

Newsletter

May 2025

Upcoming school closures

We are closed on Monday 2 June (public holiday) and Tuesday 3 June (school holiday). We close early at 12.30pm on our final day of this school year - Friday 27 June.

Sacraments

Congratulations to Second Class who received their First Holy Communion on Sunday 11 May. The parish sacramental team, led by our new parish priest Fr Bradley, ensured it was a beautiful ceremony - with the added bonus of sunshine on the day. Special thanks to Mrs. Doherty and Ms. Fahy for all their hard work in preparing the children so well. Sixth Class is making their Confirmation today and wish them a very special celebration.



Class regroupings

As we near the end of the school year, we are preparing to regroup a number of classes. Our three Junior Infant classes will be merged into two Senior Infant classes, while Fourth and Fifth Class will be regrouped. Regrouping classes is a common practice across primary schools. Regrouping is not a decision that is taken lightly but over time, classes can become uneven in terms of gender, abilities and dispositions. Out of fairness to all pupils, regrouping is the best way to ensure classes are well balanced. A class of truly mixed ability is the best possible learning environment. For some children, a regroup can also offer a fresh start for their final year/s in primary school. Regrouping is a good way to prepare older children for entry to secondary school by helping them adjust to change, gain independence skills and learn how to cope with transition. This should not be a cause for any alarm or stress for either the children, or parents/guardians. When considering the new class groupings, a number of factors are taken into account including friend groups, gender, ability and class dynamics. A lot of thought, planning and preparation goes into regrouping and a consultation process has already begun. Mr. Ó Néill has met with all classes to discuss the changes and answer any questions pupils

may have. He will meet with the teachers many times over the coming weeks to ensure that we get the best balance in the classes. The new class groups will be announced in mid-June. When the new classes are finalised, activities to help the groups integrate will be arranged.

Active School Week

Next week (19 May) is Active School Week at GANS and we have a full timetable of active events planned. We'll 'wake up, shake up' every morning at 8.35 with a playground warm-up, there will be lots of daily active challenges, playground games, active homework and a tug-of-war. We'll have a special teacher vs pupil challenge again this year that we know the pupils are very keen to win! All pupils are invited to wear their sports kits or active clothes on Thursday 22 May (only if they wish).



Sports news

Weather depending, we will hold Sports Day for First, Second and Third Class on Thursday 12 June and for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class on Friday 13 June. Separately, we have a team of 22 athletes from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class heading to Santry on Thursday 22 May. We wish them the very best as they compete in individual 100m sprints, team relay and the distance race.

Brainbox

We were delighted to welcome Brainbox back to Guardian Angels to deliver their 'Transition to Secondary' workshop with Sixth Class. The workshop aims to make the move to secondary school as smooth as possible by giving pupils a range of social, emotional and organisational tips, to help build confidence and ensure the best possible start in their new schools.

Message from the Board of Management

The Board of Management sincerely thanks all families for their ongoing support of the school. If any parent or guardian would like to make a voluntary contribution to the school this year, we would be very grateful. In previous years we have been asked to suggest a contribution amount and only do so for this reason. Therefore, we suggest a maximum of €90 per child, or maximum of €150 per family. These suggested amounts are the same as in recent years. However, any contribution you wish to make is very welcome. All contributions are received in confidence and will be used for the benefit of all of our pupils. We wish to emphasise that this contribution is entirely voluntary. Contributions can be made through Aladdin. We ask that if you wish to make a contribution, that you do so by the end of June.

School tours

Our busy school tour season is about to kick-off with lots of really fun trips planned for the weeks ahead. Junior & Senior Infants are off to Glenroe Farm. First Class will visit the zoo, Second Class will explore the treetops at Avondale and Third Class are looking forward to a great day of challenges at Go Quest. Fourth Class will visit Aquazone, Fifth Class is going to

Clara Lara and Sixth Class will be leaving for their annual three-night stay in Delphi on Monday 26 May.

Sun safety & school shorts

During good weather, the children do spend more time outside during the school day, so a reminder to please apply sunscreen in the morning and ensure your child has a sun hat with them. Shorts can be worn but they must be the proper school uniform shorts. The arrival of warmer weather means the shedding of jumpers and hoodies. We remind everyone to PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING with your child's name. We have an astonishing number of hoodies and jumpers in lost property – and none of them have a name written or labeled on them. **Any unclaimed uniform will be included in the upcoming PTA uniform swap or sent for recycling at the end of the school 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 by the Board of Management. If for any reason your child is not returning to GANS next year, please let us know as soon as possible, to help us manage our waiting lists.

Staff news

Finally, we are just thrilled to share the lovely news that Ms Harraghy's twin baby girls arrived on 1 May. Mabel and Amelia arrived a little early and although they're very tiny, both babies – and mum – are thriving.



Update from GANS PTA



Date for the diary: Uniform swap – Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 May 8.30-9.00am

Please drop items to the school from next week 19 May. We will have a box for collection in the halla. Sixth class can drop uniforms to the halla during the final week of school. Everything is free, you do not have to bring anything to swap, just have a look and you might pick up something you need. Please ensure that anything donated or swapped is clean and in reasonable condition. **Any unclaimed lost property will be included in this swap.**

Other points of note

We hope the children enjoyed their extra reading time during the Readathon. Thank you to everyone who sponsored. So far it has raised over €2,500 - and there is still some money coming in. The Aladdin payment link is open until Friday 16 May or any cash sponsorships can be dropped at the school or with your PTA class rep.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help at the Communion with decorating and refreshments. The continued support of the school community is very much appreciated and key to the success of these special days and events. We will be looking for 4 or 5 volunteers to help with the graduation on the evening of 25 June in the school halla. Please contact your class rep if you can help.

A reminder that the various school policies including phones and social media can be found here at <https://www.guardianangels.ie/policies/>.

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