



Guardian Angels' National School

Newsletter - September 2023

Welcome to the new school year!

We are delighted to be back after the summer break and to see so many happy faces returning to school. We extend a very special welcome to our new Junior Infant classes as well as all the pupils who have joined our older classes. We are particularly impressed by our Junior Infants and how well and quickly they have settled-in at GANS. Everyone is already busy getting back into the swing of school life, so we'll take this opportunity to wish all our pupils and staff a very happy year of learning and fun ahead.

Afterschool activities

We are offering a full and varied range of afterschool activities for classes across the school this year. The full schedule can be viewed in the 'Information for parents' section of the website, with details for all activity providers included. With dance, art, drama, Spanish, robotics and a wide variety of sports on offer, we hope there's something to suit everyone.

Sensory garden

Our SNA team has been really busy over the summer planning and developing our first dedicated sensory garden. Sensory gardens have long been recognised as having wide ranging benefits to children – and particularly to those who have sensory processing issues. We have many people to thank for their support and contribution however, first and foremost is our wonderful SNA team. It's thanks to their dedication and hard work that the garden has become a reality. We gratefully received lots of contributions from the local and wider community and in particular, we wish to thank Windyridge, The Patio Centre, Johnstown Road; Woodies, Sallynoggin; Chadwicks, Sallynoggin; Intel; Leixlip and Blackrock Men's Sheds; Smyths, Carrickmines; The Bungalow, Deansgrange Road; Glenveigh Homes and Clarkes of Cavan. Thanks to these incredibly generous community contributions, the garden is now almost complete and we look forward to welcoming our first visitors in the coming weeks.

Lost property

With the recent warm weather, our lost property box is already filling up fast with jumpers and hoodies. Please please make sure your child's uniform and coat are clearly labelled with their name, otherwise it's near impossible to reunite lost property with its owners. A large number of school jumpers, hats, gloves and some very new looking coats were left behind in Junior & Senior Infants last year. All lost items have been gathered on a table in the infant corridor for collection.

Please note that anything not claimed will be passed to the PTA for their next uniform swap.

Car park

As we start the new school year, we ask all those who use the car park to please be kind and considerate of each other. Please don't block cars into spaces, please don't park across free spaces and please don't blow your horns at other drivers. There are dedicated disabled access spaces at our main gate that are in constant use. Unless you hold a valid permit, please don't ever take these spaces – even for a quick drop-off or pick-up. Finally, please drive slowly. We have some very small pedestrians crossing the car park daily. The car park belongs to the Church of the Guardian Angels and we want to make sure we can all continue to use the car park and most importantly, to do so safely.

Junior Infant admissions 2024

Applications for our Junior Infants 2024 class will be accepted from 1st October to 31st October 2023. Full details as well as an application form can be found in the 'Admissions' section of www.guardianangels.ie. Please note that any applications received after the closing date of 31st October will be automatically placed on our waiting list. Application forms and any admissions queries can be sent to admissionsgans@gmail.com.

Secondary school open evenings

For parents and guardians in our older classes, you may be interested in the following open evenings that we have been made aware of:

- Rockford Manor – Thursday 14th September at 7pm
- Oatlands – Thursday 21st September from 5.30-7.30pm
- The Teresian School – Thursday 21st September from 6-8pm
- Sion Hill – Tuesday 26th September from 4.30-7pm
- Loreto, Foxrock – Thursday 26th September from 6-8pm

Staff news

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Ms Bríd Fahy, as she retired at the end of last term. Ms Fahy spent the last 10 years of her teaching career with Guardian Angels and we were so lucky to have had her on our team. A dedicated teacher, she shared her passion for learning with all she taught, giving so many children such a wonderful start in primary school and a lifetime love of learning. We wish Ms Fahy every happiness on her retirement – and such a well-deserved rest.

We have a number of changes to our staff for this new school year. Firstly, we bid Ms Campbell and Ms Horan a bon voyage as they head off on their adventurous career breaks and we wish Mr O'Leary the best in his new school.

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our teaching staff – Ms Buckley (Senior Infants), Ms Byrne (Junior Infants), Ms Hunter (Third), Ms McGrath-Oakes (Third), Mr D O'Neill (Fourth) and Ms Sweeney (Junior Infants). We are delighted to have them on board and hope they will be very happy with us at Guardian Angels.

Finally, congratulations to our SNA Mary on the arrival of her first grandchild. The absolutely gorgeous Rory arrived in early August in Vancouver and has already been treated to his first visit from his overjoyed Irish grandparents.

Latest news and updates from our PTA

A huge welcome to new families and welcome back to everyone from the PTA! We are looking forward to an exciting year of activities and fund raising for our school. The following events are all planned for this term and we're sure, with your help, they'll be a huge success. Please remember that the PTA functions when you, the parents, take part as well. Please consider volunteering where you can, to enable us to continue to raise money to improve the school for our children. Contact your PTA rep or drop us an email at ptaguardianangels@gmail.com

Coffee morning

We are hosting a coffee morning for parents and guardians of our new pupils (Junior Infants and older classes) on Friday 15th September. We hope as many as possible can join us in the Halla, immediately after drop-off, for coffee and a chat. It's a lovely opportunity to get to know each other - but please drop your child off as normal first - and then enter the Halla through the main front door.

Uniform swap

For anyone who needs any more uniform bits, there will be a uniform swap on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th September from 8.30-9am, outside the school gates. Please make sure anything you donate is clean and in good condition.

PTA AGM

We are thrilled to invite parents/guardians to the PTA AGM on 19th October, in the Halla. We will be welcoming in our new committee and also hearing a talk from ZEEKO about internet safety in our schools.

Finally, if anyone would be interested in joining the PTA, please do not hesitate to contact your class rep or email us on ptaguardianangels@gmail.com. We meet once a month at 7.30pm. You can commit to as much or as little as you like, outside of the meetings – everyone plays their part. It is a great way to get to know other parents and to see firsthand where the money raised is spent! If you can't commit to join the PTA, but can volunteer to help at events, any support is always welcomed.

Event highlights for the rest of the term:

- The annual Sponsored Walk will take place on 13th October. Sponsorship cards will be issued to each family and also donations can be made on Aladdin.
- The Halloween Costume swap is back due to popular demand on 17th/18th October. As with the uniform swap, please make sure anything donated is clean and in good condition.
- And even more exciting is the return of the Halloween disco on 26th October. Be prepared to get scared!