

Newsletter

Guardian Angels' NS – October 2023

Halloween celebration

Junior and Senior Infants are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Friday 27th October. Dressing up is optional and anyone who would prefer not to, is welcome to wear their own clothes. First to Sixth Class will have the opportunity to show off their costumes at the Halloween disco on Thursday 26th October. Please be mindful of any props that might be safer at home or easily lost such as light sabres, swords, wigs, brooms or false teeth. GANS girls and boys are always at their creative best at Halloween so we can't wait to see all their brilliant costumes (even the scary ones!).

Recent school visits

It was a real treat to welcome Naturally Wild's Dale Treadwell to the school. Dale spent time with all classes, from Junior Infants to Sixth and introduced the children to the '5 Bs of biodiversity' – bugs, butterflies, bees, bats and birds. Dale used fun, interactive games and activities (including building geodesic domes!) to encourage everyone to really think about and respect our natural environment.



We were delighted that Gerry Creighton, who is well-known from RTE's The Zoo, took the time to visit Sixth Class recently. Having spent over 35 years working at Dublin Zoo, Gerry now travels the world as a specialist in elephant care and protection. He held Sixth Class rapt with fascinating stories from his years as a zookeeper and his obvious passion for animal welfare.

Internet safety seminar

Zeeko, the internet safety specialists will deliver seminars on internet safety to Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class later this month. With so much online access available to children, internet safety has become increasingly important. Zeeko's interactive programme will educate Third-Sixth Classes on how to use the internet safely and responsibly as well as the dangers of sharing personal information online.



Football

Both our boys and girls teams are taking part in the Cumann na mBunscol school league. Despite the results so far, we have been so impressed by the great skills on show as well as their teamwork, determination and camaraderie. Our thanks to the boys and girls for their dedication and for the parents/guardians who have helped with lifts and cheered us on from the sidelines. We are so proud of how both teams have represented GANS and look forward to more exciting matches.



First Holy Communion

We are delighted to have all dates confirmed for Second Class to prepare and celebrate their First Holy Communion. Enrolment in the Do This in Memory programme will take place on 26th November with Do This in Memory masses following on 17th December, 14th January, 11th February, 3rd March and 14th April. First Confession will be held on Wednesday 6th March at 19.30. Holy Communion for Ms O'Dowd/Ms O'Sullivan's class will be celebrated on Sunday 12th May and Ms Lynch's class will celebrate on Sunday 19th May. All dates and policy details around First Holy Communion are available to view on our website www.guardianangels.ie.

School Uniform

We really appreciate the effort that most pupils are making with wearing the correct school uniform. It is not fair on those pupils who make the effort, when a small group turn up day after day in tracksuits or non-uniform garments. Pupils from Senior Infants to Sixth should only wear the tracksuit on PE days and on days when there is a GANS-related sport for the class, such as basketball or swimming. We will continue to stress neatness and good grooming; these are habits for life and create a good impression. We hope all our pupils wear the GANS uniform with pride.

Maths Week

We always love Maths Week at GANS and can't wait to celebrate from 14th-22nd October. We have lots of fun, interactive maths activities, games and challenges planned across the entire school. There will be games, art, puzzles and tricky riddles to solve as well as daily doses of Maths Week TV! Some great ideas for games to play at home at any time, can be found at www.mathsweek.ie



Junior Infants 2024

A gentle reminder that the closing date for applications for Junior Infants 2024 is Tuesday 31st October. Even with a sibling in the school, you still need to submit an application form for a new Junior Infant. Application forms and more details can be found in the Admissions section of our website. Please note that any applications received after 31st October will be automatically placed on a waiting list.

Sympathies

We extend our sympathies to Fr Bill on the recent death of his sister Toni.

Arrival time

We need to again remind all parents and guardians that until the school gates open at 8.35am, there is **no supervision**. We very much appreciate pupils arriving on time for school but from a safety perspective, please try not to arrive before 8:35am.

Mid-term break

The school will close at the usual times (1.30 and 2.30) on Friday 27th October for mid-term break. After such a busy start to the year, we know that everyone is really looking forward to the break. We wish all our pupils and families a restful, happy and healthy mid-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th November.

Latest news from the PTA

October is here and the autumn weather is starting to kick in – please remember to label all your belongings! We try and run the uniform swaps at least once a term, so do remember to check in with the PTA if you need a spare jumper, skirt, etc.

Please encourage all the children to wear helmets and high vis vests when cycling or scooting to and from school. Also, please speak to your children about safety when moving either by foot or on bikes/scooters through the car park.

Parents should not hover in their cars at drop-off or pick-up time and block in other cars that are trying to navigate the carpark. If everyone keeps moving, then spaces free up much quicker!

Sponsored walk

The annual sponsored walk will take place on Friday 13th October. Sponsorship cards will be issued to each family and donations can be made through Aladdin. This is the BIGGEST fund-raising event of the year and is always thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Everyone should wear their PE kit on the day.

Halloween costume swap & disco

The Halloween costume swap is back due to popular demand on 17th and 18th October. As with the uniform swap, please make sure everything is clean and in good condition. The Halloween disco for 1st to 6th classes is on Thursday 26th October. We will need lots of volunteers for each session, so please do sign up when the volunteer roster is issued.

PTA AGM

You will have received an email about the PTA AGM on the 19th October in the Halla. We will be welcoming in our new PTA committee and also hearing a talk from Zeeko about internet safety in our schools.

Zeeko will have been in the school talking with the children from 3rd to 6th class during that week, so it will be great to hear what they have been discussing and how to teach the children responsible internet usage.

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 and it is a great way to get to know other parents and get to see firsthand where the money raised is spent! A nomination form is also attached to this email.