

Convent Junior School

Newsletter for Term 3 (2024/2025)



Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter for 2024/2025!

Welcome back to school!

We welcomed all the boys and girls and staff back to school on Monday April 28th! We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday filled with fun, rest, and special time with their families. We were very excited to see all the smiling faces again, ready for a new term full of learning, laughter, and new adventures. This term, we explored exciting topics, enjoyed time with our friends, and continued to grow in confidence and kindness. It was a brilliant start to the summer term!

Assembly - Month of Mary – Room 2

This week, our Junior Infants class, guided by their teacher Miriam, presented a beautiful and heartfelt assembly in honour of the Month of Mary. May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the children did a wonderful job of bringing this special devotion to life for the whole school.

The assembly included prayers, songs, and reflections that helped us all remember Mary's love, faith, and kindness. The children learned about the importance of Mary in our faith and shared what they had been learning in class with confidence and joy.

Highlights included a touching rendition of "Mary Our Mother", a short reenactment of the Annunciation, and a lovely display of handmade flowers, Rosary Beads and a picture of Mary that the children offered at our May altar in the GP Room.

It was a joyful and meaningful celebration that reminded us all of the gentle strength and enduring faith of Mary. A big well done to our Junior Infants and

to Ms. Miriam for preparing such a thoughtful and uplifting assembly!

Community Games Art Winners

Our First Class children took part in this year's Community Games Art Competition, where they were invited to create drawings based on any Community Games activity of their choice. We were thrilled to submit a selection of beautiful and creative entries — and we're delighted to share that several of our talented young artists received awards!

Winners

- **Kleja** – Under 8 – *First Place*
- **Jake** – Under 8 – *First Place*
- **Reece Morris** – Under 8 – *Second Place*
- **Erin Duffy** – Under 8 – *Second Place*
- **Grace Connor** – Under 8 – *Third Place*
- **Toby McGeough** – Under 8 – *Third Place*

Highly Commended

- Archie McGuigan
- Ayda McArdle

To celebrate their achievements, we held a special assembly in the GP Room, where medals were presented and the children were given a well-deserved round of applause. The winning entries will now progress to the next stage of the competition — we wish them the very best of luck!

Our New Mascot

We were absolutely thrilled to welcome the newest — and tallest — member of the Convent Junior School community this term: our very own school mascot... a giraffe! But there was just one thing missing — our gentle giant didn't have a name. So, we invited all parents and children to send in their name suggestions. Why a giraffe? Giraffes are the perfect symbol for Convent Junior School. Their long necks remind us to view the world from different perspectives. Their gentle nature reflects the care and empathy we value.

Their great height encourages us to look at the bigger picture. And their large hearts symbolise our ability to connect with others and understand their feelings. We received a huge number of fantastic name suggestions, and after lots of careful thought and discussion, we finally chose the perfect name – Junior the Giraffe!!

Soccer with Euan on Wednesdays

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting health and physical activity through the Active Schools program, we were delighted to welcome back Euan Treanor. Euan delivered a series of six soccer sessions, focusing on developing the children's fundamental skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork. His energetic and encouraging coaching style helped build the children's confidence while keeping the sessions fun and inclusive. Both boys and girls participated enthusiastically, showing great progress and a real enjoyment of the game. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces and growing enthusiasm for physical activity throughout the sessions. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!

Green Flag Ceremony- Miriam

A huge well done to the two members of our Green Schools Committee who proudly travelled to Dundalk alongside Múinteoir Miriam and Múinteoir Natalie to accept our **fifth Green Schools Flag**—a remarkable achievement for our school community! The boys did a fantastic job representing the school, showing great pride, maturity, and enthusiasm throughout the event.

This year's theme, *Biodiversity*, challenged us all to deepen our understanding of the natural world and the importance of protecting and enhancing the ecosystems around us. Through a wide range of projects, activities, and awareness campaigns, pupils and staff alike worked tirelessly to create a more biodiverse school environment.

This award is a reflection of the collective efforts of every student, teacher, and committee member who contributed to this important initiative. Congratulations to everyone involved—your hard work, teamwork, and commitment to sustainability have made a lasting impact. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and look forward to continuing our Green Schools journey! 🌍 ❤️

A Musical Morning to Remember!

On May 29th, we had the great pleasure of welcoming the Music Generation Music on Wheels band to our school for a very special visit. The talented group included a guitarist, a drummer, a flute player (none other than our very own tin whistle tutor, Sandra), a singer, and a keyboard player. Together, they treated us to a wonderful live performance that filled the school with music and joy.

What made the morning even more special was the involvement of our senior infant pupils. After months of dedicated learning with our music teacher Donal, they confidently joined in the performance and proudly showcased the skills they've developed over the past two terms. Their enthusiasm and talent were a joy to behold, and they truly shone on stage.

Although the weather outside was wet and dreary, the atmosphere inside our Junior School was bright and joyful, thanks to the vibrant music and the infectious energy of our young performers.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the amazing Music Generation team for their hard work, dedication, and inspiration throughout the year. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on our senior infants, and your performance today was a delightful highlight for everyone involved.

School Tour to Fort Evergreen

What an incredible day we had at Fort Evergreen! We immersed ourselves in everything the site had to offer, and every moment was packed with fun and discovery.

Our first stop was the delightful petting farm, where we fed and interacted with friendly animals—an experience that brought big smiles all around. Then we climbed aboard for a tractor ride through the grounds, soaking in the fresh air and countryside charm. At the Dino Dig, we rolled up our sleeves and got our hands dirty and took photographs with the dinosaurs!

Next, we planted seeds and learned a little about how things grow followed by an action-packed play centre and the impressive outdoor fort, where the children ran wild, climbed, slid, and explored to their hearts' content.

We then ate a delicious hot lunch at the on-site restaurant, which offered the perfect break before diving back into more excitement. It was the perfect Junior School Tour! Thank you to our Parents association for subsidising the cost of the buses!

Parents Association –Junior Wheels Day – previously known as The Tractor Run

Our **Junior Wheels Day** was a *rolling success* from start to finish! Starting at the Black Island and travelling all the way to the Convent Junior School, our amazing boys and girls scooted, cycled, and pedalled with big smiles and lots of energy.

But the fun didn't end there! Back at school, we had an incredible celebration waiting for everyone. There was a yummy BBQ with tasty burgers, a pancake stand with delicious treats, colourful face painting, live music from Michael—one of our talented parent volunteers—and even a raffle with some fantastic prizes!

We want to say a **huge thank you** to our wonderful Parents' Association, all our generous sponsors who donated food and prizes, our brilliant musicians, our team of biking helpers (including our very own caretaker, Finny!), and the Community Guards for keeping us safe.

Most of all, we are so grateful to our amazing staff, who have kindly given up their Sundays for the past few years to help run this special event. Without them, Junior Wheels Day wouldn't be possible. Thank you all for making it such a fun and memorable day for everyone!



Creative week Showcase

We had a fantastic month full of creativity here at the Convent Junior School! Throughout the month, we explored the wonderful world of **butterflies** and took part in lots of fun and exciting activities to help us learn more about them. We enjoyed **sewing our very own butterflies** using colourful pieces of felt we carefully cut out ourselves. We also worked hard on creating both **fiction and non-fiction books** all about butterflies, and even made some brilliant **butterfly videos** to share what we had learned. To celebrate all of our hard work, we held a **whole-school assembly** where each class came together to present their butterfly projects. It was amazing to see what everyone had created and to share our learning with one another. The school was filled with **beautiful butterfly displays**, with colourful artwork decorating the hallways and a special outdoor art display in our front yard for everyone to enjoy. It truly was a joyful and creative month—we loved every minute of it! 🦋 ✨ 📺

Convent Junior school First ever Talent show!

The Convent Junior School recently hosted its **very first Talent Show** in the GP Room – and what a spectacular event it was! So many of our wonderfully talented children took to the stage to showcase their skills, and the variety of performances was truly impressive.

We were treated to amazing **gymnastics routines with somersaults, drumming performances, poetry readings, singing, musical instrument playing, dance acts**, and so much more. Each act was full of confidence, creativity, and fun.

We were absolutely **blown away by the incredible talent** on display and couldn't be prouder of everyone who took part. It's safe to say that our very first Talent Show was a **huge success**, and we're already looking forward to the next one! 🌟 🎤 🎵

Biodiversity Flag Raising – June 13th 2025

The Convent Junior School was filled with excitement and pride as students, staff, and parents and invited guests came together to celebrate a remarkable achievement – the raising of their 5th Green Flag, awarded for Biodiversity. This milestone marks the culmination of two years of dedicated work to enhance and promote biodiversity throughout the school grounds and beyond.

The entire school community has been deeply involved in this important environmental journey, demonstrating a strong commitment to protecting and nurturing the natural world. From planting pollinator-friendly gardens to creating habitats for local wildlife and integrating biodiversity into the curriculum, every effort has contributed to a greener, more sustainable future.

A heartfelt thank you was extended to all the special guests, parents, and community members who joined in the day's celebrations and supported the school throughout this project. Their presence and encouragement meant a great deal to the students and staff alike.

A special mention goes to Múinteoir Miriam, whose leadership, passion, and perseverance guided the project from its earliest stages to this proud moment.

Her dedication played a key role in the success of the initiative. The school also acknowledged the incredible work of the Green School Committee, whose enthusiasm and teamwork were instrumental in reaching this goal.

Congratulations to everyone involved – this Green Flag is a testament to the collective effort, vision, and environmental spirit of the Convent Junior School community.

Sports Day

We had an absolutely fantastic Sports Day, filled with energy, excitement, and a wonderful variety of activities that kept everyone smiling from start to finish! The children took part in a wide range of events from classic races like the sprint, egg-and-spoon, sack race, and three-legged race, to more playful activities like obstacle courses, parachute games, and beanbag relays, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The children also enjoyed some free play zones where they could try skipping ropes, hula hoops, and ball games in a more relaxed setting.

A huge thank you goes to the Parents' Association, who generously provided refreshing ice lollies for all the children—perfect for cooling down after such an action-packed day in the sun. We also want to thank the parents and guardians who joined us to watch the medal presentations and stayed to celebrate at our outdoor disco. It was lovely to see the school community come together and share in the joy of the day.

Well done to all the boys and girls for showing great sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and effort in every activity. And a very special thank you to Múinteoir Caroline Flack for her incredible organisation and planning—her hard work ensured that the day ran smoothly and created lasting memories for everyone involved.

We're also delighted to announce an exciting new addition to our school yard – our very own trampoline! This fantastic piece of equipment was awarded to us thanks to an application submitted by Múinteoir Caroline on behalf of our school.

A huge thank you goes to the two parent volunteers and our wonderful caretaker, Finny, who kindly gave their time and effort to assemble it. The trampoline has already brought lots of joy to the yard, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped make it happen!

Graduation

On **June 19th**, we celebrated a very special occasion at Convent Junior School – the **Graduation Day** for our wonderful **First Class students**, who will be moving on to their new senior schools in September. It was a day filled with joy, pride, and a few happy tears as we marked the end of an important chapter in their young lives.

The children from **Rooms 9 and 10** had been working incredibly hard over the past few months to prepare a **spectacular show** for all the mummies, daddies, and families. Under the fantastic guidance of **Múinteoir Ellen** and **Múinteoir Edwina**, the children wowed us with their **singing, dancing, and performance skills**, all carefully choreographed and beautifully presented. **Múinteoir Sandra** added a lovely touch with a funny video performance of her flute skills, bringing music, laughter and emotion to the celebration. The show also featured heartwarming **videos and skits** that the children had prepared earlier, capturing their personalities and special memories from their time in junior school.

In the week leading up to the big night, parents were warmly welcomed into the school to see the **amazing work** First Class had been doing. The **classrooms, hallways, and GP Room** were transformed with stunning **artwork and displays**, all created by the children. The effort and creativity on show were truly impressive, and it made the graduation night feel all the more magical.

The **graduation performance** was attended by a fantastic crowd of proud parents and families, and it's safe to say the evening did **not disappoint**. There were **smiles, laughter, and even a few emotional moments** – we definitely had tissues at the ready! After the performance, families were invited back to their children's classrooms to enjoy some **tea, coffee, and delicious sweet treats**, a lovely way to end the celebration and share some final moments together.

We are **so proud** of the Class of 2025 and everything they have achieved during their time with us. We will **miss each and every one of them**, but we know they are more than ready for the next step in their journey. Best of luck in your new schools – you'll always be part of the Convent Junior School family!



Faughs Sports Day

The boys and girls had a **wonderful day of fun and football** at St. Mary's Park, thanks to the **Castleblayney Faghhs**! It was a very special day just for young children like you who love to run, play, and try out Gaelic football.

There were **lots of fun games and activities**, and the brilliant coaches were there to help us learn new football skills. Everyone tried their best, and most importantly, we all had a great time together.

After all the running around, we were treated to **refreshments and tasty treats** from the kind people at the Faghhs Club – yum! And a big thank you goes to **The Outlaws MC Ireland Monaghan Chapter**, who kindly donated **200 bottles of water** to keep us cool and refreshed. This lovely gift was arranged by our very own caretaker, **Fintan Smyth** – thank you, Fintan!

We had so much fun, and the Castleblayney Faghhs would be **delighted to welcome any new boys or girls** who would like to give Gaelic football a try. If you're interested, you can go along to their fun training sessions held at **St. Mary's Park**. Who knows – you might be the next football star!



Happy Summer

A few last notices as we go into our well-earned summer holidays –

Aladdin Connect: If you have not yet registered for Aladdin Connect – please make sure you do asap using the link that has been provided to you. This is to ensure that you do not miss any important messages from our school.

School will reopen after the summer holidays on Thursday August 28th at 9.00am. An Aladdin message was sent to all parents advising of this along with a useful information padlet link – here is this link again:

<https://padlet.com/secretary120/2025-2026-information-for-parents-guardians-vxxalctihu4xukub>

Enrolment Queries- If you have an enrolment query during the summer holidays when we are closed, please refer to our website – www.conventjuniorschool.ie where you will find all the information you need and also a link to a pre-enrolment form. All queries will be answered on or after August 20th when our school office reopens.

Wishing all of our pupils, parents and staff a wonderful summer break!!

Summer Message



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

August 28th 2025

School opens at 9.00am
for all children.

