



Holy Family JNS

River Valley Swords

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



June 2026

Principal's Message

It has been a busy and eventful term here at Holy Family JNS. Our Second Class pupils celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion with Fr. Sajeev, marking a very special milestone in their faith journey. All class groups enjoyed their school tours and participated in a range of energetic and exciting activities, including Active Week, Sports Day and our Sponsored Jog. These events provided wonderful opportunities for fun, teamwork and physical activity.

We were also delighted to welcome our incoming Junior Infants, who recently visited the school to see their classrooms and meet their new teachers. It was a lovely opportunity to introduce them to our school community, and we look forward to welcoming them officially in September. As we say goodbye to our Second Class pupils, we send them our very best wishes as they move on to Holy Family Senior School. Their time with us concluded with a beautiful Graduation Mass celebrated by Fr. John. We are extremely proud of all they have achieved during their years in Holy Family JNS and know they will continue to thrive in the next stage of their education.



A heartfelt thank you to our Parents' Association for their ongoing commitment, support and enthusiasm throughout the year. Your hard work and dedication make a significant contribution to the life of our school and are greatly appreciated by staff, pupils and families alike.

Each term, Second Class pupils are invited to contribute to the newsletter through an initiative called KidsView. This term we have also invited First Classes to contribute! These contributions are denoted by a binocular symbol. Well done to all the children who contributed this term, and special thanks to their teachers who facilitate this initiative.

We would also like to extend our warmest wishes to Yvonne Dunne on her retirement.

During her seven years in Holy Family JNS, Yvonne has provided outstanding care, support and guidance to so many children. Her contribution to our school community has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed. We thank her sincerely and wish her every happiness in this new chapter.



As we bring another successful school year to a close, I would like to wish all our children, families and staff a happy, restful and safe summer holiday. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday, 1st September.

Mary Mc Nally

First Holy Communion



The children in our Second Classes celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on 16th and 25th May 2026. Despite some uncooperative weather, both ceremonies were memorable and joyful occasions. A special word of thanks to Fr. Sajeev and Grace for their commitment and support throughout the preparation process. The children put great effort into getting ready for this important milestone. As they complete their time in the Junior School, a Graduation Mass was held with Fr. John on 18th June in St. Finian's Church. Thanks to all the teachers for their hard work and guidance. We congratulate the children on all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they embark on the next exciting stage of their journey in the Senior School.

Fire Brigade at HFJNS



On the 4th June, we were delighted to welcome the Fire Brigade to our school for a special visit with First Class and Senior Infants. The children had the exciting opportunity to meet the firefighters and explore the fire truck up close. The firemen demonstrated how the water hose worked and the children had great fun spraying water at targets in the yard. It was a fun, educational and memorable experience that reinforced the children's learning about fire safety and the important work carried out by our local firefighters. A massive thank you to firemen involved and to Ms. Bermingham for organising the visit!



KidsView by Anna & Johan

On June 4th the fire brigade visited our school. Senior infants and First class got to sit in the fire engine. One of the firefighters attached the fire hose to the fire hydrant. After that, we all got to spray the fire hose, we had to aim it at the cones in the yard. The firefighters helped us hold the fire hose because they were very heavy. The Junior infant classes watched us spray the hoses. The firefighters put the sirens on when they were leaving the school. We had a really fun time! We were also really lucky to have a fireman come into our class and teach us about his job. We got to try on lots of equipment too!



KidsView by Jack

This year we had our Communion. It was all about welcoming Jesus into our lives. We had to go to mass to prepare and Father Sajeev and Grace came in to help us. Everyone was dressed up really nice. We got the holy bread, it tasted just ok. After we had parties and lots of fun. We had lots of pictures too.



GAA Coaching



Kids View by Paolo & Tyler

This year we were very lucky to have GAA with Sean! We had lots of fun with him for the year. We had GAA every Tuesday and every morning we looked forward to doing it. We learned a lot of new skills and practiced our solos. We recently received our GAA certificates and we can't wait to hang these on our walls. Thank you so much Sean for making our Tuesdays very fun.

New Building Upgrade

The upgrades to our SEN rooms is almost complete. We were delighted to receive the DAA Elevate Grant which will fund a brand new sensory room in this building. A huge thank you to the DAA for this wonderful opportunity. We also won a competition with Creative Activity securing a new Trim Trail - this is a new outdoor sensory space for our children to access and enjoy.



Wellbeing at HFJNS

In Holy Family JNS, the Wellbeing of our pupils is a key priority. Each month, we follow a wellbeing focus plan, which teachers use and refer to in order to support the needs of their classes. A variety of activities help promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing, including mindful colouring, senses walks, guided meditation, and Cosmic Yoga. As the weather has improved, many classes have enjoyed spending more time outdoors, with some pupils eating their lunch outside, doing P.E. outdoors and reading their books under the trees around the school grounds. Mindfulness plays an important role in a child's wellbeing, helping children to develop self-awareness, manage their emotions, and feel calm and focused. At HFJNS, we strive to create a nurturing environment where every child feels supported, valued, and equipped with the tools they need to look after their wellbeing. We give our thanks to Ms Carty, Well-being co-ordinator and her committee for all their work and efforts during the year to support the children and teachers in their wellbeing.



Junior Achievement



We were delighted to take part in the Junior Achievement programme again this term. Through this programme, volunteers from the workplace support classroom learning while sharing their real-life experiences with students. Ms. McManus', Mr. Murphy's and Ms. Fadden's classes participated in ByteSize, a five-session programme developed by Microsoft Dream Space. The programme helps children develop computational thinking and problem-solving skills through fun, hands-on activities. Students also learn that making mistakes is an important part of learning. By finding and fixing "bugs," they build confidence, resilience, and perseverance. The feedback from the children has been extremely positive and we look forward to working with Junior Achievement again next year. Our thanks to everyone at JAI and to the teachers and Ms Carty who have facilitated this during this school year.



KidsView by Blake & Leah

Emma came to our First Class every week during April. She did lots of fun games and activities with us. We made origami foxes and we did spatial awareness activities too. One of our favourite activities was making pixel drawings. Emma helped to make our brains stronger by helping us to break down puzzles. We really enjoyed Emma's visits and we hope she comes back again next year. Go raibh maith agat Emma!



KidsView by Aimée & Flynn

We interviewed Alfie and Ollie in Senior Infants. Their J.A. person was called Joran. Their favourite part was Origami. They learned how to make a shape and they made a fox. Ollie thought it looked easy but it was hard. The class also did some coding. Alfie thought it was really fun and he would like to take part again next year!



Sensory Bus at HFJNS

On Wednesday, 10th June, we were delighted to welcome the Sensory Bus to our school. The children had a wonderful time exploring a variety of engaging sensory experiences, including lava tiles, a bubble tube, an infinity mirror, and many other interactive activities. Thank you to Ciaran Keller from Your Sensory Journey for bringing this fantastic experience to our school.



KidsView by Flynn

My favourite thing about the bus was playing with the suction pipe that sucked up balls. It was so cool. The bus made me feel so happy- it was amazing! It also made me feel calm because it had cool dimmed lights. My favourite thing to touch was the twisting circle. I would definitely recommend the bus to my friends - in fact, to everyone in the school!!

Active Week 2026



From 15th May to 19th June, HFJNS marked Active Week with fantastic activities that promoted the benefits of exercise, movement and fun. Pupils took part in a variety of engaging indoor and outdoor events, and even their homework included active challenges! The week provided a wonderful opportunity for children to discover how physical activity contributes to both physical and mental wellbeing. The children, parents & wider community supported the school with our Sponsored Jog morning which raised over €8,800. Our KidsView reporters documented the memorable moments throughout the week. A sincere thank you to Mr. O'Donoghue and Ms. Rougheen and the Parents Association for their hard work in organising such an enjoyable and successful events. Visit the school website to view photos & read more about the activities.



Sponsored Jog KidsView by Ella



Our Sponsored Jog took place on Wednesday the 16th of June as part of Active Week. We all got a sponsor card and we had to raise money for the school. All of our parents were standing in the yard when we came out to cheer us on. We ran 2 laps all around the yard. It was really fun! My favourite part was when we crossed the finish line and everyone was cheering.



J1 & S1 Sports Day KidsView by Olivia

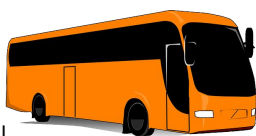
Junior and Senior Infants had a brilliant sunny day for Sports Day on Monday 15th June. Their favourite stations were the parachute and the ribbons. They liked the welly throwing and the obstacle course. The music was playing loudly. They had so much fun and they rated it 10 out of 10.



1st & 2nd Sports Day KidsView by Hayven-Rai & Judith

This year we had sports day on the 17th of June. We were very lucky to have great weather on this day. We had so much fun but were very tired by the end of the day. We played sports like basketball, tennis and racing. There were lots of other fun activities too such as wellie boot throwing, potato and spoon races, obstacle courses and relay races. Our favourite activities were the parachutes and the rocket throwing. We had a great time! If you ever have sports day on a sunny day, don't forget to bring an extra drink!

School Tours



The children had wonderful days out with their classmates on this year's school tours and created lots of happy memories along the way. Take a look at our KidsView section to hear all about their exciting adventures and favourite moments. A sincere thank you to the teachers who organised these memorable trips and to all the staff who helped ensure each tour was such a success.



Junior Infants on Tour KidsView by Emilia



Junior Infants went to Red Mountain Farm for their school tour on Friday, 12th June. They had lots of fun on the buses singing and talking to their partners. They enjoyed all of the activities. They played football, fed the animals and did a tractor ride. They had their lunch in the barn with long tables. The playground was the best. It was a great day out. They gave it "100 out of 10!"



Senior Infants on Tour KidsView by Isabelle & Sadie



We spoke with Eilidh and Ava from Room 7. They told us about their tour to Puddenhill on the 11th June. They said they had a really fun time and would love to go again! They saw sheep, cows, chickens, rabbits and pig wrestling! Their favourite part was the playcentre - it was a lot of fun. Their least favourite part was the weather! It rained all day but it didn't ruin the fun. They enjoyed the bus journey there and back as they played eye spy and sang some songs!



First Class on Tour KidsView by Cara, Emma & Rostam



On 19th June, we went to Lullymore. We had so much fun. We went to a little playcentre. We had lunch on the benches. We got to go on a train. We saw tiny horses, rabbits and alpacas - we love alpacas. They are from Peru. We also saw a bog. The school tour was fun even though it was raining cats and dogs - woof!



Second Class on Tour KidsView by Cassie & Isabella



We came to school early to get the bus to DCU for our Let's Go School Tour! There were lots of fun activities for us to try. We went on inflatables, did archery outside, and took part in a VR activity. Zorbing was lots of fun because it felt like you were flying! The wrecking ball activity was great too! We got to battle against our friends! We would recommend this tour to others because there are lots of choices for everyone to enjoy! We had a brilliant day!



SAT 4TH - SUN 5TH JULY

Sincere thanks again to Flavours of Fingal for running the Art and Writing Competition in our school. This is second year where the children enjoyed taking part, learning about farming, where their food comes from and living in the "food basket" of Dublin and Ireland! Each class had a winner who received a super arts & crafts prize. Their pictures will be displayed at the county show held in Newbridge House & Farm next month - *the winners can collect a rosette from the display tent over the weekend.* It's a great family day out so don't miss it!



Green Schools 2026

A huge congratulations to all the boys and girls for their fantastic efforts throughout the year as we embraced our new Green Schools theme, **Global Citizenship – Litter and Waste**. You showed great commitment by bringing in your hand towels, taking food waste home, and carefully sorting waste around the school. Thank you for helping to make our school a greener place. A special thank you to Ms Linnane and our dedicated Green Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. Well done, everyone!



Tidy Towns Competition

Congratulations to Daisy and Sineen from Mr. Shiel's class, who received Merit and Commendation awards for their outstanding entries in the Swords Tidy Towns Art Competition "Clean Air – Show Your Care". Their artwork was proudly displayed in the Atrium of Fingal County Council during Biodiversity Week. The students also attended a special awards ceremony at the council building to mark their achievement. Well done to Sineen and Daisy on this wonderful accomplishment!



KidsView by Sineen

There was a tidy towns art competition in Swords to help keep our area healthy. We made posters about 'Clean air show you care'. We made amazing and colourful posters and Daisy and I won prizes in the competition. It was really hard to pick because they were all really good. They put the winning art in the community centre.

JNS/SNS Links



We in both JNS and SNS were delighted to continue our highly successful **Buddy Reading** and **Playworks** initiatives throughout this term. These programmes provided valuable opportunities for pupils from both schools to build friendships, develop confidence and learn from one another in a positive and supportive environment. A sincere thank you to the teachers in JNS and SNS for their enthusiasm and commitment in facilitating these initiatives throughout the year. Special thanks also to Ms. Hayes for her dedication, organisation, and hard work in coordinating the programmes and ensuring their continued success.



KidsView by Agnes & Amelia

Every class in the Junior School is partnered with a class in the Senior School. Our buddy reading partners were from 5th class. We brought in our own books from home and read them with our buddy reading partners. We went to their classroom in the senior school every week! We liked going to the Senior School as we got to meet new people and see what it was like before going into Third Class!

Dates for the Diary

Summer Closure 12 noon 26th June

2026/2027 Year 1st September 2026