

# *Newsletter*



*Rathgar Junior School*  
*2016-2017*



In my first year as Principal of Rathgar Junior School I am profoundly conscious of both the privilege and responsibility that comes with this role. Our school may have reached almost one hundred years, however its founding aims remain true to this day. These aims are stated in Helen Montgomery's fascinating pamphlet, "Life in a Junior School" which lists the experience of a child's journey through RJS from age four to twelve years: She writes, "In Rathgar Junior School, our aims are: 'To develop the children's intellectual powers. To give them a desire for knowledge by arousing their interest and pleasure in work itself, without outside stimulus. To develop their moral and spiritual powers. To train them for all life, seen and unseen, and to lay a foundation for Character. To give them full freedom for the growth of each child's individuality together with co-operation which develops the thought of service for all.'"

Whilst the school has evolved in many ways over the years, we often hear from past pupils, or parents of old scholars, that they feel the same warm and welcoming atmosphere whenever they return. It is a privilege to share in the role of preserving what makes RJS special as it continues to adapt, where necessary, to a changing society. The same fundamental responsibilities drive us: to encourage our children to fully believe in themselves, to enjoy the experience of learning and always to try their best, to reach for new heights with new challenges, working together with their classmates and thinking of others as they grow as individuals in a very special collective environment. Sometimes we enjoy these moments on very obvious occasions such as Christmas plays, Music Day, Sports Day or the Sale of Work; however there can often be other moments which may be more subtle, but reflect just as significantly: kind words spoken, hands held in comfort and friendship, cheers and claps in class, spontaneous offers to perform with friends in assembly, donating pocket money or savings to others in greater need. When our children perform these natural, self-driven acts nothing is more rewarding. I am grateful to be a part of this experience with all of you and thank everyone, staff, parents and all our children, for playing their part in what makes RJS.

**Staff:** After thirteen years as Headmistress, Margaret Silke moved aside last June to take on a different role within the school. Margaret is very much loved by the entire school community, not least the children to whom she has dedicated herself and whom she loves in equal measure. She has been an inspirational colleague and leader to all her staff down the years; her passion and commitment unwavering, her clarity of thought and drive a huge example to staff and pupils alike. Under her stewardship the school has developed in countless ways, moving confidently into an era of increased accountability and changing expectations; establishing numerous policies and systems within the school. She led us through the much needed renovations of our buildings; providing comfortable, welcoming and enjoyable spaces to work in, the establishment of interactive whiteboards in all our classes, new sash windows keeping out the draft, the enhancement of our gym and playground and much more. Without doubt our school environment retains its charm and unique character, but it is truly fit for the demands of a new century. It has been a great comfort for me to have had the benefit of Margaret's wisdom and experience in my new position and I am grateful to her for all the support she has provided over the course of the year.

In September we saw a number of changes to the staff: Sheena Flaherty worked for two terms as Kindergarten A teacher from September to April until Gillian Galloway returned from maternity leave. We welcomed Lorna O'Brien as Form One teacher, from May 2016 to May 2017, as cover for Lynette Maguire whilst she was also on maternity leave. In addition Laura McWade joined us to take over as Form Two teacher for the year whilst Claus Jensen took a career break. All three teachers have made a wonderful contribution to their classes and the school in general. Both Jenifer Devlin and Emma Glass have also enjoyed a successful first year as permanent class teachers in Form Three and Six respectively. Whilst Edel Brant, who joined the staff at the end of last May, has made a very smooth transition in her first full year as Carol's job share in the Office. Noreen Keenan has taken over as full-time Housekeeper of the school. In September and October we welcomed back Julia Dorsch, a German teaching student, who was with us last year. In addition we welcomed back past pupil, Kate Falkiner, who has been helping in Kindergarten A since September. Kate will continue in this role for the year ahead as a part of year training in early year's education. We have also been joined by six past pupils for work experience as part of their Transition Year programme.

Elisabeth Dinet, who has been Form Four class teacher for eleven years and worked previously in Resource, will be retiring from her current post in June. Elisabeth has been a hardworking, dedicated member of staff, who always set high standards of expectation amongst her class. Elisabeth has many gifts, not least her huge talent for art and handwork which was always so evident at our end of year



Exhibition. Elisabeth will continue in her role as French teacher to Forms Four, Five and Six from September. Form Four will be taken by Emma Glass, who would like the opportunity to work with a younger age group. Emma will be replaced as Form Six teacher by Charles Chambers. Gillian Galloway, will be going on maternity leave from September; she is due to resume her role from March 2018. Gillian's replacement as Kindergarten A teacher will be Aisling McNiffe. Claus Jensen has decided to extend his leave of absence for a further year; he will now return in September 2018. The Form Two teacher for the coming academic year will be Sheena Flaherty, who returns following her time in KGA earlier this year. Tracy Gallagher, our Irish teacher for the last three years, has decided to leave the school at the end of term. Tracy has been a dedicated member of staff, introducing new, interactive schemes of work to our Irish curriculum in addition to co-ordinating the Green Schools programme. This year Tracy produced a wonderful Maidin na Gaeilge with the children, which showed a great mix of both modern and traditional ways to engage with the Irish language. Tracy will be replaced by Nollaig Coffey who previously worked as Irish teacher in RJS a number of years ago; Nollaig has returned to the school as a substitute teacher with most classes over the course of the current year.

### **Outings and Events Sept 2016 – June 2017:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September our annual Copper Collection started, with many bags, purses and handfuls of coins brought to the front in assembly in the weeks that followed.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September Form Six pupils shared a part of their morning with our new children in Kindergarten A, helping out, chatting and reading them stories – a worthwhile experience very much enjoyed by both classes.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September Forms Three and Four went to the Natural History Museum.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September Form Five held their Bake Sale in support of the copper collection; every child in Forms Five and Six baked, with the children raising just over €500.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October all the children planted their spring bulbs in window boxes and pots which were distributed around the school.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October Forms Five and Six went on a trip to The Ark.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October Forms Three and Four also went to The Ark for another performance.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October Form Six went on their tour of Croke Park, including the GAA Museum.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October Form Six went on their annual sponsored walk to Bushy Park. It was a very enjoyable morning and the children were very engaged by the act of choosing and supporting charities they had selected themselves.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October School closed for the midterm break, re-opening on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November Form Six assisted Kevin in putting up the stage ready for the play practices.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November the Christmas plays practices commenced to great excitement from all the children.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December the youngest pupil in Form One turned on our Christmas lights for the first time at assembly and Form One also commenced the process of building up the nativity scene on Margaret's beautiful Peruvian advent calendar. We also continued the tradition of lighting our Danish advent candle. The two fabulous wreaths, also donated by a generous parent, appeared on our two red doors.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December Forms 3&4 performed their Dress Rehearsals for the school – Form 3's play was "Treasure Island" a new musical production selected by Jennifer Devlin and Form 4 produced "Cinders". The children did their teachers proud and were given great encouragement by a very excited audience.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December Forms One and Two performed their Dress Rehearsals; both classes produced new plays with a large slice of music, Form One's production was "Gnome Alone" whilst Form Two performed "Roald Dahl's 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'". On the same afternoon Forms Three and Four performed their final performances for their parents which were very well received.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December Forms One and Two staged their final performances with their parties to follow.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December Form Five and Six held their Dress Rehearsals. Form Five performed the atmospheric "The Night before Christmas" whilst Form Six presented another new play "Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr. Fox." As always, our eldest classes gave great example to their younger peers who were as enthusiastic as ever.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December Form Five and Six returned to give their evening performance to a very proud group of parents, with great success.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December Kindergarten A and B performed their Dress Rehearsals for the rest of the school. KGA presented "Whoops a Daisy Angel" and KGB produced "The Gingerbread Man"

On 16<sup>th</sup> December both classes performed the final two plays of our season. It was a wonderful morning, with a fantastic atmosphere and support provided by all the parents; a great pleasure to see the children who are the future of our school shining together on our stage.



On 19<sup>th</sup> December the school returned to the normal timetable. Forms Four, Five and Six enjoyed a very successful ice skating trip to the RDS, with the bonus of the whole rink to themselves!

Also on 19<sup>th</sup> December Kevin took the stage down, returning it to the shed with Form Six's help.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December Form Six took their play "on tour" to Brabazon House Nursing Home in Sandymount. The residents, staff and Form Six all greatly enjoyed the experience.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December we shared a special assembly on our last day of term before the Christmas holidays.

On 9<sup>th</sup> January the school re-opened for the new term.

On 18<sup>th</sup> January Form Six went to the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh as part of their Comparative Religions study. The children enjoyed the tour and visit to the Golden Olive restaurant.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January Form Five had their annual session with Accord.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January Form Four went for a visit to the Little Museum of Dublin. They gave an extremely impressive report on the outing the following day at assembly.

Also on 26<sup>th</sup> January Form Six had their annual visit from Accord.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February RJS hosted the annual AIJS Chess tournament with five schools joining ourselves for an hour and a half of speed chess. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent, with the Wicklow Montessori Junior School proving the ultimate winners.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February we closed for the midterm break and re-opened on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February we celebrated Pancake Tuesday with assembly in the garden and our traditional pancake race as well as pancakes for all classes cooked by Margaret in the Gym.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March our second afternoon of Parent-Teacher meetings took place.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March we held our annual Healthy Eating Day.

Also on 9<sup>th</sup> March Form Six visited Leinster House for a tour of the Dáil and Seanad. They enjoyed the day and had their photograph taken with the Minister for Health.

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March Forms Four, Five & Six went to The Ark Cultural Centre for a portraits workshop.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March we enjoyed a special celebration of Gaeilge together in our annual Maidin na Gaeilge. A wonderful selection of dances, songs, poems and other pieces were performed by all classes, culminating with the Form 6 "Seo Faisin."

From 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March seven chicks hatched in the Form Six classroom. The children had monitored the eggs closely in the incubator over the previous three weeks, naming each of the eggs before they hatched. Great excitement was shared throughout the school as Form Six brought the chicks to assembly on Thursday and Friday once they had been transferred to their 'brooder' box. This proved a very valuable, rewarding and exciting time for everyone involved. We look forward to welcoming the 'teenage' chicks back to school shortly after Easter.

On 4<sup>th</sup> April we held our annual Parents Hockey matches at Three Rock Rovers, which was well supported by a great turnout of parents who shared in a really fun afternoon with the children.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April Form Three went on a tour of the National Museum, linked to their study of Vikings.

The school closed for the Easter holidays on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May the children enjoyed our annual Ice Cream Day for Down Syndrome Ireland. Many thanks to Amanda and Marianne for all their hard work in making this event possible; The sun shone at break-time to make for the perfect morning and a total €336 was raised.

Also on 3<sup>rd</sup> May Form Six walked to the Irish Jewish Museum in Portobello with Emma and myself to visit as a part of their Comparative Religions studies. It was an interesting and worthwhile outing, complete with stop off at the Bretzel Bakery on the way back to school.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> six pupils from Forms Four, Five and Six represented the school in the AIJS Tennis Tournament. Congratulations to Ellie McConkey, who won the Girls Singles event.

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May Kindergarten A and B were visited by Kate Dick, a professional artist, who led them in a pencil and charcoal portrait workshop. Kate worked with the children in small groups down in the art room and they produced some really impressive work, using a medium they would not normally experience. We will hopefully work with Kate again in the future and look forward to seeing the fruits of these sessions in the upcoming Art and Handwork Exhibition.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May we celebrated our annual Music Day. It was a very special morning in the gym, with a great turnout of parents, friends and other family members enjoying memorable performances by the children from Kindergarten B to Form Five. Rita Bowens produced a very impressive programme, with a beautiful selection of poignant songs, running the show in a very organised, clam manner. My thanks to Rita, Brian Foley, all the external music teachers and parents for supporting the children; it is wonderful to see so many children taking up the challenge of learning an instrument, performing with such confidence and enjoyment.



On 12<sup>th</sup> May the Resource pupils enjoyed a short taco making session in the library, with treats delivered to all staff.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May Forms One and Two went on their summer outing to Airfield in Dundrum. The teachers gave a great report on the children, who also gave great feedback in assembly on Tuesday.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May we held our annual Junior Sports Day at Terenure Sports Club. There was a great turnout of parents to support our children from Kindergarten A to Form Two and we were fortunate to enjoy a sunny morning.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May we held our Senior Sports Day at Terenure Sports. Forms Three to six enjoyed a very successful afternoon of various races, run very efficiently by the Games staff. The clan shield was a tie between Dearn and Gorm.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May Form Five had their usual wonderful annual summer outing to Causey Farm, with Mrs. Derham and Mrs. Silke.

Also on 25<sup>th</sup> May Form Six performed for the very last time to their parents, producing a very memorable "At Home" production. It was a superb night of entertainment and a mixture of emotions for all involved.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May Kindergarten A and B went on their summer outing to "Go Kids Go!" activity centre in Blandhardstown.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June Forms Three and Four had their summer outing to Tayto Park in County Meath. The children had unlimited access to the rides and they gave a great report on their trip to assembly the next day.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Kindergarten A and B had great fun on their annual Teddy Bear's Picnic to Belgrave Square.

On 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June Form Six had a great time on their overnight visit to Carlingford Adventure Centre. They enjoyed kayaking on Carlingford Lough and zip lining and other vertigo-inducing obstacles at the Sky Park.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June we held our annual Art and Handwork Exhibition. The school looked was transformed into a wonderful gallery of so many beautiful pieces of work and the event was well-supported as always by families and friends.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June Form Six enjoyed their Movie Night in the gym; a relaxing, fun evening with lovely food and refreshments kindly organised by parents.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June Form Six went on their last RJS outing – the Teddy Bear's Picnic to Palmerston Park.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June the school closed for the Summer holidays at 12:30pm. We enjoyed a whole school assembly together, with slideshow and presentation to Form Six.

**Hockey:** The hockey season commenced on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We have been fortunate this season to have greater continuity of staff across the two days of Games, mainly due to the engagement of two of our new teaching staff, Lorna O'Brien and Laura McWade, as coaches. Margaret and I both attended hockey sessions on a number of occasions to ensure that systems are working, and we were both very impressed by the level of engagement, the standard of coaching and the amount of fun that the children were having.

**Girls' matches:** On 25<sup>th</sup> October they played friendly matches against Whitechurch School, drawing 1-1 and winning 4-1. The girls played a Blitz in St. Gerard's School, Bray on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Their results were a 1-1 draw, two 1-0 wins, a 0-0 draw and a 0-1 defeat. As a result of their strong performance they were placed in the second highest tier in the Leinster league, guaranteeing a very high standard of opponent for the league season. Their matches since have been: a 2-0 loss at home to St. Colmcilles, a 2-1 loss away to St. Brigid's of Cabinteely, a 5-1 defeat against Castle Park and a last minute 1-0 defeat to St. Gerard's, Bray. **Boys' matches:** This year the boys' team has consisted of predominantly Form 4 and 5 boys, with only two boys from Form Six playing. This has made for a challenging season, but the boys have played well together and shown great team spirit, in the face of older, more experienced opponents. Their results have been a 6-1 and 4-0 defeat to Whitechurch, a 4-1 loss to Rathgar N.S. a 3-3 draw with Sandford National School and a 5-1 defeat to St. Patrick's School, Greystones. They also took part in the annual Jenny Robinson Cup at St. Columba's College on 5<sup>th</sup> April, playing against five other schools. Their coach, Jason Klinkrad, has been very complimentary of the team's attitude and the boys feel they are progressing well.

#### Match with Newtown School:

On 8<sup>th</sup> February we hosted a hockey match with pupils from Newtown Junior School in Waterford. Form Five and Six children from both schools took part in friendly games at Three Rock Rovers grounds, with refreshments provided in the clubhouse for all involved; the children from both schools mixed together and got along very well. It was a pleasure to continue this tradition, rekindled by Margaret and Deirdre McSweeney from Newtown last year.



**Swimming:** continues to run smoothly, with Rachel Murray and Sheila Halpin staffing it from school. We are also very thankful to all of the parents who offer their help each week. I attended the session on September 13<sup>th</sup> and was very impressed by how efficiently everything seemed to run, the standard of the instructors and the level of engagement of the children.

**Chess:** continues every Monday afternoon with numbers as strong as ever. Fred Murphy continues to guide and encourage the children, from Forms Two to Six, with the support of Tracy Gallagher. Chess Club will continue under Mr. Murphy in September, when he will be ably assisted by Miss Flaherty in place of Miss Gallagher.

**Resource:** Mrs. Silke has taken on the role of providing most of the Resource teaching this year, although a number of other staff has also been involved. In total there are 17 children receiving support. Margaret turned the Library into a very inviting, child-friendly Resource room, which means this space is in almost constant use, in addition to the smaller rooms downstairs which are still used when required. Margaret ran a "Resource Pancakes Morning" on the last week before the Christmas holidays, with each of the Resource children working in teams with Margaret to prepare pancakes for each class in the school who joined the children and shared dances together, creating a very happy atmosphere. The Resource children also enjoyed a short outing to Palmerston Park at the end of the year. These initiatives play a vital part in building confidence that is essential for all children to make progress. A wide range of resources are used, including tried and tested learning programmes as well as iPad apps, a selection of educational games and the use of a super Apple Mac computer generously donated by one of our parents.

**Kids Club:** continues to be run by Bernadette King every day, ably assisted by Sheila Halpin. We are all grateful to have this wonderful additional service where children of different ages come together in a safe and relaxed environment.

**Building:** Over the summer Kevin continued to maintain the property with a number of small jobs and refreshing the walls where required. Thanks to a donation from a generous parent, we were also able to pay for the re-covering and replacement of all the soft padding on the pillars, basketball posts and goalposts in our garden. The lintel above the doorway of the Irish teacher's room was also extensively repaired over the October midterm and our piano in the Gym was retuned in November ahead of the Christmas plays. Following a leak over the summer damage was caused to the gym floor; this was entirely replaced over the Easter holidays. A significant number of repairs have also been carried out to the boiler, which has made a great improvement to the heating system. Kevin McDermott, our gardener, has continued the very important task of maintaining the appearance of our grounds.

**Computers:** Over the summer our school website was re-designed and it is now hosted by Black Swan. We continue to upload new articles at least every week, with all classes making regular contributions. The site gives an excellent flavour of the events taking place and provides up to date information for families and all interested in the school. Cristian Hategan of "Computer Room" in Terenure has been engaged on an annual contract to maintain and service all the I.T. equipment within the school. Cristian's expertise has been of great benefit in helping to upgrade a number of changes throughout the year. In December we upgraded our internet infrastructure, switching to fibre broadband, with excellent wireless coverage now available across the school. This has really improved the service to all classes, with teachers able to access all types of material online without any problems. This has also had a huge benefit in terms of updating the website quickly. Cristian has also installed a fit-for-purpose back-up system, with four new hard drives automatically scheduled to back-up all machines every day. He also installed new web-filtering and blocking software in order to further secure any device using the school network from accessing inappropriate material.

**CoderDojo:** The CoderDojo continues to run every second Saturday throughout the year. The children have access to an ever increasing range of resources, thanks to the efforts of a very dedicated group of parents. In addition to the Lego robots and Kano mini-computer kits, a second grant of €900 was awarded to the RJS by IBM. This money has been used to purchase TFT monitors and a kit that allows children to create and control their own app-enabled games. The CoderDojo children have also presented their projects to the rest of the school at three assemblies across the year. It was great to see their enthusiasm and the level of ambition shown in creating some very impressive projects. We met "Meccanoid" a three



foot tall robot constructed with the help of TY student Shane Buckley in CoderDojo. Meccanoid can dance, tell jokes and perform kung fu! This year the CoderDojo presented some of their projects and materials at the end of year Exhibition. My thanks to all the parents who continue to make this very valuable initiative possible; sharing their time and skills so generously.

### **Internet Safety:**

In February Forms Four, Five and Six were visited by Cliona Curley of CyberSafeIreland for an hour long session on internet safety. It was extremely valuable for the children and I hope that they will benefit and grow more confident and be better aware of the potential risks of the internet and how to operate more safely online. A week later Cliona returned to give a follow-up talk one evening for the parents of the same children.

### **Dublin City Council:**

The issue of road safety outside of the school has remained a serious concern. Following a very serious incident at the start of the school year representations were made to Dublin City Council and our six local councilors to improve the existing provisions for road safety. At a meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> it was agreed that two additional "School Ahead" warning signs would be installed on Grosvenor Road. These were put in place very promptly, one at the roundabout on the approach from Rathmines and the other just ahead of St. Michael's House coming from the Rathgar direction. The Council also agreed to paint "School – Keep Clear" warning zigzag markings outside the front of the school to make illegal parking even more conspicuous. This work was carried out at the beginning of June. At present the Council have ruled out the possibility of installing further speed ramps, a zebra crossing or providing a school warden. I am very grateful to the vast majority of parents who continue to co-operate by staying clear of parking on the yellow lines. For the sake of every one of our children I hope that the new markings will cause a further deterrent to illegal and dangerous parking.

### **Assemblies:**

Our assemblies have continued to provide many special moments with visitors ranging from a variety of pets to charity representatives and our seven newly hatched chicks. It is always especially lovely to see the enthusiasm and interest from Form One as they share this experience for the first time every day and bring in a variety of items to show the whole school. We have enjoyed three class assemblies presented by each of our classes across the year, covering a wide variety of themes including: Christopher Columbus, Halloween; Christmas; Chinese New Year; Compliments Day, The Maori, Healthy Eating, Balloons, Mothers Day, St. Patrick, Whales, Sound, Poetry, Healthy Eating, Vikings, My Friends and Mother's Day. We have also been entertained by our chicks who returned as teenage hens a few weeks later, a number of dogs and fidget-spinning demonstrations amongst other interesting performances. Assembly will always be a very special part of what brings the school together; encouraging and celebrating each child in a shared way, as individuals and in their classes. It is a blessing to start each morning in this unique way.

### **Visitors:**

In September we were joined by former pupil, and artist, Ciara Harrison who guided all the children from Forms One to Six in a special fabrics project. The children had a wonderful time working with Ciara, who mounted flowers sewn and tie-dyed by each child on to a giant canvas which has now been framed and is on display on our main stairway. ArtZone returned in January for the series of workshops with all classes from Form One to Six. Once again, with thanks to these specialist teachers the children were able to produce some wonderful work in clay – all results to be enjoyed at our end of year Exhibition. We also welcomed the Junior Einsteins science group to the school at the end of March; Kindergartens A, B, Forms One and Two thoroughly enjoyed this practical demonstration of various experiments. In May Kindergarten A and B were visited by Kate Dick, a professional artist, who led them in a pencil and charcoal portrait workshop. Kate worked with the children in small groups down in the art room and they produced some really impressive work, using a medium they would not normally experience. We will hopefully work with Kate again in the future and look forward to seeing the fruits of these sessions in the upcoming Art and Handwork Exhibition. Forms Four, Five and Six were also visited by Terenure vet, Mark Heffernan, who gave a talk on taking care of pets and animals.



### Christina Henri – “Roses from the Heart”

We were delighted to welcome Australian artist, Christina Henri, to the school on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Christina spoke to the children in assembly about her “Roses from the Heart” bonnets project commemorating each of the 3216 women and their 506 children who were transported from Ireland to Australia between 1788 and 1853. We were all touched by Christina’s passion and the beautiful nature of the varied bonnets which bore the name and age of one of the women who made the long journey to Van Diemens Land as well as the ship and date on which they travelled. It was an honour for Form Five and Six to join Christina and a number of other schools and guests at the installation of her bonnets project at the Grangegorman D.I.T. campus later that week; and especially interesting for the children having learned of the significance of Elizabeth Fry’s influence on the Grangegorman building in class earlier. We look forward to being further involved with Christina when she next returns to Ireland.

### Fundraising:

The Committee organized a Parents Quiz Night in Terenure Sports Club on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed another very enjoyable evening, with a total of €560 raised for school fundraising. A separate social evening was also organised by parents during December, with €170 donated to the school.

The Committee also decided to repeat the Movie Afternoons for all the children in the Gym over four Friday afternoons in March. A total of €1492 was raised.

### Family Fun Day:

Once again we enjoyed a highly successful Family Fun Day and Sponsored Walk last Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. This was achieved solely through the dedication and hard work of so many parents. As always the garden was spruced up with every effort put into creating a welcoming atmosphere for our families, friends and their pets. The proceeds from the Bake Sale, Doggie Cafe, Face Painting, Donations Boxes and Sponsored Walk, was a superb total of €3150.

All the funds raised by these ventures will help contribute towards the cost of much needed new desks for Forms 2, 3 and 4. These desks should be in place for the start of our new school year in September 2017.

### Charities:

As always the importance of considering those less fortunate than ourselves plays an important part in fostering the ethos of the school. Our Copper Collection to support the homeless raised €2050 for Focus Ireland and the Peter McVerry Trust; both organizations visited the school to talk with the children about their work. The Form Six sponsored walk raised €1325 for Bothar, the Haven Partnership for Haiti and Breast Cancer Ireland – an incredible amount, especially for such a small sized class. Bothar also visited the school in March to talk with the children at assembly. A total of 121 shoeboxes were donated by our children to Team Hope, helping children in Eastern Europe and Africa; and a huge number of gifts were carefully wrapped and presented for the benefit of the Women’s Refuge in Rathmines at Christmas. Form Five and Six ran their annual Bake Sale and Sale of Work on 29 March, raising €1396 for their sponsored child in India as well as the St. Clara’s Orphanage in Peru that enables young girls to receive an education and improve their opportunities in life.

To conclude, as I reflect on the year to date, I can recall many highlights: special days with special visitors, outings, plays, memorable assemblies, matches, musical performances and many more besides. I hope that all of these experiences help contribute to an atmosphere and feeling of fun and happiness for the children; days they may look back on fondly in the years to come. Hopefully they will share these reminiscences with some of their former classmates as well as their families and feel the difference that some of these moments may have made. What makes the impact for one child may seem less significant for another and I hope that in RJS our children are given a breadth of opportunities and experiences so that everyone will find something that makes a difference. Above all, however, I feel it is our relationships that are most important and what makes working in this school such a privilege and a pleasure; sharing each day and working with staff and parents who share the same aim of enabling our children to grow in themselves and make a positive difference to others.



# Chairperson's Report 2016-2017

June 2017

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another year at RJS and the holidays are beckoning with the prospect of a long warm summer of fun, it is a good opportunity to reflect on another extremely busy and eventful year at the school.

We are lucky with the range of activities our children can enjoy in RJS. Our boys and girls hockey teams enjoyed their participation in their leagues with some fantastic results and great performances in all their matches. Our thanks to all of the games staff for all their hard work and encouragement throughout the year. Our younger children were, as always, well looked after by Sheila Halpin and Rachel Murray every week at swimming and thanks to all parents who helped out during the year. In addition, we have a chess club, drama, choir, playball and our thanks to all staff and others who run those activities for our children. Finally, our CoderDojo club is going from strength to strength, thanks to the parent volunteers who have organised and run this for the past three years.

We had the magic of Christmas as we enjoyed the performances of all our children during the Christmas show season. As always, it reminded us of what we love about RJS in how the hard work, wonderful talents and enthusiasm of the children is nurtured and guided by their fantastic teachers. Many thanks to all the teachers and others who prepare the children so well and all their hard work in making Christmas such a magical time at the school for both children and parents alike.

Many thanks to Ms Bowens for all her hard work in preparing the children for Music Day. The musical talents on display were fantastic. It was an extremely enjoyable morning of entertaining and confident performances for all the children both in their class performances and the many individual performances which included drums, recorder, harp, guitars and piano.

This year, we ran many very successful fundraising events in support of the school. These included: the Table Quiz back in the Autumn term; a very successful Parents' Night in December; the Movie Afternoons which ran over 4 Fridays and were a big hit with all the children; the Form 5 & 6 Sale of Work and Cake Sale; and as part of the Family Day, we had a Sponsored Walk. It was great to see how strongly these events were supported by everyone in the school community.

We had a great attendance for Family Day and the sponsored walk. Helped by the beautiful weather, great music and the doggy café, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to all who attended and donated cakes and goodies for the cake sale and tea party afterwards.

The fine weather continued for both the Junior and Senior sports days which were a great success. From the egg and spoon races, three-legged races, to relays, marathons and, of course, the Clann race, they were enjoyed by parents and children alike. The parents and race for Junior sports day was particularly memorable!

In addition to our fundraising events, there were several other social events for parents. These including the Back to School meet in the park which is great way for new and existing parents and children to meet up before school starts as well as numerous end of term events and informal coffee mornings.



We are very lucky to have such a great team at RJS who provide our children with such loving support and encouragement. Our thanks to the teaching and support staff for their hard work and unstinting efforts in making the school such a special place. We thank both Carol and Edel for their tireless work behind the scenes. We also thank Bernadette for all her work in running Kids Club, and of course Noreen for her hard work every day as well as making events such as the Christmas performances and Family Day so successful.

We reluctantly say goodbye to Elizabeth Dinnet who is retiring in June. Elizabeth is a long standing and much valued member of staff and has been an inspirational teacher to our children. We wish her well in her retirement as class teacher but are delighted that she will remain on as French teacher to Forms Four, Five and Six next year.

We also say goodbye to Tracy Gallagher, our Irish teacher, who is also leaving the school and wish her every success in the future.

We welcome Aisling McNiffe, Charles Chambers and Nollaig Coffey to the teaching staff and wish them every success.

We also say goodbye to the pupils of Form 6 and wish them all the best next year as they move to their new schools and we look forward to welcoming the new KGA pupils in September.

Finally, as this is my final year as Chairperson, I will be stepping down from the School Committee. It has been a pleasure working with Jonathan and before that with Margaret over the past four years. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the other members of the Committee over the time that I have been involved, as well as many other parents who help out at the school in a variety of ways. Naomi Mooney will be taking on the role of Chairperson and I wish her and the other members well.

As another busy school year draws to a close, we hope all RJS families have a wonderful summer.

Deirdre Noonan  
Chairperson, RJS School Committee





# When I grow up I want to be ..... by Kindergarten A

Henry - an inventor, because I think I will have great fun.

Robyn - a rock star, because I love to sing.

Milo - a ninja because they wear cool clothes.

Willow - a doctor , because then I can make people better.

Will - a builder, because I want to bring my mum, dad and sister on a crane.

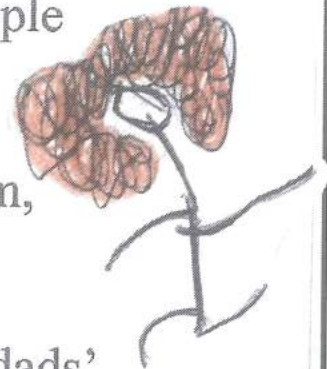
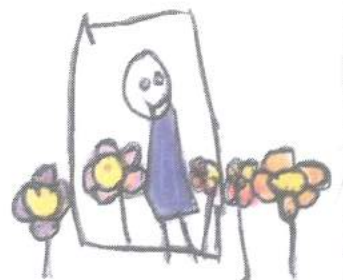
Eoin - a dad, because I like playing 'mums and dads' with my sister.

Harry - a football player, because I love football.

Frida - a singer, because I like singing.

Grace - a teacher, so that I can teach children.

Alexia - a tennis player , so that I can do tennis camp.





Marty – a warrior, because they are strong.



Aliana – a rock star because I like singing.



Gregory - a flower seller, because of the lovely colours and they smell nice.



Tom – a Power Ranger, so I can be fit and strong.

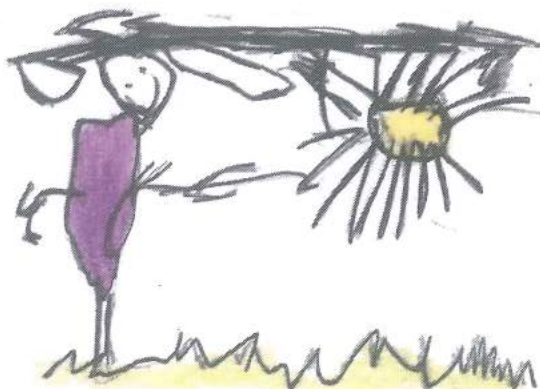
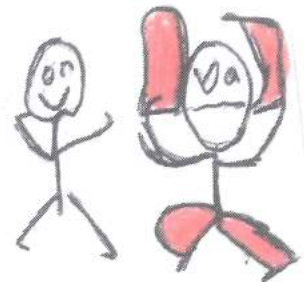
Fatima - a doctor, because my mum is a doctor and I want to be with her.

Senan – a ninja, because I want to have super powers.



Eliza Kate - a builder, because I want to build a hotel.


Beatrice - a ballerina and singer because I love to sing and dance.





## Kindergarten B


### 'A few of our favourite things' .....




**Ella** - I love playtime, playing in the garden with all my friends.

**Edie** - I loved doing the jelly tot maths this year, making 2D and 3D shapes.

**Heath** - I liked 'show and tell' best of all and bringing my puppies to school.



**Luke** - My favourite was the Halloween party and the jelly tot maths.



**Roan** - I loved Pancake Tuesday. It was fun doing the pancake race and eating pancakes.

**Calvin** - I think the jelly tot maths and the Christmas play were my favourite.

**Hugo** - I really enjoyed Music Day.



**Chloe** - My favourite day was our indoor picnic, it was fun reading to my teddy.



**Jonny** - The science workshop and Pancake Tuesday were my favourite.



**Matthew** - Sports day and P.E. days were my best day.


**Jamie** - I loved the Science Day and Music Day was fun.



**Max** - I liked Ice-Cream Day and seeing all the little baby chickens in Form 6.

**Emmie** - My favourite thing was Kate's art work shop because I love charcoal.

**Christian** - Playing with Luke and doing 'show and tell' are my favourite things to do.




**Taran** - I loved the Christmas play and the Halloween party.



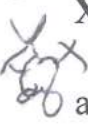
**Aidan** - I liked Sports Day, Pancake Tuesday and playing in the garden.

**Sean** - My favourite things are Irish, P.E. and my work.




**Bella** - My favourite things in KGB are storey time and science.


**Jessica** - I love art and I really loved Kate's art work shop and P.E. and swimming.




**Xander** - I loved my first day meeting Mrs. Dore and watching Heath's Show and Tell about Harry Potter.



**Megan** - My favourite things were the indoor picnic and gymnastics in P.E. class.



**Patrick** - I really loved all my work, art, news and Busy at Maths book.





## Form One Memories



### Robert

One of my favourite memories was our Ice-Cream Day because we got ice-cream. Another favourite memory was our Music Day because we got a homework pass. My third favourite memory was our Christmas play because we got to see our parents.

### Reese

One of my favourite memories was my birthday because it was really fun. Another favourite memory was the Christmas play because I loved being an elf.

### Carolyn

One of my favourite memories was the Christmas play because it was really fun and enjoyable. Another favourite memory was Sports Day because I loved the three legged race and we did it. My third favourite memory was the science workshop because I liked electrocuting the barbie doll.

### Rory

One of my favourite memories was Sports Day because it was very fun and I went to Carolyn's afterwards. Another favourite memory was our Easter egg hunt because the riddles were fun. My third favourite memory was our Christmas play because the treats after it were delicious.

### Harry

My favourite memory was the science workshop because I loved electrocuting Barbie. My second favourite was the Easter egg hunt because I loved searching the garden for eggs. My third favourite was Ice-Cream Day because I loved eating all the ice-cream.

### Benjamin

One of my favourite memories was Sports Day because it was fun. Another favourite memory was Music Day because I loved playing the guitar in front of an audience. My third favourite memory was the Easter egg hunt because there were lots of quizzes.





### Theodore

One of my favourite memories was the assembly on the Chinese new year because I liked the story. Another favourite memory was Sports Day because I won a race. My third favourite memory was the science workshop because Barbie had a bad hair day.



### Maud

One of my favourite memories was Ice-Cream Day because I enjoyed eating ice-cream with my friends. Another favourite memory was Airfield because I enjoyed seeing the animals. My third favourite memory was Music Day because I enjoyed singing songs with my friends.

### Tara

One of my favourite memories was the science workshop because I loved it. Another favourite memory was the Christmas play because it was fun being Santa. My third favourite memory was planting vegetables because it was awesome seeing them grow.

### Margot

One of my favourite memories was Ice-Cream Day because it was nice and sunny and we had so much fun. Another favourite memory was Sports Day because we had a lot of fun and got a pack of smarties. My third favourite memory was Irish morning because Carolyn and I had so much fun.





Ella

One of my favourite memories was Sports Day because the races were fun. Another favourite time was the Music Day because I liked when my mom and my minder saw me play the guitar. Another memory was Irish day because I liked the songs.

Alfie

One of my favourite memories was Ice-Cream Day because we had ice-cream. Another favourite memory was Sports day because of the marathon. My third favourite memory was the Christmas play because we had fun.

Jude

One of my favourite memories was Ice-Cream Day because we got ice-cream! Another favourite memory was the Christmas play because we watched a movie! My third favourite memory was when Junior Einsteins came in because I liked the experiments!



Rui-Yao

One of my favourite memories was the science workshop because I like science. My second favourite memory was Irish morning because I saw loads of things. My last favourite was the assembly on the Chinese new year because it was about China.

Maitiú

My first favourite memory was the school play because it was funny and I had fun with friends. My second favourite memory was Sports Day because I love sports. My third favourite memory was Art Zone because of the idea. My fourth favourite time was Ice-Cream Day. I loved the Sale of Work it was the best.

Darcy

One of my favourite memories was the Christmas play because it was so much fun when my mum and dad came to watch me. Another favourite memory was Music Day because it was so much fun playing the piano. My third favourite was Ice-Cream Day because it was so tasty.

Asia

One of my favourite memories was sports day because I had so much fun and we got smarties at the end. Another favourite memory was the science workshop because the teacher gave us bazookas and Form 2 had a cup on their head. My third favourite memory



was writing my book because there was a werewolf in it and Twoface was in it as well and a vampire too.

#### Juliet

One of my favourite memories was the first day because I liked the room. Another favourite memory was Art Zone because it was fun because I like art. My third favourite memory was the autumn jars.

#### Grace

One of my favourite memories was Ice-cream Day because it was a nice sunny day. Another favourite memory was music day because I got to play the piano in front of the parents. My third favourite memory was the Easter egg hunt because we got a chocolate egg at the end.



#### Tom

One of my favourite memories was the science workshop because we got to shoot a cup off on one of the Form 2's heads with an air bazooka. Another favourite memory was sports Day because we did a tug-of-war before it started and some of our team helped the other team and I got dragged along the ground. My third favourite memory was writing my own book because there was a dog flying in a box shooting lollipops saying "you got lollipopped" to everyone and it was so funny.

#### Suzie

One of my favourite memories was our Christmas play because I loved my character. Another favourite memory was Ice-Cream Day in the garden. My third favourite memory was Music Day because I loved playing the piano in front of adults.

#### Hanna

One of my favourite memories was Ice-Cream Day because it was yummy.





# FORM 2

## Hockey and Summer Games

Hockey season started in September and finished mid-April. We had hockey twice per week, every Tuesday and Thursday. Hockey took place at Three Rock Rovers pitch. At hockey, we trained and played matches against one another at the end of each session. We loved playing matches! We played against Whitechurch after Christmas. Our hockey coach Amy organised the game against Whitechurch. We really enjoyed it even though it was challenging!

Once hockey finished, we started playing summer games and tennis. Every Tuesday we play football and rounders at Terenure Sports Club. On Thursday, we play tennis at Ashbrook Tennis Club. There are three tennis courts to play on. Our coaches are Amy, Steve and Lidia. We play games known as Packman and Jail. They are lots of fun! Tennis is great exercise and it makes your muscles strong and keeps you healthy.

By Mattie, Arthur and Charlotte.



## Coder Dojo

Coder Dojo began on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September. It takes place every second Saturday, starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. We meet in the Form Six classroom. Our Coder Dojo teacher is called Teddy. He is really nice. He uses the interactive whiteboard to show us how to make various games. Abbie's Mum Naomi is in charge of running Coder Dojo. She works very hard to organise this for us each fortnight. At Coder Dojo, we create games on the computers. During the first few weeks of Coder Dojo, we created simple games. Our favourite project was called The Maze. We were asked to get into small groups during this project. It was lots of fun and it was good that we got to work as part of a team. Also, we made robots and computers. Another programme we use to make games is called Scratch. We made games using Scratch linked to Halloween, Christmas, quizzes, summer season and a maze. We have great fun at Coder Dojo!

By Charlie and Emily.



## Christmas Play

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> of December we performed our Christmas play. We performed Roald Dahl's version of Snow White called 'Snow White and the Seven Jockeys'. That evening, Form One performed first. We watched a movie in our classroom while we were waiting to go on stage. After what seemed like forever, we were finally called to go down to the gym for our performance. As we lined up outside the stage, we waited in anticipation and excitement. It was time to go on...we were so nervous! The audience were amazing and gave us a huge cheer as we walked on stage to perform our first song, 'It's never easy for a King'. This version of Snow White had a twist. There were seven jockeys instead of dwarfs and Snow White rescued them from their silly habit of gambling. They certainly learnt their lesson by the end of the play. Our favourite songs were 'Come on, place your bets' and 'Snow White's Scheme'. We had lots of fun performing and we were so happy that all of our hard work paid off in the end. After the play had finished, there was a party in the art room organised for us. We had the party with Form One. There were lots of sweets and drinks there. Once the party had finished we collected our Christmas presents for our parents, and went home exhausted but relieved.

By Mia, James, JR and Luke.





## Pancake Tuesday

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, we had pancakes at school for Pancake Tuesday. First, we had our daily assembly outside in the garden followed by a pancake race. This was lots of fun! Then we went inside and waited in our classroom until we were called down for our pancakes. Once down in the gym, we danced to lots of our favourite songs while waiting for our food. Mrs Silke and some Form Six students made our pancakes for us. After a short while our pancakes were ready to be eaten! Our teacher brought some toppings from the gym up to our classroom for us to use. There were sprinkles, chocolate sauce, sugar, cinnamon and lots more. Our pancakes were delicious!

By Ruairi and Maya.





## Music Day

Music Day took place on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> of May. We were excited but very nervous to perform in front of an audience. We went down to the gym along with Form Three in the morning to perform. We were up first. We sang two songs together. They were called, 'We Are One' and 'Just Sing'. Then we took turns to play instruments. A variety of instruments featured, such as, the violin, piano, guitar, a harp and many more. Everyone performed extremely well. The audience clapped a lot! After that we listened to Form Three perform. They were fantastic as well! They sang 'Naughty' and 'When I grow Up' from Matilda. Once everyone had finished, Miss Bones gave us all a free homework pass! We were all delighted! The choir performed after a short break. We had a great morning!

By Abbie, Sam and Cormac.

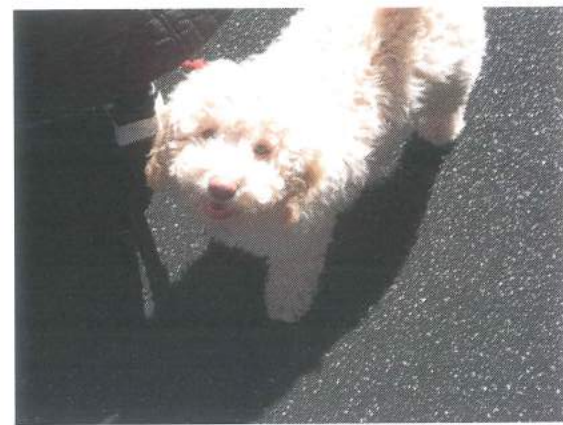




## Family Fun Day

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, it was Family Fun Day! We arrived at school and walked around Kenilworth Square. It was very hot and sunny. It was scorching like lava on our heads! When we got back we saw Form Four. We had a race against them and we actually won! Afterwards, we had a delicious feast of treats as there were indoor and outdoor bake sales. Also, there were many challenges for us to solve, such as, 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' and 'guess the dog's name'. The Form Six girls did face-painting as well. Amazingly, over 1,000 euros was raised for new desks for various year groups. We loved Family Fun Day. It was the best day ever!

By Mathis and Honor.



### Airfield Trip

On Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> of May we went to Airfield in Dundrum for our annual school trip. Form One, Miss O'Brien, Rachel and Shiela joined us. Our tour guide was called Fiona. She was very nice and gave us lots of interesting facts about the farm and the animals. In the morning, we got to meet many cows, calves and pigs. Fiona told us about the process of milking a cow at the farm. A lot of work goes into producing milk fresh and clean! After our tour around the farm yard, we went on a bug hunt in the woodland area of Airfield. We were put into partners for this activity and some of us found interesting bugs. Fiona found a baby frog! Then it was time for lunch. We met with Form One beside the playground and had an outdoor picnic. For the second half of our trip, we fed the chickens and goats which was lots of fun! Also, Fiona brought us to see some of the very ancient cars owned by Airfield's former residents. At the end of the day we got to climb a fairy fort! It was so amazing! Finally we hopped onto the bus and made our way back to school. We had such a great day and will certainly go back again!

By Lotte, Rebecca and Saeed.





# FORM THREE

## Christmas Play

For our Christmas play this year we did Treasure Island. It was about a boy called Jim who goes on an adventure to find the hidden treasure and save his mates. But there was an evil pirate trying to stop him. A few of our favourite songs were 'Fifteen Men', 'What shall we do with Long John Silver?' and 'Hoist the Anchor'. It took place on 7<sup>th</sup> December and there was a huge audience of parents, grandparents and minders to cheer us on. In our group, the characters were;

- Alba – The Pirate Black Dog
- Tom – Rodger
- Amelie – Dr Livesey
- Fiachra – Billy Bones
- Kate - Narrator.



We also had many great props that were brought in by the class including a treasure chest, a barrel, a large rusty key and Mrs Devlin made the pirate ship. The costumes were very creative and colourful and included fake moustaches! After the play we had a lovely party in the Art room. We all thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas play this year!

By Fiachra, Alba, Kate, Tom and Amelie

## Assemblies



Form Three presented three assemblies during the year. Our first assembly was about Christopher Columbus. We learnt the poem 'In 1492' and recited it. We illustrated the three famous ships that Christopher Columbus and his crew sailed in – The Nina, The Pinta and The Santa Maria and showed these at the Assembly. We also shared some quick facts about Christopher Columbus and how he

landed in the Bahamas and thought he was in the West Indies!

Our second Assembly was on the Maoris who were the first people to settle in New Zealand. We watched the haka on You-Tube in class and we made our own Maori masks. We shared some interesting facts about the Maoris including how the men and women often had tattoos representing their status in the tribe and a history of their achievements.



Our third and final Assembly was on whales inspired by our class novel by Michael Morpurgo – 'This Morning I Met a Whale'. We sang a song, said a poem and performed a little dance. We also used the projector to accompany our whale facts which included what we could do to save the whale.

By Sadhbh, Alex-Anne, Ethan, Kevin



## Projects

We did two projects during the year in Form Three. The first project was on a country of our choice which we had to present to the class. The countries our group chose were;

- Anna – Belgium
- Katie – Dubai
- Seamus – Germany
- Clodagh –Canada



We learnt about the capital cities, currencies, famous landmarks, famous people, food, etc. from each country. Other people chose more unusual places like Japan, Bora Bora, Greenland, Mauritius and Cuba. It was fun learning all about these places and then displaying our projects around our classroom.

The second project was called 'The Person I Most Admire'. Some people chose family members, other people chose more famous people like Michelle Obama, Donald Trump, Gabby Douglas, Emma Watson, John Cena, Amelia Earhart.

We presented our projects to the class and we had to give our reasons why we chose that person.



We designed our own covers for the scrapbooks which we really enjoyed creating too!

By Anna, Katie, Seamus, Clodagh

## The National Museum of Ireland



Form Three took a visit to the Viking Exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland. We had been learning about the Vikings in History and were looking forward to seeing and hearing more.



Our tour guide first showed us the Ardagh chalice and we learnt that it was actually discovered by a child! Other facts we learnt were that only one Viking helmet has ever been found to date (without horns!).

Carrie's favourite thing from the trip was seeing the Viking houses. Daniels favourite thing was seeing all the valuables. Fionn's favourite thing was learning all the new vocabulary and Molly's favourite thing were the keyrings in the gift shop!

By Daniel, Carrie, Fionn, Molly.





## Music Day



Music Day was on May 10<sup>th</sup> this year and Form Three were really looking forward to it! Our performance began with two group numbers taken from the hit musical 'Matilda'. They were called 'Naughty' and 'When I grow up'. At the end of our second song we all held up drawings of what we'd like to be when we grow up, some of which included scientists, footballers,

archaeologists and chocolate testers!

Then it was time for the individual performers of which Form Three were very proud to have 14! We listened to some great pieces from the piano, violin, trumpet, guitar and fiddle. Some of Form Three also sang in the school choir on Music Day too! We then returned to our classes after a thoroughly enjoyable morning and Mrs. Devlin had a big surprise for us ... NO HOMEWORK!



By Pearl, Zach and Lucy

## Rabbits



On May 6<sup>th</sup> on Johnny's farm, there were eleven bunny rabbits born. We were very lucky to have a visit to our class from these cute bunnies a few weeks later. There were black, grey and albino rabbits all with great names which included Flopsey, Mopsey, Cottontail, Zeus, Apollo, Shadow, Snuffles, Mercury and Cappuccino! They were fed every four hours at the start with goats milk by Johnny's Mum! After a few more weeks they were able to eat little chunks of apple, carrot and lettuce. We really enjoyed seeing the rabbits up close and being able to hold them. We were sad to see them leave our classroom all snuggled up in a shoebox filled with straw!

By Johnny, Alex, Victoria

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH FORM FOUR !



NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
2017



In Form Four this year we have been on a number of outings the first one was on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and we went to the "National History Museum". We were given two worksheets one of which was on our favourite animal and the other was about bees. The first floor of the museum housed Irish animals.

Our favourite animals included badgers and the ancient Irish elk. Some very interesting fossils and gems in the museum were donated by my great grandfather. Once we were finished downstairs we went up to level two. Our favourite animals were gorilla skeletons, boar heads, red pandas and bats. We weren't allowed to go any higher because the stairs were unstable there were some very interesting specimens including jellyfish and monkey brains. Once we were finished in the museum we walked to the park and played a big game of tag. We got an ice cream on the way home!



OBY AND NAOISE



## The Ark



On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of October Form 4 went to the Ark to watch a performance of Johannes and Margaret, also known as Hansel and Gretel. When we arrived in the theatre we saw a little hut in the middle of the stage. We were all very confused. But what stopped our confusion was a small woman wearing an outfit made of leaves and forks. Then a very tall man came out from the hut. They invited the audience into the hut. They told us the story of their past. They explained that when they were young they were captured by a witch. The witch fed the

children sweets so they would grow fat. Once they were plump enough the witch planned to eat them. We will explain how the children made their great escape from the evil witch. One day Margaret was fed up with the witch so when the witch was checking the bread in the stove Margaret pushed her into the oven and she was cooked alive. She saved her brother and they both escaped and returned to their father in the woods and lived happily ever after.



James and Marla

## ICE SKATING



It was December 19th 2016 when we went ice skating at the RDS. We got there at 10:00, the rink was in Funderland. There was a small and a big rink. Soon we got our skates and went on the ice. We were all so excited that we all went through the door at the same time and got stuck! .We got to skate for half an hour.

Some got hurt but there were no major injuries. Soon we went to the smaller rink and had a race with the penguins. The penguins are made to help you learn to skate but we just used them for fun. Then we did lots more skating. It was not very sunny but that didn't stop us from having fun! We had the whole rink to ourselves. The boots were comfortable but very heavy on our feet. When we were leaving the rink there was another school waiting outside. After we put our boots back and took our shoes we saw all the stalls and rides for Funderland. We got back at 12:20 from a great

school trip! We would definitely go there again with family and friends, also Forms 5 and 6 enjoyed this trip with us!



Donncha and Zach



## The Little Museum Of Dublin



On 26th of January Form 4 went to The Little Museum of Dublin. Our guide called Emma, took us to the room of the 1916 Rising. We saw bullets, medals and James Joyce's mask. Our guide said that 104 people lived in one house. She brought us to a room with a wooden train, a gas mask, a slot machine, hurley sticks and a football jersey from the World Cup 2013 signed by all the players of the team. We went to the U2 room and we saw a spinning chair, a giant guitar, a car and lots of pictures of famous bands. The Irish Times room had interesting stamps and we took turns trying to write our name on our hands. The Alfie Byrne room was named after a Lord Mayor of Dublin. We left the museum and went to the playground in St Stephens Green. It was a brilliant outing!



Zack and Paula

## Art Zone



On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January Form 4 went downstairs into the art room for Art Zone. We got a lump of clay and shaped it into a semi circle. After we made the semi circle we got some more clay and made a body like shape. We stuck the shape onto the bottom of the semi circle. Then we used a pencil to make patterns for a jumper. For the head we made another circle and poked holes for the nose and mouth. A few weeks later we painted them different colours. Some people made pets and marked the hair with a pencil. It was great fun!



RORY AND CALVIN

## THE ARK WORKSHOP



On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 Form 4 left RJS to go to the Ark. At 10 o'clock we sat in the top floor of the Ark waiting for another school to arrive. We all sat on the floor on pillows. Then an Italian artist talked to us about self portraits. After that she brought us to a long table and told us to draw the person opposite us. She did not give us rubbers just pencils, she told to turn our mistakes into works of art. After we had finished she gave us paints and brushes and told us to go crazy and use our imagination. Several of us chose to do

designs such as moustaches, afros and spots. After we all finished painting she took us down a floor to a room covered in charcoal art by a famous artist. She sat us down and gave us mirrors. We looked at ourselves and then using charcoal and paper we drew self portraits. On the way out we saw a picture of a girl who looked like me and was called Ellen, crazy coincidence! We thought it was an amazing trip!



Ellen and Maeve

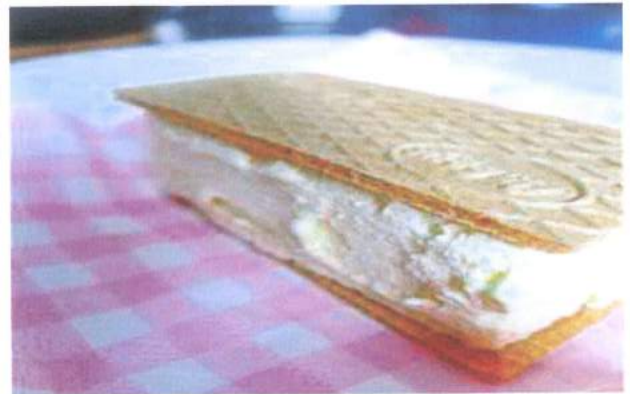


## ICE CREAM DAY



On Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2017, Rathgar Junior School held an "Ice Cream Day" in order to raise funds and awareness of Down Syndrome Ireland. Every pupil in Rathgar Junior School was asked to bring in 2 euro or more as a donation if they wanted ice cream. "HB" (Hazelbrook Farm) provided us with the ice cream. At "Little Break" we went outside and received an ice cream from either Marianne or Elaine. When we got our ice creams Amanda took photos of some of the pupils in our class. We got a block of vanilla ice cream with two wafers. It was a very enjoyable experience as it was a sunny day. RJS raised 336 euro for Down Syndrome Ireland. We hope that it will make a difference to all people in Ireland with Down Syndrome.

Emma & Ellie.



## Senior Sports Day



On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2017, at 2pm Senior Sports Day was held in C.Y.M. As preparation, in summer games, we did the long jump and figured out the teams for each clann in each class. We got chosen (randomly) for a clann and did a race to see who would be first runner, second runner and third runner for the clann relay. There were clanns dearg, bui and gorm. Each person in each class from Forms 3 to 6 was in a clann. This was the line- up:

1. 100 metres Forms 3-6
2. Egg & spoon Forms 3-6
3. Sack race Forms 3-6

4. 300 metres Forms 3&4
5. 300 metres Forms 5&6
6. Wheelbarrow race Forms 3&4
7. Wheelbarrow race Forms 5&6
8. 3 legged race Forms 3&4
9. 3 legged race forms 5&6
10. Clann relay
11. Marathon
12. Clann race

At the end of the events, we got an ice cream and there was a presentation of the cups and the clann shield. We finished at around 4pm. It was a great day and we really enjoyed ourselves.



Emma & Ellie



## Tayto Park



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June Forms 3 and 4 went to Tayto Park, a family fun park in county Meath. There are many attractions for young and older children. Attractions include Honey Pot Bears, Leap Frog, The Ferris Wheel and many others. Attractions for older children include The Rotator, The Cú Chulainn Coaster, Air Race and many more. There is also a zoo. The trip to Tayto Park is about a one hour bus ride from our school. Form 3 and Form 4 thought it was a really good school trip and probably the best school trip of the year!



David and Matthew.

## Fun and Learning

### The Ark



During this school year, Form 5 were lucky enough to go on two outings to The Ark - the children's cultural centre in Temple Bar

On our first visit, we went to a play called "Katie's Birthday Party". The theatre was set out so that we were Katie's party guests and the stage had party props and balloons. We played party games such as "The Chubby Bunny Challenge", "Truth or Dare", and we also filmed a "Harlem Shake" video. Katie told us stories about school and her friends. Her best friend wasn't at Katie's party because she had gone to someone else's party and Katie was very sad about that.

Katie was also very nervous about going to secondary school.

We all enjoyed the play very much because it was so interactive. We

## in Form Five.

even got to share Katie's birthday cake at the end.

On our second visit, we took part in a portrait workshop. The artist, Yole, showed us some of her paintings and drawings and also encouraged us to focus and observe the features on faces. First we painted a friend's face free-handed. Then we moved to another room and drew a self-portrait using charcoal.



RJS has been going to The Ark for years and they never fail to please us.

By Aoife and Mishca

### Cooking

Have you ever made soup or pizza in class? Well in October Form 5 decided to use the beautiful pumpkins in the shops to make a delicious and healthy soup. The students who were in early got to



help Mrs. Derham chop pumpkins. Then Mrs Derham roasted the pumpkins. We then combined them with onion, cumin and vegetable stock in a saucepan. Finally we liquidised everything to make the soup. We sprinkled the top with roasted pumpkin seeds.

Then in March for Healthy Eating Day we made hummus. This is a dip made by combining chickpeas, tahini paste, lemon juice and garlic in a food processor. The hummus was delicious and easy to make. We also chopped up carrots and red peppers to serve with the dip. It was great fun.



In May as part of our science class investigating yeast we made pizza. We made yeast dough, left it to rise, kneaded it and then rolled it out. We then added some tomato sauce, cheese and other toppings. It was a delicious pizza.

By Katie and Evie

## Monks for a Morning

This year Form 5 went to Christ Church Cathedral for a school trip. When we arrived (cold and wet) we sat down in the centre of the church and waited to meet our tour guide Michelle.

Michelle came she told us about the history of the church and passed around pictures. After all the pictures were looked at she asked us if we would like to become monks for the morning. We were all thrilled even though we had to agree to take vows of poverty and obedience first!

We then changed into our monk outfits. Michelle brought us over to where the choir sang. We walked around in two straight lines' with our hands together pretending we were monks. It was really funny, some people took pictures and others thought we were real monks!



Michelle then took us to the crypt, it is the biggest crypt in Ireland. She said over 1,000 people were buried there! We each took a

picture in the stocks which are a medieval punishment device. After that we all sat down and Aoife said a prayer and every one copied it. It was really funny. When we came out we changed back into our own clothes. It was a great tour, we really enjoyed it and would recommend it for next year's form 5

By Lucy and Quentin

## The Christmas play

This year our Christmas Play was 'The Night before Christmas.' The play is about Clement C. Moore who wrote the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', and his family. It is set on Christmas Eve and Clement's children Clara and Milly are excitedly waiting for Santa to arrive. They have a pet mouse called Izzy who can talk. Their Mother wants Izzy "out of the house". Izzy is kicked out of the house and she is forced to roam the streets trying to find a place to sleep when she bumps into a cop. The cop said some mean things to Izzy and then walked off. Then Izzy met a fake elf called Louie. Louie told Izzy that she could go to the North Pole to find work, but of course he was lying. When Izzy reached the North Pole we saw inside Santa's workshop. Knuckles, the fore-elf was being hard on the elves and throwing out the toys that

they made so there wouldn't be enough for Christmas. Then Izzy met a reindeer called Rosie, who told her how all the other reindeers treated her badly.



Meanwhile the elves are getting fed up with Knuckles so everybody goes to find Santa and ask him to help save Christmas.

In the end everybody got their presents and Clement finished his poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas"! We loved performing our play for the school and our parents.

By Ella, Ruthie and Josh.

## Copper Collection 2016

Every September in RJS there is an annual Copper Collection. Everyone is encouraged to bring in spare coins and put them in a container in their classroom. All of the coppers were then brought to Form Five and stored at the back of the class. Then we split up into groups and started counting! Each denomination of coin was sorted into groups of ten. We found a lot of odd stuff,



including a fingernail, a hairclip, a screw, the back of an earring, some mouldy coins, a paperclip, the nib of a pencil and a chunk of metal. We spent about one and a half hours on each of three days counting and then we were done!



It has also become tradition for Form 5 to hold a bake sale on the last Friday in September, and for other individuals and groups to raise money by baking or having little sales.



This money is added to the copper. Our final total was €2050, and the money you all so kindly collected went to the Peter McVerry Trust. When Michael from the Trust collected the coins he showed us a

very interesting documentary about their work with homeless people. Personally we both really enjoyed counting the coppers, and were very grateful for everyone who brought in coppers or supported the sales.

Ellie and Jack

## The Bake Sale

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, while Form 6 ran their Sale of Work, Form 5 held their Annual Bake Sale in the Art Room. Some pupils arrived into school early to set out the tables. Soon lots of delicious cakes started to arrive.



This photograph shows just part of the amazingly delicious selection.

As usual we had some extra special cakes. The annual Teddy Bear Cake and this year's show-stopper - a cake that looked exactly like a coca cola bottle. Competitions were organized to guess the teddy's name

and find how many mini chocolate eggs were inside the coca cola cake. Outside the art room there was a fun football game and if you scored you would win a cupcake!

As the classes came down to buy the piles of cakes started to get a little smaller. After Form 3 came down it was break time. At half past eleven we went back down to sell again. Then it was the turn of Form 2 followed by Form 1. When they had finished there were still a lot of cakes left and we were a little worried. However, then lots of adults started to arrive with the children from KGA and KGB. By half past one most of the cakes had been sold. Then it was time to clean up. Once we had cleaned up we went to the classroom. We had our lunch with a cake from the back sale. Altogether we raised €1390.22. It was so much fun and everyone seemed to enjoy their cakes. We would all love to do it again.

Grace and Iseult

## A Nature Walk

When we arrived we met with our guide Bryanna. She was very chatty and interesting and she told us lots of interesting facts: the seeds of the mighty oak tree are very small and are called acorns, horse chestnut tree leaves are shaped like

a hand, the ash tree has seeds shaped like bunches of keys and its wood is used to make hurleys.

We then went to the stepping stones and played around on them. After that we had lunch next to the pond.



When we were at the pond we spotted some ducks and Bryanna began to feed them lettuce. She told us that you should always feed ducks lettuce rather than bread because it is like their diet of waterweed. Ducks also eat slugs and snails. After lunch we went down to the playground and started a game of tag. Just as we were about to leave Bushy Park, we noticed a sycamore tree that had black spots on its leaves. Bryanna told us that if a sycamore tree has black spots, it is a sign of clean air. It was a final interesting fact on a very interesting trip.

By Rosa and Barry



## Ice Skating

On Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>, Forms 4, 5 and 6 went to Funderland for our annual Ice Skating Trip. When we arrived, we all lined up to get our skates, then we sat down and put them on. This was a bit harder than it looks! Then it was time to take to the ice. There were two ice skating rinks: a small rink which had penguins and whales which could support you and help you gain confidence, and



a big rink which had a huge Christmas tree in the middle. When it got darker the people working there turned on the lights, it looked beautiful you could also see the other rides light up. There were very few other people there so we got lots of space to enjoy the ice. It was great fun but sometimes scary when we fell. All too soon it was time to go. We were sad it was over but we really enjoyed it. This year we were all a little more confident on the ice.

We can't wait to go back next year!

By Kate and Robyn

## Causey Farm

Our annual trip to Causey Farm was as much fun as usual. Please enjoy the photos below:





# Form 6

## Croke Park

On the 20/09/16 form 6 went to Croke Park. It took around 45 mins to get there on the bus. When we arrived we went into the reception, got our wrist bands and ate our lunch. After lunch we went into a room with a big screen and watched a short film about how Dublin won the All Ireland Final against Kerry. Soon after the film we went into the tunnels where the players get off the coaches. Our tour guide told us that before all the great technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the first groundkeeper only had three sheep and a horse. Then we walked into the players' lounge which had a really cool chandelier. It had 32 Gaelic footballs representing the 32 counties and 70 sliotars to represent 70 minutes in a match. After that we went into the changing rooms. Both changing rooms were exactly the same. Then we went into the practice room where the players prepare for their upcoming match. There was a button on the wall which simulated the roar of the crowd and we walked out of the tunnel. We had to stand beside the pitch because the pitch was sacred ground and we weren't allowed to walk on it. It is the biggest amateur stadium in the world. We each had a turn in the camera seat.



The tour guide told us that Ireland was trying to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup. It would be held across various stadiums in Ireland including GAA stadiums. The final would be held in Croke Park. The Rugby World Cup final would be held in the biggest stadium. We went up to the place where the winners received the San Maguire Cup.



The place where some of the greatest players ever to play GAA stood. Then we climbed the hundreds of steps to row 'Z'. It was extremely high up and we could see the whole stadium really clearly. On our way back inside we stopped at the memorial for 'Bloody Sunday'. It was very interesting but also sad. After that we got to go to the Croke Park museum. The first thing we saw were huge flags hanging down from the ceiling, each one representing a different county in Ireland. The next thing that we saw was everyone's favourite: It was a giant case full of all the trophies that had been won in the past. Hidden behind a wall we discovered two different games that you could play. One of them had little red buzzers and you had to jump up and press them all as they lit up. The other game was where there were circles on a wall and if the circle lit up red, you had to throw a ball at that circle. Then we walked into another room. On one half of the room there was a hurley stick and a sliotar and you could practise hurling. On the other side there was a football that you could shoot into three different holes on a wall. After we had played the games we went back to the bus and went back to the school, it was a great trip, and we all had so much fun!



**By Form Six**



## Curry Bonanza!

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October Form 6 made their annual curry. Mr Adair gave us the recipe. It was really, really confusing. There were so many ingredients, even things we hadn't ever heard of before!

We all got a job from Mrs Glass, like chopping vegetables or chicken, stirring, blending onions or adding spices. We followed the recipe carefully. We had to make a vegetarian curry as well because some people are vegetarians.



When all the ingredients were chopped, we started adding them into the pot. There was so much chicken, it was hard to stir. We let it simmer in the pot for ages so all the flavour would come out. While we were in Irish Julia and Mrs Glass made 3 pots full of rice. The reason we had to make so much was because we were giving all the staff some as well.] Once Irish was over we served up the curry. The staff loved it and so did we, it was a great success !



By Kate and L  adh



## The Ark

The first time form 6 went to The Ark we went to see Katie's Birthday on Tuesday 4th October. Katie was a 13 year old girl who had just moved to secondary school. She had a birthday party and we played games such as Truth or Dare and we did the Harlem Shake.

Katie told us about her embarrassing moment in school, it was when she forgot to write down her homework and was dashing to the bathroom but unfortunately didn't make in time and she weed herself. At the end of the party Katie had a chocolate cake and she shared it with us.



The second time we went to The Ark we did portraits of our friends. The lady said that we could make it as wild and as crazy as we wanted. Some people drew their friend like a witch or a dog. All the paintings were very original and creative. There were lots of pretty colours in them. After that we went downstairs and produced self portraits with charcoal. They were very good but all the noses looked a bit odd.



By Aoife and Ois  n

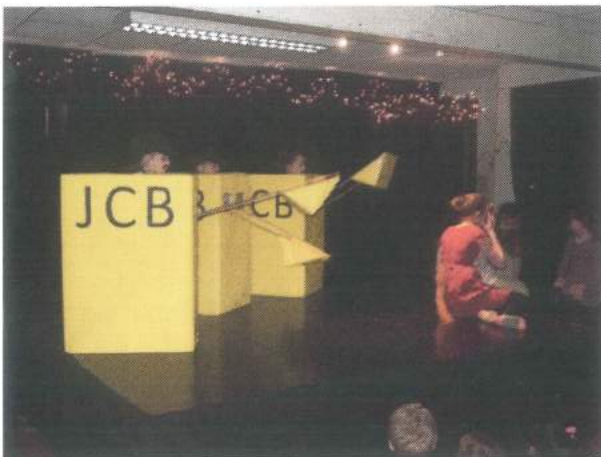


## Fantastic Mr Fox

Form 6 performed their Christmas play "Fantastic Mr Fox" on the Tuesday the 16th of December everyone had at least two parts



One of my favourite parts was when everyone was on stage either as an animal digging or one of the evil farmers in the JCBs. It was so funny.



I also enjoyed the part when Mrs Fox started laughing at the dinner table with apple juice in her mouth and spilt the rest of the apple juice on to Mr Fox. One of the annoying things was that we had so many props. Before each play practice we had to take them all out and then put them all back in again afterwards. It took so long.



I was happy that we got to do the play one more time. We did our last performance in Brabazon House Nursing Home. It was very hard to perform it because there was a very small space and you could not turn off the lights for a scene change. However, the staff were very nice to us and they gave us 7Up and Roses at the end of the performance.



I really enjoyed this years play of "Fantastic Mr Fox", I think it was a great play and I will miss the RJS plays very much.



By Aisling



## Ice Skating

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, Forms 4, 5 and 6 went ice skating in the RDS. At about ten o'clock we got on the bus outside the school. The journey took about half an hour. When we got there we paired up and started walking down the path. When we reached the ice rink we got into a line and took off our shoes. Then we gave our shoes to the people at the desk and we told them our shoe size. They came back with ice skating boots in our size. We then put on our boots and lined up to get on the rink.

Everyone was a bit nervous at first but as we got on the ice we soon got the hang of it. First we got on the smaller rink, which had penguins and whales to help you balance. The whales could fit two people to sit in front and have one person pushing. We had races with the whales, so we could see who skates faster. When our time was up, a school started lining up outside the ice rink.



The people who worked there asked us to get off the ice but they let us have one more loop around the ice rink. When we got off we sat down and took off our ice skating boots and lined up again so we could get our shoes back.



The lady came around and took the boots back and gave us our shoes. When we finished putting our shoes on, we walked down the road and got on the bus. When we got back to the school we had our lunch. It was a great day!

By Tara Carey

## Wind Powered Cars

In Science we had been learning about renewable energy. We were given the task of making a wind-powered car: a car that moves when you blow it with a hairdryer. Whoever took the least time to get past the finishing line was the winner. We worked in pairs to design and make our cars.



One day we went down to the gym to race our cars in front of Form Three. At the beginning we asked Form Three to vote for who they thought would win. Every child had three attempts to race their cars and an average time was taken. Everyone's car was very good but Kate and Tara's car, named 'The Probably Going to Break Mobile' was the winner in the end. Form Three were allowed to vote again after every round. Most people voted for 'The Probably Going to Break Mobile'.



In the end it was really good fun and good to think about using renewable energy (even our if 'wind' was from a hairdryer).

By Oisín

## The Mosque

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> January, Form Six went on an outing to the Mosque. First we walked down to Ranelagh to get the 11a bus to Clonskeagh.



After that he gave us all a pen, and we said "Goodbye and Thank You". Finally we went to the restaurant to have lunch. Most of us went for the chicken tikka masala. At around 2 o'clock we got back to school. It was a great outing and we all enjoyed ourselves!

By Juliette

When we arrived at the Mosque we took some pictures on the front lawn. I thought the Mosque was really pretty with its tall spires and unusual colours. We went to reception and the man there told us that our tour guide would be along shortly. While we waited we began to read the leaflets there and play games. Finally our guide came and brought us to a little room, with only a carpet and two pictures. The first picture he showed us was of Kabab in Makkah and all the Muslims praying. Our tour guide told us lots about the picture. The second picture was of another mosque. The Prophet's Mosque in Media. Our guide also told us a lot about this and he asked us some questions too. Our tour guide then told us that the next place we were going didn't allow people to wear shoes, so we all had to take off our shoes. The room was the mosque itself and it had huge pillars and a fancy, giant chandelier hanging from the ceiling. Our tour guide demonstrated how Muslims pray, and showed us their holy book, the Qur'an. He also told us that all Muslims know at least half or more of the Qur'an off by heart.





## Newtown Hockey Match

In February Form Five and Six had the pleasure of going out to Three Rock Rovers, the grounds where we play our hockey, to have a friendly match with a fellow Quaker school, Newtown. It has been a long tradition, recently rekindled, that the senior forms from both schools play a hockey match.

Spirits were high as we got on the bus to make the familiar journey to Three Rock Rovers. We were very lucky with the weather as it was an unusually sunny, mild day for the start of Spring. We arrived and Newtown School were waiting for us in the club house. We welcomed them on to our pitch, then started with our warm ups. We wanted to get the match started as soon as possible so there was no dawdling. In advance of the matches Mr Adair and Newtown's main hockey coach, Roger Johnson, gave a speech about how the matches would run. We started the matches and everyone was playing well and having lots of fun.



The teams from Newtown and Rathgar Junior were of the same ability so the games were very fair. The matches were purely for fun, it was very enjoyable to play a nice relaxed game in contrast to all the league matches we had been playing.

When all the matches were completed the two teams, alongside coaches and teachers, went up to the club house. A spread of sausages, chicken and a variety of sandwiches had been laid out for us. Everyone was all ravenous so we tucked in straight away.



Just as lunch came to an end both Mr Adair and Roger Johnson gave a speech about how nice it was to meet up with another school with the same Quaker ethos. Newtown presented our hockey captain with one of their hockey t-shirts to say 'thank you' for organising the day.



Everyone was tired out but had had an amazing day. This hockey match is a great tradition and hopefully will go on for many years to come.





## Leinster House

On Thursday the 8th of March Form 6 went on an outing to Leinster House. We got on the bus that would take us to Leinster House, when we arrived we sat down in the security room where we would leave our coats. After a few minutes our tour guide arrived and brought us upstairs to the Dáil. We sat down quietly while Mr. Adair and Mrs. Glass told us who all the people were and what their jobs were. We stayed there for a few minutes and listened to the people speak, then our tour guide led us out and onto a famous staircase where paintings of all the past Taoisigh hung; except for a few very famous ones which were downstairs by the entrance. Our tour guide told us all very interesting facts about Leinster House. He told us that the first Dáil meeting wasn't in Leinster House, but it was in the Mayor's house.



After that we moved on to the Seanad Chamber, where our tour guide explained that the people in the Seanad read over the laws before they are set. We sat there for a while and then were shown a flag from the American Civil War that John F. Kennedy gave to the Irish people. We then went downstairs and saw the other paintings of past Taoisigh. There were also two other famous people who weren't past Taoisigh, Michael Collins and Douglas Hyde, our first President. Around all the paintings were the Irish Flag and European Union Flag. We said goodbye to our tour guide, who gave us each a copy of The Proclamation.



Then at the very end we met Simon Harris, the Minister for Health, and we also got our picture taken with him. It was a great day for Form 6.

By Liadh

## Sale of Work

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 Form Six organised The Sale of Work and raised over 700 euro for two different charities; the first is "Kavita Arya" our sponsored child in India and the second is a hostel for girls in Huanta - Peru. This will provide accommodation for the girls during the week while they study, before they return home at weekends. We made the money from selling teddies, toys, books, movies and playing games. The games that we set up were "The Crisp Challenge", "Guess the Teddy's Name", "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar" and "Hoopla".



The next day at assembly the person who guessed the name of the teddy was awarded the teddy and was able to take it home. The person who guessed the number of sweets in the jar was awarded the jar of sweets. All the stalls nearly sold out of everything and everything that wasn't sold was then put in "Treasure World". Treasure World is where everything that isn't sold is laid out on the floor and each class from Tots Club upward comes in and is allowed to take anything for free. This year every class until Form Three came down and everything that wasn't given away was given to the "Women's Refuge".



Conor



## Maiden Na Gaeilge

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, we had our Maidin na Gaeilge in the school gym. Form Six presented our annual fashion show followed by a song (as Gaeilge) and dance. There were some very imaginative and original costumes on the catwalk. We had Neasa and Rossa from Bun Go Barr and a dinosaur and a polar bear onesie (Kate and Liadh), Messi (Oisín), Harry Potter (Ross), Snow White and the Evil Queen (Juliet and Aisling), Kilo Ren (Conor), Anna and Elsa and Barbie and Terisa (Aoife and Tara). We spent many hours trying to get the song and dance ready. The song and dance that Ms. Gallaher had set for us was no easy feat, but we must give her a big 'comhghairdeas' for being able to organise every class in the school to perform so well on the day. We started off by learning the song and dance at the end of every lesson, but we did not put the two of them together until three weeks before Maidin na Gaeilge. Two weeks from Irish morning we started to get our fashion show together and Ms. Gallaher had to decide our order so that some people would have time to change and let others commentate at certain times. The fashion show and the song and dance were really starting to take shape. On the day, everything went smoothly and I think that it was our best performance ever. Well done to all the other classes who did so well. I am sure that they put in just as much effort as we did and it was great fun. I think Irish Morning made everyone in the gym proud of the Irish culture and feel good to be an Irish citizen.

**Éire go bragh!**



By Ross

## Chicks

On Tuesday the 28th of February 2017, Form Six hatched chicks. To hatch the chicks we put 21 eggs into an incubator and set the temperature to 37.5 degrees celsius and the humidity at 40 to 45%. It takes a total of 21 days to hatch chicks. On the 17th day Jonny in Form Three brought in a candler which shows you if there is life inside the egg. 13 eggs had a shadow (which was promising), the rest were looking a bit unlikely, but we still kept our hopes up. Over the next couple of days we had some technical difficulties along the way, including the temperature being too high or too low, the humidity being too high or too low and weirdly we didn't see any movement until the 21st day. On the 20th day we started to get worried because there should have been some cracks or some shaking in some of the eggs, but we saw nothing. On the 21st day when we came into school, there was a long crack in Trevor's egg. Towards the end of the day we started to notice a tiny crack in Minor Concussion's egg. On the 22nd day there were three chicks in the incubator; Trevor, Minor Concussion and Ballistic Bob. We were all really excited that three chicks had hatched. That wasn't the end of the chicks. At the end of the 22nd day Form Six picked up the remaining chicks to see if there were any cracks or so even see if we could hear any more chipping. We saw a crack in four more eggs; Bob, Picky Chicky, Super Chick and Humphrey.



The next day a few people came in really early to see if their chick had hatched. When they looked inside the incubator there were three more chicks; Bob, Picky Chicky and Super Bob, and Humphrey was also hatching. Humphrey was stuck in his shell and he wasn't looking too good, but during assembly Humphrey hatched and we caught it on video. Overall we had seven chicks and it was a really fun experience, after all the ups and downs. When the seven chicks were all fluffy and clean Form Six took them around all the classes. On Friday the 24th of March all seven chicks went back to the farm. After six weeks they came back as teenagers. They visited us in Assembly and they had grown up so much.

Aoife



## The Irish Jewish Museum

On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May Form Six went to the Irish Jewish Museum. We walked all the way from RJS to Portobello. When we arrived we looked around the downstairs room in the museum. There were lots of interesting historical objects and display boards about the Jewish religion.



There was also a little staged kitchen, showing us how the kitchen of a Jewish family home looked at sunset on Friday, the night when the Sabbath began. The guide told us that during the evening the family have a delicious meal and at the end of the meal the father blesses his wife and children. They cannot have meat and dairy on the same plate so they have two sinks to wash the separate plates. Then we went upstairs to the preserved synagogue and we were shown artefacts for the individual celebrations.



Then we got to see the sacred Jewish Torah and the lady explained that nobody was allowed to touch it. Even the rabbi who reads the Torah must use a pointing stick with a finger on the top to keep his place. When we were walking home Mr. Adair bought us a loaf of kosher bread. We were allowed to try some when we came back to RJS. It tasted yummy but we were only allowed to have one slice each. Overall we had a very interesting day.

By Ross and Juliette

## Hockey

The hockey season went well this year because everyone was really supportive in each match. Although we lost most of our games, we still had a great time. It was really fun going to all the games with our team. At first the girls went to St. Gerard's to play the Blitz. We played five games and won two, drew two and lost one. After that we played seven games. The boy's team's first game was against Whitechurch and the boys lost, but they played very well for the first time. Throughout the rest of the season we played three more matches up to the Jenny Robinson Cup. At the Jenny Robinson Cup the boys lost most of their games but we had a great time. We would like to say a big "thank you" to all our coaches who helped us to become better athletes.



By Aisling, Tara and Conor





### Music Day 2017

Our annual Music Day took place this year on May 10<sup>th</sup> and it was, once again, a wonderful showcase of the musical achievements and talents of all involved. During our busy three-hour morning, we had individual performances from more than fifty children from KGB to Form Five on piano, guitar, flute, trumpet, violin, harp and drums. Some children played for the first time in public. Their continued dedication and committed practice over the year was clear for all to see.

KGB kicked off the morning with a wonderful performance of three of the favourite songs they had learnt during the year called "*Heave Ho*", "*Jack and the box and Goldilocks*" and "*My Imagination*". Form One followed with a wonderful rendition of their favourite songs, "*It's good to be me*", and "*Perfect as can be*". Forms Two and Three had the most individual performances of the day, with 25 between them. I was so proud of their performances of "*Just Sing*" and "*We are one*" along with their medley of songs from "*Matilda*" the musical, which included "*When I grow up*" and "*Naughty*". The RJS Choir, directed by myself this year, sang "*Stage Fright*" and "*Chocolate Dreams*", followed hot on their heels by a wonderful performance on handbells, glockenspiels and hand chimes of "*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*" from "*The Nutcracker*" ballet by Form Four. Form Five concluded the morning with a flawless performance of a percussion ensemble piece called "*Sing a Song O' Conga*" which required them all to read rhythmic notation & work both independently and simultaneously with each other.

Music Day for me is the culmination of a year of a lot of hard work and fun. The level of musical talent we have through the school is something we are all proud of here in RJS – long may our strong music tradition continue. Well done to all.

Ms. Bowens





## Maidin na Gaeilge 2017

Ar an 16ú le de Mhárta 2017, bhí Maidin na Gaeilge ar siúl sa scoil agus bhí maidin an-taitneamhach ag gach duine. Ghlac páistí ó Rang KGA go Rang a Sé páirt ann. Sa chéad leath, chualamar "Teidí Beag Álainn" agus "Oisín agus Bó" ó KGA agus KGB. Bhi eadaí glasa ag gach duine agus chan said go hiontach ar fad. Ansin, chualamar dán deas "An Bogha Báistí" agus chonaiceamar rince speisialta "Preab a haon dó" ó Rang a hAon.



Chaith na ranganna go leor ama ag ullmhú don maidin speisialta seo agus bhí sé soiléir gur bhain gach duine sult as an maidin ón tús go dtí an deireadh. Ina dhiadh sin, chuaigh Rang a Dó go dtí an Zú! Rinne said dán agus amhrán iontach faoin Zú. Lean an maidin ar aghaidh le Rang a Trí agus Rang a Ceathair, rinne said An "Haka" Gaelach agus dráma greannmhar "Sicín Licín". Ansin, chualamar dhá amhrán ó Rang a Cúig, "Bean Phádín" agus "An t-Adh Nocht" agus bhí gach duine ar fheabas. Ag deireadh an maidin, chuir Rang a Sé Seó Faisin den scóth i láthair agus rinne said rince casta freisin, "An Cóisir Rac". Comhghairdeas do gach rang sa scoil, rinne sibh sár-jab. D'éisteamar le hamhráin álainn, chonaiceamar drámaí iontach, rinceoirí agus Seó Faisin álainn!





## Green Schools

A number of students from Forms Two to Six continued to represent their class as enthusiastic committee members of Green Schools throughout the year. The children spent time out in the garden planting flowers and vegetables in our window boxes and herbs in the vegetable trug. The children were responsible for watering and taking care of all the plant life throughout the year.



The committee members also ensured we all worked to maintain our five themes for which we were previously awarded Green School flags, including monitoring water and electricity conservation within the school, recycling and focusing specifically on this year's renewal theme which is Global Citizenship: Litter & Waste. The students completed quizzes and questionnaires testing their environmental awareness and they also carried out surveys to better understand how to inform the whole school and community on environmental matters. Congratulations to all the students and staff of RJS for continuing to keep our school as environmentally friendly as possible!

