



ST. PATRICK'S  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

# Parent Association Newsletter

October 2023

## welcome!

Welcome to the October edition of the St Patrick's Junior School Parent Association Newsletter.

Since the start of the school term, we have been busy organizing our schedule for this year.

You will find a summary of events that have taken place since September and what's in store for the coming weeks.

## Junior Infant Photos

The boys and girls had their best smiles on display for their Junior Infant & sibling photos in September.

Thank you to all the PA team and volunteers for all the help on the day in its smooth running.

## Coffee Morning

The Parents Association had a busy start to the year, hosting the Junior Infant coffee morning as well. It's a lovely way to meet other parents in the year group and to have a cuppa! Thank you to the PA team and volunteers on the day for organizing and providing refreshments and nibbles.

St. Patrick's  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
Parents Association




would like to invite all parents to our



# AGM

on Thursday November 23rd at 8pm  
in the School Hall

This will be an information evening, with an agenda covering the following:

-  An overview of the funds raised by the Parents Association last year, detailing how these were spent to benefit the students.
-  Teachers will give a brief overview of what's covered at each class level. They will also talk about the Amber Flag and what it means for the school.
-  **GUEST SPEAKER**  
Some insights from a local child and teen life coach, **Caoimhe O'Grady Tegart**, on giving your children the gift of confidence. Caoimhe has been working with children for 11 years and is also currently studying play therapy.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Halloween Disco

Our Halloween Disco will take place on October 27th, organised by the Parents Association. It will be lovely to have our halla back this year to host it.

“Genie Mackers” will be providing some magical entertainment for the children on the day.

Be sure to keep your Halloween costumes for our “Halloween Swap Shop” next year, in 2024. What a great way to recycle costumes and give them a new lease of life!



## Christmas Cards 2023

This is a brilliant and unique fundraiser for the school, where the children get to showcase their amazing artistic skills and have them printed and made into Christmas cards.

Thank you in advance for your support and to the teachers for facilitating. It's a lovely keepsake to send out to loved ones.



# Green Schools Initiatives



## 3 ways to help our planet & school

### The Walking or Cycling Bus



Being part of a walking bus reduces the number of drop-offs and morning stress for parents, gives the kids exercise, time to chat with friends and new independence while also reducing congestion and pollution in the town. Why not join the existing route (serving Ballygossan Park, Downside Heights, Shenick, Golf Links Road, Churchfield and Mill Hill) or set-up a new route to school?



### Rent a Party Kit



Having a party? Why not rent a Party Kit from our PA? Party kits are more convenient, affordable, colourful and less wasteful than single-use party ware destined for landfill, and all the proceeds from rentals go to the PA.

More details available at:

[www.partykitnetwork.org/party-kits/stpatrickspakit](http://www.partykitnetwork.org/party-kits/stpatrickspakit)



# Green Schools Initiatives



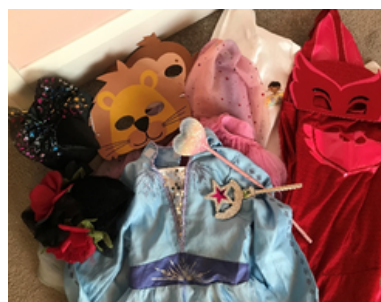
## 3 ways to help our planet & school

### Swap and Save

Not sure what to do with pre-loved uniforms, seasonal fancy dress (for Halloween, World Book day and Christmas) and Communion gear? Want to save money on the back to school / fancy dress shopping this year?

Further details to follow about how, when and where to donate and dates for the pop-up shops. All clothes donated should be clean but can still be donated if in need of repair as we will have a dedicated repair / upcycling demo at each pop-up shop and will sell at reduced rates or recycle.

For more info on any of the above, please get in touch with Sarah-Jane from the PA on 085-8217301 or [sarahjanecullinane@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjanecullinane@gmail.com)





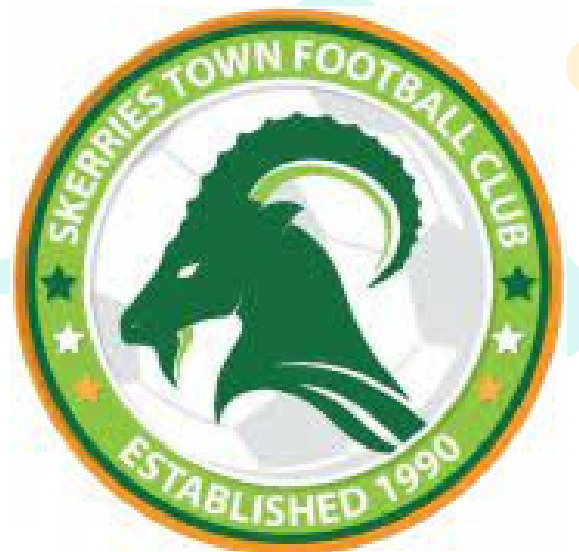
# Meet Skerries Harps new 6PO!

You may have already heard of Katelyn, Skerries Harps new Games Promotion Officer. Katelyn is responsible for the implementation of Games Development projects. She is our school's external GAA coach and also runs the Skerries Harps Academy. The children love her sessions and so do the teachers!



## Skerries Town FC is back!

We are delighted to have our soccer coaches back this year. Keith, Davey and Jack are the youth coordinators from Skerries Town FC. They are brilliant with the children and bring a lot of fun to their sessions. They also run the Kids Academy on Saturdays.





# Autumn Activities

The children have been busy bees since they started school. They have been creating beautiful autumnal art, reading stories about autumn, going on nature walks and enjoying our lovely outdoor spaces.

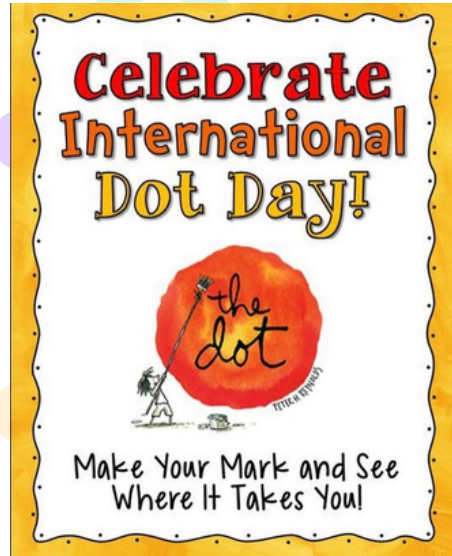




# Dot Day

This year, the children celebrated “Dot Day”.

The Dot, is a lovely story by Peter H. Reynolds. It inspires self confidence and creativity. Dot Day is a celebration of impact. A time to think how we can all “make our mark”.



# Roald Dahl Day

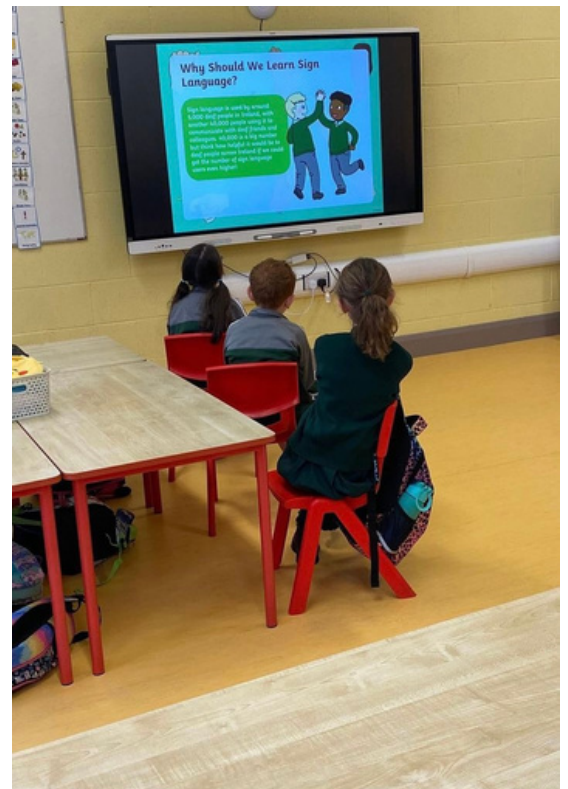
Roald Dahl Story Day is celebrated every year on his birthday, the 13th of September. People all over the world come together to celebrate the magic he brought to, and continues to bring, children everywhere.





# International Week of the Deaf & Sign Languages

The children marked their first assembly this year with performances using Irish Sign Language. They learned about the importance of sign languages and deaf awareness. What a lovely new skill to have!



Why not try one of the songs the children learned at home!

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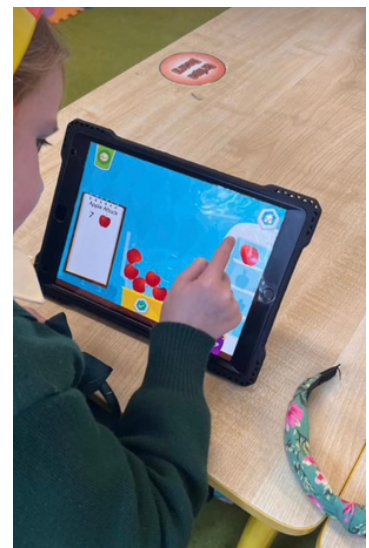
**YouTube:** [A Thousand Years by Christina Peri - Irish Sign Language](#)

**@ISLSongs** has a few other videos you can try as well.

# Maths Week

Maths week is always a very exciting week for the children. They love playing maths games and collaborating in their groups. It's always a highlight having parents coming in as well. The more the merrier!

[www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie) has loads of fun ideas to do at home if you want to continue the fun with all the family.





# Halloween Competition

Enter our Halloween Competition and be in with a chance to win 1 of 4 vouchers for The Bubble Room worth €15 each.

Entries can be for:

- Drawing/Colouring/Craft
- Baking/Cooking
- Pumpkin Carving

Send your entries to [pa.stpatsjnr@gmail.com](mailto:pa.stpatsjnr@gmail.com) or post up on our Facebook page.

Competition ends at 6pm on November 6th and there will be 4 winners picked (1 from each year). We can't wait to see your photos!





# Recipe Corner

## Spooky Spider Crackers

### Ingredients

- Small round crackers
- Pretzel sticks
- Raisins
- Filling of choice: peanut butter/jam/  
cream cheese/relish/lemon curd/chocolate spread.

### STEP 1

Choose your cracker filling and spread onto the crackers.

### STEP 2

Break pretzel sticks into eight small pieces. Place 4 on each side between the crackers.

### STEP 3

Use some extra filling to stick two raisins on top for the spiders eyes.



## Pumpkin Pepper Pot

### Ingredients

Orange bell pepper  
Rice  
Chilli

### STEP 1

Slice the top off the pepper and remove seeds.

### STEP 2

Cut triangles out of the pepper to make a pumpkin face.

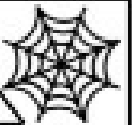
### STEP 3

Fill the pepper with rice and chili mix.



# I SPY

Halloween



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# Skerries Rocks!

Paint some spooky  
rocks and hide them  
around the town.



# Join the Parent Association Team

We are always looking for  
volunteers to help out with  
school events.

If you would like to help as a  
volunteer or join the PA Team,  
please get in touch with us.

We would love to welcome you!

Email us on:  
[pa.stpatsjnr@gmail.com](mailto:pa.stpatsjnr@gmail.com)

# Notes from the Principal - Ms Ní Chróinín

## OPEN EVENING:

Our first ever Open Evening will take place on Thursday the 9th of November from 6pm to 8 pm. You are warmly invited to visit our fabulous school to meet and speak with our wonderful staff, tour our classrooms and facilities. All are welcome, especially parents of incoming students for September 2024. We are very excited to meet you and show off our wonderful school, staff and facilities!

## WINTER WEATHER

As the days get colder and the rain visits more frequently, please ensure that your children are weatherproofed with a warm rainproof coat and appropriate shoes. Children will play outside every day, even in the rain, unless the weather is particularly bad. We will continue to monitor CO2 levels in the classrooms and to open windows where necessary as we are aware that COVID continues to be a risk in our community

## FLU VACCINE

St. Patrick's JNS have arranged for Allcare Pharmacy to provide a nasal spray flu vaccine on Thursday the 9th of November to those pupils whose parents have given consent. Please check your emails for further details.

## LABEL IT!

All bikes and scooters are parked on school premises at owners' risk. Please consider marking/engraving the bike or scooter with an identifying number or word – and keeping a photo of this mark in a safe place – in case of dispute. Please continue to label all uniform items, coats, bags, lunch boxes, bottles etc with your child's name/class so that they can be safely returned to you if mislaid.

## GREEN SCHOOLS:

We are on the second year of working towards our 10th flag for global citizenship food and biodiversity. We hope to receive our flag in 2024. Each class has two committee members that turn off the lights, check how many people walk, scoot or cycle to school. They also check if taps are leaking in the classroom and if their classmates (and teachers!) are using reusable bottles. We had our action day in the summer where each child planted a pea and we also planted some strawberries. Our Green School code is: "From the smallest bee to a great big tree, protect our earth's biodiversity!"

## AMBER FLAG

Our Amber Flag is up and running again with every child getting a turn as Kindness Ambassador, greeting their classmates in the morning and looking out for them during yard time. Our First and Second classes made bunting on the theme of connection for Skerries Youth Support Services (SYSS) World Mental Health Day Primary School Initiative. One lucky winner from each class received a voucher and had their entry displayed in Floraville.

## DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

In September our school celebrated International Deaf awareness week and International Sign Language Day. Our students learned some facts about deafness as well as how to be deaf aware. We practiced some songs in sign language and learned the alphabet and how to spell our names. On October 12th we celebrated The Spanish National day 'Día de la Hispanidad'. Our wonderful Spanish student teacher Claudia taught us all about Spanish traditions and celebrations as well as the history of Christopher Columbus. Our committee have put together a list of all the National days celebrated by those from different cultures/countries in our school and we look forward to celebrating them together this year!