in the garden and polytunnel over the last couple of months and it is looking beautiful with all the spring flowers in full bloom! Many of the lovely daffodils and tulips we see were planted by Senior Infants last October and this week they planted summer flowering bulbs. The garlic planted by 6th class is growing well and this week they sowed sunflowers seeds and made bird feeders. 4th class are learning about propagation and took willow cuttings last week. They have already taken home their salvia plants which they grew from cuttings. The broad beans sown by First Class last November are growing well and the apple pips that 3rd class sowed last November have germinated. 2nd class have been learning all about herbs and made lovely lavender bags and the mint they have planted is growing well. Next week Junior Infants will be planting potatoes and 5th class will be sowing carrots, spinach and peas. Many thanks to Onja & Mags for all their enthusiasm and hard work with the children in the garden. **Thanks also to Sean for all his hard work in the school garden and lovely window boxes.**



Cuda Credit Union Quiz

Pupils from 6th Class took part in the local Cuda Credit Union quiz, and got through to the national finals where they were places 10th!



Congrats on a wonderful achievement to:

Kitty Hannigan Nina McDonald Victoria Griffin
Alexander Kelly

Many thanks to Ms Madden and Mr O'Sullivan for looking after this

Grandparents Day



Grandparents Day

We celebrated Grandparents' Day in school on Friday 2nd February, and what a lovely day it was, one of the highlights of our school year. The turnout was fabulous and it was a pleasure to show all the grandparents around the school and treat them to refreshments and some songs from the Choir. **Thanks to all staff, 6th Class and Student council members for all their help on this lovely occasion!**

MOCK TRIALS: Each of our 6th Classes participated



a mock criminal trial earlier in the year. This was facilitated by Barry Ward, a criminal barrister (and Senator). The trial gave our pupils an insight into how the criminal justice system in Ireland works.

This was a hugely popular project and a great opportunity for our 6th class pupils to see first-hand how a criminal trial might work and to see important principles like the presumption of innocence in action, as well as having some fun. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience,

Many **THANKS** to Barry Ward and his colleagues for giving so generously of their time., to Ms McKeogh for co-ordinating the events, and to the 6th Class Teachers, Ms Henderson, Ms O'Sullivan, Ms Madden Ms Halligan, Ms Quinlan!



St Brigid's Day:

On Friday 1st February we celebrated St. Brigid's Day here in The Harold School. The children read the stories of St. Brigid's Cloak and her miracles.

There is lovely artwork around the school to celebrate her day and among these are the iconic St. Brigid's cross. The children enjoyed honouring her in this way and celebrating her feast day. We all also enjoyed the Bank Holiday in St Brigid's honour on Monday, Feb. 5th.

Parents' Association



The Parents Association would like to thank everyone for their contributions in time, energy and donations in 2023. We are now looking for a new Chair & Secretary of the Parents Association, to take over at the start of the next school year, and a new fundraising team to start thinking about how we can beat Count Stepula. If you would be interested in any of these, please contact haroldschoolpa@gmail.com.

BIG EASTER THANK YOU

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

Gráinne, Sue—Reception

Fiona— Admin

Sean—Caretaker

Anna- First Aid

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

