

Newsletter

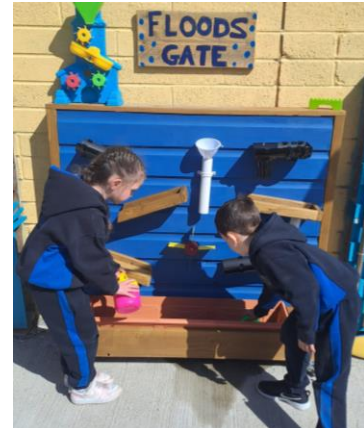
April 2025

Upcoming school closures

We close early at **12.30pm** for the Easter holidays on Friday 11 April and return to school on Monday 28 April. Monday 5 May is a public holiday, as is Monday 2 June. We are also closed on Tuesday 3 June. Our final day of the school year is Friday 27 June.

New addition to Happy Haven

Huge thanks to Grace, Hope and the Murtagh-Flood family for this fabulous new addition to our Happy Haven sensory garden. The 'Floods Gate' water wall will teach children about angles, gravity and water flow – but most importantly, it will bring hours of fun and happiness to all who play there.



National Children's Choir

Congratulations to all our Fourth and Fifth Class pupils who took part in the National Children's Choir performance at the National Basketball Arena. The National Children's Choir is a very special event that takes place every two years and this year it celebrated its ruby anniversary. Singing with five other schools, we could not be prouder of our GANS pupils – for their amazing performance and impeccable behaviour. A special thank you to all the teachers and SNAs who have worked so hard since September in preparing the children for what was a truly memorable performance.

Survey

As part of our ongoing review of the Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Procedures, we are seeking your valuable input to help ensure that our school remains a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all students. We kindly ask you to complete [this online survey](#) before Friday 11 April 2025. Survey responses are anonymous and it should take just a few moments to complete. Your feedback is essential in assessing our current approach to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

Art residency

First Class thoroughly enjoyed their 12 week art residency with artist Susie Fortune. Together they explored faces through different mediums and visited a brilliant interactive exhibition in the Lexicon in Dun Laoghaire. Their own exhibition “Wonder Faces” was displayed in the halla and the whole school had a chance to visit and view their artwork. Our thanks to DLRCOCO and Blackrock Education Centre for supporting such a wonderful initiative – and for choosing GANS to take part.



FAI 5s

We had a very successful outing at this year’s FAI Primary 5s soccer tournament. Both teams showed fantastic skill and determination on the day. Our girls' team put on a brilliant display, making it all the way to the quarter-finals. Our boys played some superb football resulting in two great victories but were just pipped in the third game. It makes us very proud to see a GANS team in action when their wonderful team spirit and support of each other really shines.



Reminder: School shorts policy

With the warmer weather on the way, we’d like to remind students and families that only *school uniform shorts* are permitted to be worn to school. This helps us maintain a consistent and respectful dress code across the school community. Thank you for your cooperation and support in upholding our uniform standards.

Pupil safety

Please remind all children that the only safe way to cross Newtownpark Avenue is with our traffic warden Deborah. There are far too many children crossing the road – close to Deborah, but not with her. We had two very near-misses within the last two weeks where children were almost hit by cars. With a traffic warden on duty right outside the school, there is no reason why any child should cross the road at any other point. Also please note that the school gates open at 8.35am every morning and there is **no supervision** of the car park. Children should arrive

between 8.35 and 8.50 each morning when the gates are open, and they have a safe space to wait.

Hockey success

We had a brilliant hockey season this year with our girls' team going all the way to the semis and our boys making it to the final. Well done to both teams. We have some fantastic hockey players coming up the ranks at GANS and look forward to another successful hockey season next year.



2025/26 school year

The first day of the new school year will be Wednesday 27 August. We'll share the full calendar once confirmed. If for any reason your child is not returning to GANS next year, can you please let us know as soon as possible, to help us manage our waiting lists.

Spelling Bee

On Friday 21 March, we had our most tense hour of the school year as our annual GANS Spelling Bee took place. Pupils from Fifth and Sixth took part and the competition was fierce. Massive congratulations to Amelia in Fifth who was crowned our Spelling Bee Champion 2024/25. Amelia will go on to compete in the Eason Spelling Bee Dublin County Final.



Annual litter-picking

We had fabulous weather for our annual litter picking day on Thursday 20 March. The whole school got involved and picked up litter from around the school grounds, Newtownpark Avenue and the Rockies. Our litter picking efforts are always so appreciated by our neighbours and it makes us very proud to see our pupils taking responsibility for their local environment and for doing such good work.



Update from GANS PTA



Dates for the diary

- **24th March to 2nd May – Readathon.** Hopefully lots of fun reading time and sponsorships are filling up fast. All funds raised will be used towards enhancing the learning and social environment for the children at school.
- **2nd May – Dress Up Day at school.** To celebrate the end of the Readathon the children can dress up as their favorite book character, if they wish.

Other points of note

We received a great selection of books at the book swap. Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered, we hope the children are enjoying their books. The children could continue to swap books again amongst themselves and add to their class tally and sponsorship.

Can we also ask everyone to read the updated Class WhatsApp Group etiquette [here](#). The various school policies including social media, communication and complaints procedures can be found [here](#).

Wishing you all a lovely Easter Break.

Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA <https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/>