



# Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

River Valley, Swords, Co. Dublin, Charity Number 20119300



March 2026

## Principal's Message



Welcome to our Term 2 Newsletter! It has been a busy and exciting term filled with wonderful events — Catholic Schools Week, Friendship February, Spring Day, and all the fantastic activities that took place during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

A huge thank you to all members of the Parents' Association for making Spring Day a massive success with an incredible €14,670 raised. A number of members will be finishing up this year as their children move on to the next chapter of their school lives. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for the commitment and support they have shown to the school during their time on the Parents' Association, and we wish them and their children every success in the future.

Children from 2nd Class have once again contributed to the newsletter through KidsView. This initiative allows children to engage purposefully with writing while expressing their creativity and ideas. KidsView gives children a voice, fostering independence, resilience



and self-esteem. These contributions are marked with the binoculars symbol. Well done to our budding journalists, and a special thank you to the teachers who support and guide them. A big thank you also to Ms. Ginty for coordinating KidsView and producing this newsletter.



We would also like to wish Ms. Paula Fitzsimons, who worked as both a class teacher and special education teacher for more than 35 years in our school, our very best wishes on her retirement. We sincerely thank her for her commitment, dedication and outstanding service to the school.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter — have a wonderful break and enjoy the “choc fest”!

Mary McNally



The wet weather we experienced from the beginning of 2026 into the early weeks of spring had a noticeable impact on school life, with many days of indoor play times and limited opportunities for outdoor activity. While this presented its challenges, it also encouraged creativity and cooperation within classrooms. Thankfully, we are now beginning to welcome signs of spring, with brighter days and drier weather allowing us to return outdoors and enjoy the many benefits that fresh air and play bring to our wellbeing.



## Mindfulness & Wellbeing at HFJNS

Wellbeing continues to be a key priority in our school, supporting both pupils and staff to feel safe, happy and ready to learn. Our Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying) Policy, available on the school website, reflects our commitment to fostering a positive, respectful and inclusive environment for all. Through strong relationships, open communication and opportunities for play and outdoor learning, we aim to nurture children's emotional, social and physical development. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our staff, our Wellbeing Committee led by Ms Carty and all members of the school community for their ongoing support and commitment to promoting wellbeing. This was particularly evident during Friendship February, where kindness, inclusion and positive connections were celebrated across the school. Children from each class level buddied up with other classes to complete some art projects together.



### KidsView by Lila & Maisie

We went on a spring walk around the school. There are cherry blossoms around the school. There are buds growing on the trees. The flowers are growing on the grass. Bees are out of their hives collecting pollen. There are lots of birds flying around and the days are getting hotter. The daffodils look nice. There are lots of bugs around. Spring is here.



### KidsView by Charlie



For Friendship February, our second class from Room 18 went to Room 4 to meet our partners in Junior Infants. We coloured in our partner's names. Then our partners came to our class and we made puppets. It was lots of fun and we made new friends.



# Seachtain na Gaeilge '26

A wonderful celebration of the Irish language, heritage and culture began in Holy Family on 2nd March. Over two weeks, children enjoyed a range of class and whole-school activities including dance, art, songs and games as Gaeilge. Highlights included a whole-school ceolchoirm featuring the incredible Teachers' Band and the bilingual play *Troiblóid sa Chaisleáin* (*Trouble in the Castle*). The celebrations concluded with a lively Céilí Mór and parade, creating a great atmosphere in the school and wider community. Many thanks to Ms. Ginty and Ms. Linnane for organising these events. Buíochas mór lena bpáistí agus lena múinteoirí go léir. Please visit our website for photos, songs and videos.



## An Céilí Mór KidsView by Olivia & Rían



During Seachtain na Gaeilge we learnt some Damhsa Gaelach. During the céilí we did Shoe the Donkey with our partners, the Circle dance agus Ballaí Luimnigh. We also did an Dreoilín agus an Haka Gaelach. At the end of the céilí all of the 2nd classes say 'Ireland's Call together. We were really loud.



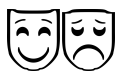
## An Ceoilchoirm KidsView by Isaac



We had a great time at the ceoilchoirm for Seachtain na Gaeilge. Loads of the teachers played their instruments and they were brilliant! Ms. Linnane and Ms. McCabe played the tin whistle, Ms. English and Ms. Hayes played the keyboard, Ms. Roughneen and Mr. Sullivan played the guitar, Ms. Kearns played the accordion and Ms. Rattigan played the uilleann pipes. We sang lots of songs, like The Rattling Bog, Killeagh and Ireland's Call! We thought the ceoilchoirm was go hiontach!



## Dramaíocht /Play KidsView by Norah



In the Irish Drama they sung K pop demon hunters. There was a funny thief and a pet tiger that was white. In the drama there was a character who wanted to be a Kpop Demon hunter. There was Junior, Senior, First and Second class in the hall. The characters spoke in Irish for this show for Seachtain na Gaeilge. There was lots of dancing and brainrot in the show.



## An Paráid KidsView by Jack & Max



We had a parade in school. We used musical instruments in our march. We were wearing green clothes and hats. We walked past Aldi and back to school. Lots of cars beeped at us on the way. The whole Junior School took part. The parade was amazing and fun!

# Spring Day 2026

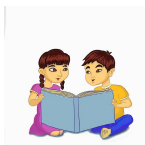


Spring Day, on March 12th, helped conclude an already exciting time in the school and was bigger than ever - thanks to the Holy Family Parents Association and the SNS students. Parents from both the Junior and Senior schools contributed a wonderful array of treats, flowers and gifts, while the bumper raffle was again a great success. Ms English' 2nd class stood out in ticket sales and each student got an extra treat for their efforts. A record breaking €14,670 was raised which will support educational resources in both schools. Sincere thanks to all who contributed — our parents, the sponsors and the SNS pupils who ran the event so efficiently and graciously helped everyone young and old. It was a truly enjoyable day for all. For anyone interested in getting involved, please contact [holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyparentsassociation@gmail.com)



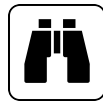
## KidsView by Cillian & Will

This year we had a cake sale. We bought different things in the cake sale like yummy cakes, things for mother's day and raffle tickets. I even had my own stand where I could buy dairy free treats. We even got to have one treat at lunch time! We had lots of fun and raised lots of money for the school. Ines from our class guessed the number of sweets in a jar and won a gigantic jar of sweets! There were also a few more winners of hampers in our class and Will even won some slime! It was one of the best days of the year!



## Buddy Reading

Our JNS/SNS reading initiative continued this term and our Kidsview highlights how this benefits the children in many ways - not just in loving books! Many thanks to Ms Hayes from the Junior School and all the Senior school teachers involved.



## KidsView by Noah & Paolo

On the first week of buddy reading with our Fifth Class partners, we were feeling a little nervous about going over to the senior school as we didn't know anyone! We read books such as 'Tom Gates, Yes! NO (maybe)' and 'Ocean'. In the second week, we invited 5th class over to our room to make comics. We loved making these and getting to know our buddies a little better. We have also met in the PE hall to play fun games such as pacman and bum ball which was a lot of fun. Our 5th class buddies are not so scary anymore and we are so happy to have made new friends before entering the senior school!



## Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2026 ran from January 18–24, 2026, with the theme "Catholic Schools – Normal Lives, Called to Holiness". The week focused on finding holiness in everyday life through love, service and friendship. Our thanks to Ms. Hayes and Ms. Linnane for facilitating this.



### KidsView by Oliva

We celebrated Catholic Schools week in January. It was a busy week! During the week, 2nd class students took it in turns to say prayers over the intercom. On Wednesday nearly the whole school went to mass. The church was full! We said prayers and sang songs. Some of our friends also went up to the altar to say the Prayers of the Faithful. It was fun going to the mass with my friends!

## Odd Sock

## Mad Hair Fundraiser



### KidsView by Jacob & Sadie

On Friday 27th of March we are having a Crazy hair/Odd socks day. It is a fundraiser for the AsIAm charity. The school picks a different charity every year. We talked to Ms Carty about it. We learnt that this charity helps families to support Autistic children. We are so excited to see everyone's odd socks and crazy hair!

## Junior Achievement

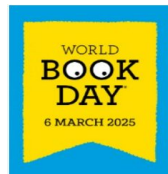


As part of the Junior Achievement programme this year there is lots happening in the school. Ms. Birmingham's 1st class are currently working with Gillian from Aramark. Gillian is delivering the Bytesize programme which is a fun 5-week course. The children learn coding basics, sequencing, problem-solving and even "debugging" through various activities. It's all about building their confidence and resilience while they learn. I'm sure the children will get a lot from the programme. James from the DAA presented the "Our Community" programme to Mr. Sullivan's 2nd class. The programme introduced students to community life, exploring roles, businesses and taxes. It also helped children understand their role within the community and the contributions of others. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all - our thanks to Ms.Carty for all her work in this - more to come in Term 3!

### KidsView by Gavin



James from the DAA taught us all about different communities, production lines and elections. We got to learn all about the jobs people have in communities and the different places that make our community great. My favourite thing we learned was the production line. Unit production is when someone makes something on their own, like in a bakery. Assembly line production is when you make something with multiple people, like cars and planes in big factories. We got to do this ourselves with paper pancakes. When we finished, we were all given a certificate and got a picture with James - check it out online!



## World Book Day 2026

World Book Day 2026 was celebrated twice in HFJNS this year, on March 5th and 6th - with various activities across the two days. WBD 2026 focused on exploring interests and sparking imagination through reading and reading for pleasure with the theme "Go All In". The theme encourages children to dive deeper into their passions - such as football, space, animals, or gaming - through books and to "read your way". Our thanks for Ms. Fadden and Ms. McCabe for facilitating these days.



### KidsView by Miki

We had fun for World Book Day in Second Class. For World Book Day, I brought a blanket and my first ever teddy in my life. We made a fort out of chairs and blankets and I had lots of fun reading my book!

## Toraíochta na Cásca



Our annual Easter themed Irish Hunt was held this week. All the children proved they were eggs-perts in this task! Bhí an spraoi acu ag lorg an Choinín na Cásca. Thanks to Ms. Ginty for facilitating this event and all teachers involved in it's organisation. Beannachtaí na Casca Oraibh go léir!



### KidsView by Leila & Noah

We took part in an Easter Hunt in school. Everyone got a sheet with Easter pictures and we had to go looking in the yard and around the school for clues. When we got all the pictures, we went back to our classroom and we had to count all the pictures we found. We then had to try and crack the code. It was so fun. We really enjoyed doing the Easter Hunt.

## Dates for the Diary

Term 3 Re-opening	13th April 2026
First Communion	16th & 23rd May
Communion Photos	26th May
May BH Closure	4th & 5th May
Curriculum Inservice	8th June
Active Week	25th - 29th May
June BH Closure	1st, 2nd & 3rd June
Junior Infant Tour	12th June
Senior Infants Tour	11th June
1 <sup>st</sup> Class Tour	19th June
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Tour	22nd June
Summer Closure	26th June 2026