

End of Year Newsletter

2021-2022

Principal's End of Year Report

As another year comes to a close, I would like to reflect on the wonderful year that we have enjoyed together at Rathgar Junior School.

We started off this year on a strong footing, continuing with our well established policies and procedures that the staff and children were used to from last year. Staff were in school on the 1st of September, going through our Covid Response Plan, timetables, fire drill guidelines, planning logistics for the year ahead and preparing for the children to start back at school on the 2nd of September. Everyone was so happy to be back in the building, to be going on trips, attending after school clubs and mid-term camps, and there was a sense of 'normality' back in our lives.

Gillian Galloway and Ms Flaherty returned to school after their period of leave and Ms Piggott stepped in to cover Mrs Silke's career break. Ms Tsitsou started teaching French in Forms 4 to 6. We had a fantastic Erasmus student called Bea who was with us until December. Bea worked with all classes and was a wonderful asset to the school. We also welcomed 3 TY students and one SNA student.

We decided that it was important to resume assembly in whatever way we could, so we started doing this every morning at 8:50 for children in Forms 1 to 6 via zoom. Each class had the opportunity to do their class assemblies online.

We were delighted that the wonderful Fred felt comfortable returning to school and there was so much interest in chess that we put on two classes this year. Fred has two helpers in the class, Rita Bowens and Rachael Murray. Lego, DADA and Playball all started up and we added a Playball class for Form 1 children, given that there was not enough interest to carry on with the swimming.

We set up Aladdin payments, which has proven to be a much easier method of paying for things, both from a parents and administrative perspective.

We are grateful to Aileen and Ronan Good for providing the flu vaccine to children and staff members before Christmas. Ronan is a past pupil of RJS and were keen to support the school, and we are all very grateful to them for this kind gesture. Form 1 and 2 further supported our local community by engaging with the "Picker Pals" programme, which encourages us all to think about what and how we dispose of waste.

As is tradition in RJS, we went all out to create an exciting and festive Christmas period for the children. Christmas plays were shared with parents via zoom, which in fact meant that we had a very large live audience watching the children! Term 1 finished with a little visit from Santa, who gave the children a special treat for all their hard work.

As we embarked on our second term, we remembered our dear friend and longstanding Committee member of RJS, Peggy King. Peggy passed away at the start of February and I went to her funeral to represent all who loved her in our school.

Term 2 started with a renewed sense of hope as many of the measures and restrictions were lifted. Once again, children played freely and were able to do group work/activities without having to social distance. We can see the children's smiles clearly with the requirement for mask wearing having been lifted also. We enjoyed pancake Tuesday on the 1st of March with the children bringing in their own toppings of choice.

Work on the ceilings took place in three of the 4 main rooms on the top floor over mid-term and are now looking fantastic.

Classes all returned to their classrooms by St. Patrick's weekend. There was a considerable amount of coordination involved in getting everything moved around but with everyone chipping in, the gym was freed up again and assemblies resumed in person. We also re-jigged some afterschool classes, putting the separated bubbles back together. Choir also resumed and we added Hip-Hop classes on a Friday to our afterschool programme.

Our first "Open Day" took place on the 5th of March was a huge success thanks to the teachers, parents but mostly the children, who gave tours to families and told them what it was like to come to school in RJS. This event will certainly be on our calendar going forwards! Our new Prospectus was prepared and shared with parents. This project in itself was a huge undertaking and I am very grateful to Mr. Chambers who took the lead on preparing this. Overall, the feedback from our visitors was so positive. They were delighted to hear from the children about all they do at school and their love of the school really shone through.

Many of our children who attend DADA performed in 'Matilda' at the Civic Theatre between the 11th and 16th of March. We were so proud of everyone. The children especially enjoyed the fact that Ms Honey was on TY work experience in RJS the week before the shows!!!

We welcomed two lovely girls from France on an Erasmus+ programme. Lena and Jade stayed with us for 4 weeks and had experience helping in all our classes. They enjoyed working with the children and improving their English at the same time.

The children were so excited for Maidin na Gaeilge to return to school and we all enjoyed Form 6 performing their Seó Faisean. After the St. Patrick's weekend, Art Zone began their workshops with all classes from KGA up to Form 6. They produced some wonderful pieces of clay again this year and the children really enjoyed these workshops. On the 5th of April, children and parents enjoyed the 'Parents' Hockey Match', where mums and dads, and some older siblings, got to play with the children up in Three Rock. The competition was clear to see, but the fun and excitement for all involved really shone through. The children were delighted to receive a lovely Easter egg from the Parents' Committee afterwards! Parents were also thrilled at everyone being able to join in together.

In Term 3, the children enjoyed a variety of trips and outings as well as the various fundraising activities including the Sale of Work and Bake Sale, the Sponsored F6 Marathon, I enjoyed cooking up a storm in the art room with Form 4 as we made various recipes including scrambled egg, granola, fried bananas and pancakes and quesadillas, to name a few.

Music Day was enjoyed by children and parents and it was wonderful to see the children performing in public once again. Our thanks to Ms Bowens for organising this event and many thanks also must go to our other instrumental teachers Brian and Nozomi.

We enjoyed a slow return to activities within the AIJS and between other schools, with RJS being represented at the tennis tournament in Rathdown and the Golf Event in Columbus. Planning is already underway for the return of many activities for next year, including the Chess competition, which will be hosted by RJS.

We have been very lucky with the weather for our summer games, with the children attending CYM and Ashbrook for tennis, athletics, cricket, rounders, soccer and long jump. The children enjoyed the Junior and Senior Sports Days with proud mums, dads, grannies and grandads looking on.

Following discussions with the Parents' Committee, it was felt that parents would like to take an opportunity to celebrate our return to normality, by having photos of the children taken. I would like to thank Rhys' mum, Michelle Connor, for providing this incredible service to us. Michelle kindly took photos of individual children, siblings, class and team photos and a whole school photo.

Form 6 had a wonderful trip to Carlingford with Mr. Chambers and Ms. Flaherty and finished the year with their "At Home" performance and graduation ceremony on Friday 10th June. We are so proud of each and every child and of how far they've come. They are more than ready for secondary school and we wish them every happiness for the future. I would like to thank the Form 6 parents for their generous gift to the school which will help us improve our sound/lighting equipment which children will enjoy next year and into the future.

On the 9th of June, we welcomed our incoming KGA children to meet their teacher and to have a little look around the school. We are very excited for these families to join our RJS community in September. During this week there was a hive of activity with everyone getting ready for our Art Exhibition. We welcomed back some past pupils who kindly helped with the preparations. The exhibition took place on Monday 13th June and was a wonderful success and such a joy to have on after two years of not being able to have this event live.

Mrs. Silke took a career break for this academic year and Ms. Piggott stepped in to Resource, with Ms. Hallows then taking over when Ms. Piggott went on maternity leave. Ms Dore and Ms Galloway started the year together with the KGA and KGB classes being combined. The classes were put in the same room due to an unexpected drop in numbers just before the start of the year. With the two teachers working in partnership together, this worked very well and both classes enjoyed being together. Lynette Maguire left RJS at the end of Term 2 after 17 years of dedication and commitment to RJS, and Ms Galloway took over as Form 1 teacher in Term 3.

I would officially like to thank members of our newly established Board of Management, who have come on board to further support the school. The members of this board are Niamh Coyne, Eoghan Quigley, Hilliard Lombard, Bernie McArdle, Charles Chambers and Brigid-Rose Kalisa. The BOM have worked closely with the Directors and Trustees of our school, as well as with the Finance Committee and Senior Management Team (Brigid-Rose Kalisa & Charles Chambers) and we are very grateful for their expertise, commitment and time.

I would personally like to thank Charles Chambers for all his support and trojan work over the year in all his different roles. Alongside his role as Form 6 teacher and all that entails, Mr. Chambers has very successfully led several initiatives and projects this year, as well as supported the various committees including the fundraising committee, and was very much involved in the planning and organisation of the wonderful Gala Ball. I know you will join me in recognising and appreciating his efforts.

I would like to thank Alan Harrison who stepped down from the Board of Directors after many years of supporting the school, and I would like to welcome and acknowledge Hilda Matthews Niermeyer, who will take his place alongside Ben Pearson, Bruce Johnson and Sarah Lamb.

I would like to also thank our incredible Parents' Committee for all their work this year. Niamh Cahir stepped down as Chair of the Parents' Committee and Sile Quigley and Caroline Miller took over as joint Chair. As always, I am so grateful for the support of this very active committee. I would like to thank those who are finishing up in their roles and to welcome new parents on the committee for

September. Síle Quigley, Caroline Miller, Wendy Ward, Sarah Pyle, Geraldine McDonagh, Siobhán Dularoy, Olivia McNaughton, as both a mum and Principal, I can say how much we appreciate your support, not only in organising various activities, but also with reminders to parents. We have a very busy schedule each term, and I know that these reminders are welcomed. I have very much enjoyed working with each and every one of you.

A massive thank you to Niamh Lombard and Lorraine Griffin on our Finance Committee for all their hard work in preparation in relation to management accounts, budget preparation and the annual audit and for all their ongoing support behind the scenes. Niamh will be stepping down on this committee after having served her term and we will welcome a new member in September who will work with Lorraine. I would also like to thank Edel in the office who has spent a significant amount of time working on financial administration as well as her day to day duties.

Behind me, I have the most incredible team – Mr. Chambers, Edel Brant, Ms. Flaherty, Emma Glass, Ciara McCready, Claus Jensen, Gillian Galloway, Sarah Dore, Nollaig Coffey, Rita Bowens, Anastasia Tsitsou, Samantha Hallows, Rachael Murray, Sheila Halpin, Kate Falkner, Emma Walsh, Bernadette King, Noreen Keenan, Kevin McDermott, Brian Foley, Nozomi Cohen, Gillian Butler and her team of coaches, and by working together, the well-oiled machine that is our school, continues to flourish and deliver a top class education to the heart of our RJS community– the children. To watch them grow in confidence, in independence, developing their skills, curiosity, innovation, problem solving skills and resilience is a privilege. I have observed such acts of kindness, compassion, support, encouragement, honesty and integrity that I am so proud of each and every child in this school. To see how they welcome new children throughout the year, how they support each other and look after each other is comforting. This is modelled on a daily basis through the positive interactions between staff members, through their kind and caring approach. To know how to equip the children with the skills I mentioned above and to know when to give the children the independence, autonomy and ownership of their learning is a fine balance, but I think you will agree that they have done a wonderful job. They know the children so well and carefully help to develop and nurture the children’s interests and talents, and I can clearly see every child shining like a bright star.

As I observed our Form 6 children preparing for their graduation, or as we call it in RJS, the “Form 6 At Home”, I had time to reflect and think about what brought them to this point. I am confident that the children have received not only an excellent education in the curriculum areas, but also in they have developed so many soft skills that have prepared them for the bright future I see ahead of them. I see active citizens of the future, people who care about their friends, their communities, their families, those less fortunate than themselves in Ireland and around the world. I see changemakers. I see infinite possibilities for these wonderful children, on whatever path they choose to follow in life. The children in Form 6 have set a high bar for younger children to follow. They have modelled responsibility, integrity, leadership and maturity and they are more than ready for the move to secondary school. I would like to thank them and to wish them every success and happiness for the future.

We enjoyed having Tots Montessori in the building with Sinead and Leanne providing a wonderful environment for the younger children, and we look forward to welcoming some of these children into KGA in September.

Activities & Events

September

- 1st Staff Planning & Training Day
- 2nd Children started back at school. Whole school assembly.

- 6th KGA/KGB Lego started back up and running with Bricks4Kidz.
- 7th Hockey and Lego for Form 1 started today.
- 10th KGA/KGB Playball started.
- 13th Form 5/6 Chess started and Ms Maguire started a recorder group for Form 1 children.
- 14th Form 1 Playball started.
- 15th Drama for Forms 1,3 4 started.
- 16th Drama for KGA/KGB started.
- 17th Form 6 Assembly: Form 6 told us all about what they had been doing in class, making their stools, papier-maché hot air balloons and race cars, which they had designed themselves to be as fast as possible. I later enjoyed watching the race which was fuelled by a hairdryer!
- 20th We started offering places for KGA September 2022. (At this point we have 14 children confirmed for this class and we continue to work our way down through the list.)
- 21st Garda Martin, a local community guard, visited KGA and KGB to talk about what they do and how the Guards help us. The children loved looking at the handcuffs and other gadgets he had on his belt!
- 24th Form 2 Assembly – Form 2 told us all about what they had been learning in class and about what they learned on their trip to Belgrave Square, which included identifying habitats, insects/minibeasts, leaves, etc.
- 27th Form 6 Tour to Croke Park. The children came back absolutely buzzing from the trip. It was a huge success!
- 29th Form 2 Trip to Belgrave Square. The children had a great time looking at signs of autumn.

October

- 1st Bulb Planting – All classes had the opportunity over Friday/Monday 4th to plant daffodil bulbs in their window boxes.
Our assembly focused on World Quaker Day which was on 3rd October. We remembered our founder Isabel Douglas, and the children explored a little bit about the Quaker religion, looking at how we treat each other and reaffirming the important qualities and ethos that we have in RJS.
- 3rd World Quaker Day was celebrated in assembly and we remembered our founder Isabel Douglas. We also reminded the children of what Quaker values are still here with us today.
- 8th Form 1 Assembly – The children showed us all their amazing Halloween art work and sang us a wonderful song.
- 13th Parents Afternoon: Meetings were held via zoom/phone.
- 14th Ronan and Eileen from Life Pharmacy in Kimmage came in to give children the nasal flu vaccine and the adults the flu injection. We are incredibly grateful to them for offering this service to us. They said that anyone who was unable to make it for various reasons can contact them directly and they will accommodate them at the pharmacy.
Form 3 and 4 went to Belgrave Square on a nature walk, exploring the natural environment, discovering minibeasts, plants and birds.
- 15th Form 3 Assembly: The children told us all about their trip to Belgrave Square and what they had learned.
- 18th This week we welcomed Kate on TY work experience.
- 19th Form 5 and 6 Garda Visit from our Community Guards. They talked to the children about personal safety and also about staying safe online.
Form 5 & 6 Parents' RSE Talk: Samantha Teather from IE Programmes, gave a presentation on the course content and gave parents the opportunity to ask questions about the day.
- 20th Form 4 went to Rathgar to do a survey as part of their Geography fieldwork.

22nd Halloween dress up day: Everyone, children and staff alike, enjoyed getting into the festive spirit and dressing up. Children had parties in their individual classes and had many Halloween activities.

Copper Collection Ended

Form 4 did their Halloween Assembly, where they told us all about the origins of Halloween and performed a song and dance. KGA and KGB joined us for this assembly.

25th-29th Mid-term break

November

- 1st Katie joined us for TY work experience this week. Classes resumed after mid-term. Sylvia joined us for SNA work experience this week. All F6 children enrolled in the Junior Entrepreneur Program (JEP) a 14 week course where the class design their own business where children will learn about running a business and products will actually be made and sold.
- 3rd Form 5 had a trip to Busy Park to explore autumn and to carry out various activities and observations on trees/plants in our local area.
Forms 3 & 4 went to Airfiled for a trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Team Hope Boxes were due to arrive by today. The front hall is full of boxes and more are still coming in. They will be collected by Team Hope on Monday. Tots Club are also joining us on this endeavour.
- 4th We celebrated UNESCO International Day against Violence and Bullying at Schools.
- 5th Brigid-Rose attended the AIJS meeting in Dun Laoighre.
- 8th This week we celebrated Science week in school with teachers organising fun experiments and activities for the children.
Form 6 went on a historical walking tour of Dublin and reported all they had learned at assembly the following day.
- 9th Form 5 RSE day with Samantha Teather
- 10th Cybersafe talks with children in Forms 3 to 6
- 11th Form 6 RSE day with Samantha Teather
- 12th F4 Author Visit - Sinead Moriarty
- 16th Form 5 & 6 hockey match against Wesley: Girls 2-0 to Wesley, Boys 2-1 to Wesley.
- 17th Form 3 visit from Garda Martin
- 19th Form 1 Assembly
- 23rd Girls played Taney (friendly) 1-0 to Taney
Boys had 2 teams, Team 1 score was 1-0 to Taney, Team 2 score was 1-1.
- 26th Form 2 Assembly
Stage went up!
- 30th Sight & hearing tests for KGA and any new children up to Form 1 who had not had theirs yet.

December

- 3rd Form 3 Assembly
Pizza Party to celebrate the children's achievements for the Readathon.
- 6th Bea's last day (Erasmus Student). Bea was such a was a joy to have had in school. She will be sorely missed by staff and students alike.
- 7th-8th School Closed due to Storm Barra.
- 9th Last day of hockey for Term 1
- 10th Form 4 Assembly
- 13th KGA/B Dress Rehearsal

- 14th Form 3 Dress Rehearsal
Form 1 dress rehearsal
KGA/B Performance – Donkey for Sale
Form 3 Performance – Annie
- 15th Form 4 & 5 Dress Rehearsal
Form 1 Performance – Gnome Alone
- 16th Form 2 & 6 Dress Rehearsal
Form 4 Performance – Panto Pandemonium
Form 5 Performance – Rocky Monster Show
- 17th Form 5 Assembly
Form 2 Performance – Roald Dahl’s Little Red Riding Hood
Form 6 Performance – Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies
- 20th Christmas Jumper Day
- 21st Santa visit & last day of term.

January

- 5th Term 2 started
- 6th Games resumed at Three Rock
- 10th Afterschool activities resumed
- 14th Form 1 Assembly
- 20th We celebrated World Penguin Day in assembly.
- 21st Form 2 Assembly
- 24th Form 6 Trip to Rathmines – Market Research
Celebrated National Compliment Day in assembly and encouraged children to share compliments with family and friends and to support each other, in line with our school ethos.
- 25th Boys played Rathmichael during games time. Result: 2-0 to RJS (League)
- 27th Form 6 had their 1050s Day, where the children dressed up in appropriate clothes and lessons were carried out as they would have experienced at this time. The day was enjoyed by all.
- 28th Form 3 Assembly
- 31st Form 6 went on a tour to The Little Museum, Dublin.

February

- 1st We celebrated Chinese New Year at Assembly and children enjoyed various activities in their classes.
Girls played Guardian Angels. Result: 2-1 to RJS (League)
- 2nd Form 4 went to Dublin Castle on a school trip.
- 3rd Form 5 went to Glasnevin Cemetery on a school trip.
- 4th Form 4 Assembly – They told us all about their trip to Dublin Castle.
- 7th RJS vs Loretto Primary (hockey). Result: 2-1 to us. (girls) (League)
Boys played Rathfarnham. Result: 5-0 to Rathfarnham (League)
This week we celebrated Children’s Mental Health Week/Friendship with a variety of activities. We were raising money for the Special Olympics.
- 8th Safer Internet Day – Teachers spoke to the children about staying safe online, in line with the SPHE curriculum, and reminding them about what they learned during the Cybersafe talks.
- 11th Form 5 Assembly

- 14th This week we welcomed Apple on her TY work experience.
- 15th Form 5 Garda Talk
Peggy King's funeral. She was remembered by staff during our staff meeting and at Assembly. BRK attended the funeral and presented the family with a special card from her friends at RJS.
- 18th Boys played Kilmacough 1-1 (League)
- 21st We were on mid-term break this week.
- 28th We all came back to school after mid-term break.

March

- 1st Pancake Tuesday – BRK cooked pancakes for everyone in the school. Form 6 children helped by bringing pancakes to the classes, handing them out and helping the younger children with their toppings. We had the whole school together in the garden for the first time in about 2 years, for our pancake races, where we had 4 teams which were made up of children from every class. It was an absolute blast and everyone was so excited to be together again after so long, with the sun shining down on us.
- 3rd League Match: RJS girls vs The Harold School (hockey)
- 4th We celebrating World Book Day today. Children dressed up as a character from their favourite book.
- 5th RJS' first Open day, 10-12
- 7th Engineers Week – Children focused on STEM activities this week.
We had 2 TY students with us this week.
- 9th Parent-Teacher Meetings. School finished at 12:30 for all children.
- 11th Form 6 Assembly
- 11-16th DADA shows in the Civic Theatre – Matilda – This was a fantastic show with children from KGA up to Form 6 participating. All children were super stars!
- 14th We welcomed 2 Erasmus students from France, who stayed with us for 4 weeks. They spent time in the classes and enjoyed the experience.
We also had a TY student joining us this week.
- 16th Maidin na Gaeilge – Form 6 performed their Irish Fashion Show to the whole school. All children really enjoyed this.
- 17-18th We were closed for St Patrick's Day and the once off Bank Holiday on the 18th.
- 21st Form 6 Art Zone
- 23rd Form 4 Art Zone
- 25th KGA/B Art Zone
Ice-Cream Day: Raised €639.96 for Down Syndrome Ireland. Thank you to the committee for organising the ice creams!
- 28th Form 5 Art Zone
Form 6 visited Kilmainham Gaol.
Form 1 & 2 went orienteering in Phoenix Park.
- 30th Form 3 Art Zone
Form 4 visited the Museum of Ireland, and specifically the mummy exhibit, as they had been learning about the ancient Egyptians and mummies in school.
- 31st Boys Hockey Final League Match, Wesley, against Rathfarnham Parish. Children in Forms 2 to 6 all went to support the boys. A massive well done to all. You played brilliantly and it could have gone either way.

April

- 1st Form 1 & Form 2 Art Zone
Next week – Engineers' Week

- 5th Parents' Hockey Match during normal hockey times. This was an astounding success. We had about 40 people on the pitch at any one time. Form 6 did a great job at managing who was on/off the pitch to make sure everyone had a turn. The children really had a great time, as did the mums and dads! The children really enjoyed the lovely Easter eggs, which were provided by the Parents' Committee.
- 8th Form 6 Bake Sale
Finished at 12:30 for Easter holidays.
- 11th Sinead and Hilary ran an Easter camp the first week of the holidays.
- 19th Bricks4Kidz ran an Easter camp the second week of the holidays.
- 25th Start of Term 3, half day.
- 26th Summer games began.
- 27th Form 6 trip to the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre to see A Curious Incident, which is a book that they were reading in class.
- 29th Form 2 Assembly – The children presented their projects on various animals.

May

- 2nd Bank Holiday – School Closed
- 4th F5 Bake Sale/F6 Sale of Work
- 5th Treasure World: Children chose something for free.
Form 4 went to Terenure Library at 12.
- 6th Form 5 Assembly
KGA/B Movie Afternoon, 2-3.30 in the gym.
- 7th AIJS Tennis Tournament
- 9th Board of Management Meeting
Mental Health Awareness Week
- 13th Form 1/2 Movie Afternoon
Form 6 Class Assembly
- 16th Bike/Walk/Scoot to School Week
KGA/B School Trip to Pine Forest
- 18th Music Day
AIJS Conference
- 20th Form 3/4 Movie Afternoon 2-3.30
- 21st RJS Gala Ball
- 25th Form 5 Trip to Causey Farm
- 27th Form 5 Movie Afternoon, 2-3.30
Form 6 Movie Night, 7.30-9
Family Day was enjoyed by all. The sun was shining, music playing, children in Forms 5 and 6 were helping with activities, children went on a walk and enjoyed treats on their return to school.
- 31st Senior Sports Day (Form 3-Form 6)

June

- 1st Form 6 Relay Marathon in Bushy Park (during school hours)
- 3rd Junior Sports Day (KGA to Form 2).
- 6th Bank Holiday – School Closed
- 7-8th Form 6 Carlingford
- 9th Form 1/2 last day at Ashbrook
- 10th Form 6 Assembly
Form 6 "At Home"

- 13th School Closed – Art Exhibition, 4-6pm.
14th Summer Games ends for F2-6 at CYM.
16th Summer Term finishes. Children go home at 12:30. No Kids Club on this day.

Fundraising

Fundraising this year will mainly go towards replacing the old interactive boards in the classrooms. We have now purchased five boards in total and hope to replace two more next year, with the last one the following year. Once all boards are replaced, we plan on investing in a set of class devices that the children can use.

Copper Collection – This collection raised €520 for Peter McVerry Trust.

Christmas Cards – Many thanks to Geraldine for taking on the organisation of this. A total of €744 was raised from this activity.

Readathon & Pizza Party – We were happy to do the Readathon again in November and we celebrated at the end by giving the children a Pizza Party. This event raised a total of €1650.

Christmas Annual - PrimEd provided beautiful Christmas Annuals for children. A total of €1190 was raised from the profit of these sales.

Christmas Jumper Day – Raised a total of €487 for the Children’s Health Foundation to help fund vital life-saving equipment and care for sick children in CHI at Crumlin, Temple Street and Connolly.

The Team Hope Appeal was very successful and 82 boxes were gratefully received.

The **Form 5 Bake Sale** raised €497 and the **Form 6 Sale of Work** raised a total of €663.27. This money went towards supporting a close family friend of Ms. Flaherty to get potentially lifesaving treatment in America. It also went towards supporting a child in India that we sponsor, and some funds went towards our ICT equipment.

The Form 6 Bake Sale raised €1126 and went towards Women’s Aid.

New Goalie Gear - Thanks must also go to one family who has donated new goalie gear to the school. Suzie Conlon, Robert’s mum made the very generous donation. The children enjoyed using this new equipment and it will be enjoyed for many years to come!

Movie Afternoons - The amount raised was **€1,260** and went towards the replacement of interactive boards.

Hepa Filters: We had incredible support for purchasing the HEPA filters in the classrooms, and the additional funds raised in this particular drive, went towards covering the cost of PPE in school. There are not filters in every classroom and in the Kids Club room.

RJS Gala Ball: A massive thank you to the Fundraising Committee for organising such a fantastic event. Everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the evening and entertainment. Thank you to Baz Ashmawy who was our MC for the night and to all who supported the event by donating prizes for the raffle and auction, and who bought phantom tickets if they were not able to make it in person. A massive **€30k** was raised for the school which was an incredible success. This money will go towards enabling the school to recover some of the losses faced by unforeseen costs relating to the pandemic, and will support the school going forwards into the future. So many people helped out in organising this event and we are incredibly grateful to you all. Feedback from parents was so positive that we already have a Christmas Party in the diary!!!

Form 6 Marathon Relay Race in Bushy park raised €700 for Laura Lynn. They ran 26.2 miles.

Form 6 Young Entrepreneur Programme: Pamper bags sold raised €600 so far to support refugees arriving in Ireland from Ukraine. In each personally designed bag was a handmade candle, body scrub, bath bomb and lavender. They all did an incredible job!

Other News/Information

Amber Flag – Applications for the 2022/23 year open in August 2022 and we will be putting in an application.

New Games Uniform - Mr Chambers worked with a local company, in consultation with parents, on getting a new hockey kit. Children currently in Forms 3, 4 and 5 will order the kit for €40 and it will last them until the end of their time in RJS and they will be able to take it with them when they move on to secondary. Each subsequent year then, the incoming Form 4 would buy their kit.

We organised a swap shop day for the regular games kit before the end of this year to give parents an opportunity to get second hand items and subsequently put the order in for September in advance of the summer holidays so that they'd be here in time for the start of the year.

Follow Me Programme - We have been exploring various programmes this year that we could use in RJS which would support our teaching of Bible stories alongside the Quaker ethos and all the values that we hold dear to us. Following consultation with teachers, the Parents' committee and the BOM, we have decided to use the Follow Me Programme as a resource for all classes from September, where the teachers will dip in and out of the fantastic resources available. This programme was designed for use in Schools under the patronage of the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as well as Quaker schools and schools of Christian faiths.

Afterschool Activities

This year we offered the following activities:

- Playball
- Bricks4Kidz
- DADA - Dublin Academy of Dramatic Arts
- Chess – We added a class for Forms 3 and 4 due to huge demand.
- Choir (resumed after Easter)
- Hip Hop – under the DADA umbrella - **NEW**

Social Media/Website/Digital Strategy

Following consultation with a Digital Media Consultant (gift from a family), we developed our "Digital Media Strategy", which involved developing a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, as well as altering our use of the website. Following recommendations, our 'snapshots' (photos/reels) of what happens in school on a weekly basis are put on our social media channels. Each class contributed material on a rota basis and was uploaded by Mr. Chambers. We have seen incredibly positive results from this strategy and are grateful for all advice received. Thanks must go to Mr. Chambers who has led this strategy. Mr Jensen has also supported the school in an IT capacity and we are very grateful for his help also.

We have also streamlined things from an administrative perspective, with the introduction of Aladdin and online payments. Feedback from this move has been incredibly positive from parents and also from an admin perspective. Reports were also streamlined and teachers are now able to input their information and comments in a more efficient manner. The Aladdin payments system has made collecting for trips/outings and other events much easier for everyone.

Camps at RJS

With restrictions having been lifted, we aim to provide camps over the mid-terms, Easter and summer holidays. Bricks4Kidz ran camps over the February mid-term and they, with DADA and Sinead in Tots Montessori ran camps over the Easter holidays.

Below are the of camps being run in school over the summer holidays. Children who are joining RJS in September are also welcome to join in on these camps.

Date	Camp Organisers	Cost	Age/Class	Time
20-24 th June	Emma Glass (week 1) Park trip, water play day, baking, animal visitors, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and more.	€140 Sibling discount available	Form 1 – Form 6 Younger siblings welcome	9-1
27 th June- 1 st July	Emma Glass (week 2) Park trip, water play day, baking, animal visitors, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and more.	€140 Sibling discount available	Form 1 – Form 6 Younger siblings welcome	9-1
4-8 th July	Sinead Leydon (Week 1) Free play, science, arts & crafts, sensory play, music & dance, face painting and more.	€140 Sibling discount available	Tots – Form 1	9-1
4-8 th July	Bricks4Kidz Lego	€135	4-12	10-2pm
11-15 th July Show on 16th	DADA	€130	4-12 Teen camp, 13+	9.30-1 1.30-5pm
11 th – 15 th July	Sinead Leydon (week 2)	€140 Sibling discount available	Tots - Form 1	9-1
25-19 th July	Rachael High Activity Camp	€160 €120 for additional siblings	KGA-Form 6	9-2
2-5 th August	Bricks4Kidz Lego	€110	4-12	10-2pm
8-12 th August	Nutty Scientist Camp		3-16	9.30-1.30
15-19 th August Show on 20th	DADA	€130	4-12 Teen camp, 13+	9.30-1 1.30-5pm
22-26 th Aug	Art Camp Rachael	€150 €120 for additional siblings	KGA-Form 6	9-1

As you can see from everything I've listed above, we've had a fantastic year! We've ended on a high. I am eternally grateful to the parents of our wonderful school. We thank you for trusting us to do our best for your children. We recognise and thank you for your unwavering support through the pandemic and beyond. We are so incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this year. They come into school every day and do their best and we cannot ask for more.

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer holidays and I look forward to welcoming you back on the 1st of September 2022, for the start of what I'm sure will be another great year.

Kind regards

Brigid-Rose Kalisa

Principal.



Parents' Committee – Chairperson Report – 2021/2022

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end and we are all looking forward to the summer months ahead. We have watched our children grow in confidence, knowledge and self-esteem and we couldn't be prouder of them. Even though it seems the time has flown, there has been an abundance of activity behind the scenes with the Principal, Mrs. Kalisa, the Deputy Principal, Mr. Chambers, Teachers, Classroom Assistants, Kids Club team, Fundraising Committee, Parents' Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Management all coming together to create the best environment we possibly can for our children to thrive in. With the school's new approach to sharing activities happening in our school on social media, parents get a further insight into the exciting learning environment our children get to enjoy every day.

At the start of the school Autumn Term, RJS welcomed back all the children including our new class of KGA – it was so wonderful to see Sheila, Rachel and Mrs Bowens back at the red front doors. Unfortunately, with Covid-19 still nipping at our heels by October children's masks were compulsory in school but with their usual resilience and grace the children went on with their classes and afterschool activities, happy in the knowledge that they could still get to stay in school and be with their friends – they certainly give us a lesson in acceptance and how to deal with anything that comes our way.

The Parents' Committee were motivated and dedicated to meet whether on Zoom or by having social distanced coffee meetings, while wearing thick coats and hats in an outdoor environment, to carry on organising the school events that were still happening throughout the Autumn term such as, the class coffee mornings, RJS Readathon with the reward of a pizza party, dress up for Halloween and World Book Day. Heading towards Christmas, the thoughts of the Christmas Plays were all in our heads with the hope of seeing them live – again Covid-19 raised its head but with the hard work and tireless efforts of the teachers we did get to see our children in their Christmas plays albeit on Zoom. The Parents' Committee assisted with organising Christmas Cards, Christmas parties and even asking Santa to come to our school and meet our fantastic children.

With a spring in our steps and into the Spring Term, by March the children were able to take off their masks and teachers were able to see all their happy smiling faces again. With the lifting of restrictions, the Parents' Committee were able to organise the Parents' Hockey Match which had a great response and was a fabulous day with a treat of an Easter egg for the children.

Now in the midst of our Summer Term and still recovering from a fantastic night out at the RJS Fundraising Ball, we are organising movie afternoons, the RJS Family Day and Sports Days.

All reps on the Parents' Committee strive to communicate with all parents even if it's just a WhatsApp reminder to bring in hair brushes for class photos, but it is important to us and the school that we all work together, so our children get the most out of their school experiences. As parents, we understand the pressures of everyday life and would like to thank ALL parents for their continued support.

I would like to sincerely thank Niamh Coyne who has now stepped down as Chairperson of the Parents' Committee (and who is now part of the Board of Management) for the enormous amount of work she has done steering the Parents' Committee into the future. We will miss Niamh's organisational skills and friendly guidance which is always given with her biggest smile. Also leaving the Parents' Committee after a long service are Wendy Ward, who has given us so much of her time and who is an absolute pleasure to be around and Sarah Pyle, who has headed up the busy Form 6 in their final year and given them a great send off to pastures new. Working alongside the Parents' Committee is the Finance Committee and we are also sad to see Niamh Lombard leaving, who again has put in many hours of her time supporting the school in the area of financial management. We will really miss you all and at the same time, we look ahead to welcoming our new members and working with them on the Committee.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Kalisa and Mr. Chambers whose multi-taking skills are second to none! Without their encouragement and new ideas, a lot of projects would probably not have got off the ground. They have always given their time to listen to the Parents' Committee throughout this year and we have certainly valued all the input they have given. It is very comforting as a parent to know there is such a strong calibre of senior management and leadership in the school, who are supported by all the amazing teachers and classroom assistants who work with our children on a daily basis with a smile on their faces. We must recognise all Edel's hard work in the office. As the first point of contact for many parents in school, Edel is always so courteous, friendly and efficient in all she does.

A special thank you must also go to Bernadette and Sheila in Kids Club, who look after our children with kindness, compassion and with such care. Also, we must thank Noreen and Kevin who work hard in the background keeping our school looking so well.

And finally as we bid farewell to another term and look optimistically forward to a summer of sunshine and watching our kids take a huge growth spurt right in front of our eyes, the Parents' Committee would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing you all for chats at the school gates in September.

If anyone is interested in joining the Parents' Committee, please contact your class representative, we are always looking for helping hands and new ideas, so more parents the merrier, and please keep "liking" the RJS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.   

RJS Parents' Committee Members – 2021/2022

Síle Quigley, Caroline Miller, Wendy Ward, Sarah Pyle, Geraldine McDonagh, Siobhán Dularoy, Olivia McNaughton.

May 2022



Update from the Fundraising Committee.

We are so thankful for all the effort of parents and the wider school community for all the fundraising efforts over the last year. We have been blown away by the generosity shown by so many, not only in monetary terms but also in terms of donating time and skill. We successfully managed to, very quickly, raise funds to buy every classroom a HEPA Air Filter to help protect the students and staff from Covid, all additional funds raised from this drive was used to buy vital PPE equipment and cleaning supplies.

The pinnacle of the year for the Fundraising Committee had to be the RJS Fundraising Ball. This was such fantastic event and a wonderful opportunity to all be together again and celebrate a return to normality. We were delighted that so many parents both past and present were with us from the evening and the night was made by the amazing MC skill of Baz. In total, we managed to raise just over €30,000 which will go towards helping the school. A huge thank you to all involved.





Kindergarten A & B

"A few of my favourite things"

Lachlan	My favourite day was my trip to Pine Forest and I love Golden Time on Friday.
Liam	A few of my favourite things are garden time and maths.
Max O	My favourite thing is playing football in the garden and Lego with my friends
Jamie	I love playing tag in the garden and drawing
Edward	Pine Forest, playing tag in the garden and handwriting were a few of my favourite things in KGB.
Brandon	Some of my favourite things were Pizza Day, playing soccer and PE.
Noah	My favourite things were Pancake Day, PE and playing outside.
Sam M	I loved the Christmas Plays and SESE.
Max P	Football and maths were my favourite things in school.
Florence	My favourite thing was playing "Stuck in the Mud" in PE and art.
Jane	World Book Day, making my Halloween creepy hand and the Halloween party were my favourite things.
Lili-Sue	I loved maths, playing tag and "Stuck in the Mud".
Edie	Playing with the doll's house and "Stuck in the Mud" were some of my favourite
Jessica	I loved maths and playing babies with Henry and Edward.
Flora	Pizza Day and making a creepy hand out of sweets were some of my favourite things.
Nicholas	I loved making my fan, my Halloween creepy hand and playing "Mr. Wolf" in PE.
Harriet	I loved our Christmas art and especially sewing my stocking.
Juliette	My favourite things were garden time, playing "Stuck in the Mud and football. I also loved playing with the doll's house, Golden time, maths and reading.
Robyn	I loved maths, playing Mr. Wolf in PE and Irish.
Ollie	My favourite things were playing football and maths.
Henry	I loved Maths, lunchtime and Irish.
Harry	My favourite things were Music Day and PE.
Sam O	I loved football, "Stuck in the mud", all our Christmas art and Art Zone.



Memories of Form One

- James I liked our school trip to busy park, pancake Tuesday, the bake sale, the sale of work and Lego club.
- Elsie I loved our school trips, the sale of work, playing with my friends in the Garden and ice-cream day.
- Eve I loved pancake Tuesday, our trip to Phoenix Park, golden time and lunch time with my friends.
- Austin I really liked pancake Tuesday, ice cream day, music day and all our school trips.
- Elise I liked ice cream day especially eating the ice cream in the garden, when Santa came to school, the Christmas play and music day.
- Mary I loved orienteering, music day, the Halloween party, world book day and the Christmas play.
- Fergus I loved playing football with my friends, P.J. day, making friends with Jacob and ice-cream day.
- Abigail I liked ice-cream day, music day, orienteering, P.E. and playing with my friends.
- Daniel I loved the Halloween party, P.E., garden time playing with my friends and playing football.
- Jacob I liked pancake Tuesday, our Christmas play, playing with my friends in the garden, art and meeting Fergus.
- Gloria I liked the sale of work, movie afternoon, maths class and reading lots of books.
- Thea I loved the photo shoot, movie afternoon, working in my maths book, I loved everything we did in form 1!
- Victoria I loved doing art, P.E., maths, go noodle and playing with all my friends in the garden.



An Amazing Year in Form 2



Special Day - Luke and Patrick

World Book Day, Ice-Cream Day and Pizza Day were so much fun we really loved it. Pancake Tuesday is Luke's favourite day as he loves food. Pyjama Day is a day where you wear your pyjamas to school. It is fun to see everyone in their pyjamas. On World Book Day you dress up as your favourite character from a book. On Pancake Tuesday the principal makes pancakes for the whole school. You can bring your own toppings. Pizza Day is to celebrate the Readathon. We all get a slice pizza to have for lunch.

Covid 19 changes - Oakley and Michael

Covid 19 has affected people for over two years. That is why it is in our newsletter. In KGA everything was normal: Same old assembly in the gym. In KGB we had to home-school for a while and then we did home-schooling on and off for two years. In Form 1 we did a few months of home-schooling then we went back to school but we still had assembly on Zoom. The Covid 19 situation has gotten better in the last year and there are less cases now. We don't have to wear face masks and therefore everything in school has changed. Form 2 are very lucky that we did not have to wear face masks.

School Trips - Fionn and Althea

We are so happy we are getting to go on school trips again. The teachers have worked so hard to make this happen. The school trips are so much fun. The teachers are so much fun. Everyone always

enjoys the school trips. We went to Phoenix Park to do orienteering. We nearly found every post but Form 1 won. We had great fun. We also went to the park to do a nature trail. Our final trip in Form 2 was Trinity Sports in Trinity College. We went rock climbing, played dodge ball and had a small tour of the grounds. It was really interesting. We found out that no student ever walks under the Campanile as it is considered bad luck and you will fail your exams.

Art Zone - Eugenio and Jane

On the 1st of April we had a visit from Art Zone. This year we did clay monkeys for Art Zone. There were lots of techniques that the teacher said were hard but we could do it! We went down to the art room where the teacher had lots of clay ready for the other classes. He showed us his finished monkey so we could see how to make it. The monkey was not 3D it was a flat plate and we did not do the body or the legs. After it was finished we had to wait for it to dry. Then we painted it. It was a bit difficult but we kept trying and the result turned out brilliant. We really enjoyed making them!

Christmas Play - Bea and Saoirse

Hello my name is Bea and this is Saoirse. Our newsletter is on Christmas Plays. Every class in RJS performed a play. Our play was "Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood" with a little twist. It was a Revolting Rhyme. We were both a character called Sargent Sue. She was the leader of the three little pigs and their club called S.L.O.P. It was a lot of fun. We loved it. We performed it live on Zoom. It felt rather strange but it was very exciting. The stage was put in the gym and it was Saoirse Lee's first time performing a Christmas play in RJS. We were also lucky enough to see the other classes perform their plays. They were great. Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Assemblies - Maneli and Norah-Mae

In assembly we start by singing a song and then we say our prayer. Then we sit down. Then the teacher who is taking assembly tells some news and we also get a chance to tell our news. After that we stand up and go back to our classrooms. That is the end of assembly. We go to assembly every morning and these are some of the things I like about assembly. I like the news and also when we sing songs. We even did our own assemblies: We all did an animal project and told everyone about our favourite animal. It was great!



An Amazing Year in Form 3

Summer Games

In Term Three we started summer games. Every Tuesday and Thursday we walked down to CYM in Terenure. We were given the opportunity to play loads of different sports such as rounders, athletics, tennis, football, and cricket. Tennis was definitely our favourite.

Fair Trade Assembly

On Friday the 6th of May we performed our Fair-Trade Assembly. We learnt about Fair-Trade in SESE so we were really excited to share our knowledge with the rest of the school. Forms 1 to 6 came down to watch us. We explained how Fair-Trade works. We were given a script and we all managed to learn our lines in a week. We make Fair Trade art to decorate the walls to make sure everyone would remember what the Fairtrade logo looks like. We performed our lines and sang a song. We were all nervous but excited. Once we finished, we were all so happy about our performance and everyone really enjoyed watching us. We are already excited to do our next one.

Rhea and Rylie



Ice Cream Day

On Friday the 25th of March we celebrated ice cream day. The reason we celebrated this day was to raise money for Down Syndrome Ireland. We all donated €2 towards this worthy cause. We had our ice cream during garden time. We loved our ice creams, they were really tasty.

Eli and Sam R



Airfield

On Wednesday the 3rd of November we went to Airfield. We first got on the bus and went straight to Airfield. We were very lucky it was such a nice day. IT was really beautiful in Airfield, they showed us some big trees that were imported into Ireland in the 18th century and was a sign of wealth. There were loads of animals like, cows, sheep, goats, and chickens. The chickens had baby chicks, we were allowed to go in and feed them. They were so cute. We also watched the farmer milking the cow, we thought it was really funny. After this we went to the playground. They had a massive zipline. It was so much fun. We had a brilliant day and really hope we can go again.

Felix and Sam Q



Gymnastics

In May and June, we began our gymnastic sessions in the Garden. We all brought in our mats. We were all so excited. (Well, the girls were anyways!). We learned jumps, animal walks, balances, and cartwheels. We got to make up our own routines and perform it in front of everyone, where we done cartwheels and handstands. It was so much fun, and we can't wait to do it again next year.

Mia and Emily

Sports Day

On Tuesday the 31st of May it was our senior's sports day. It was our first-time being part of the senior's sports day, there were lots of races. The marathon was the hardest, it definitely got our hearts pumping. We also done the sack race, wheelbarrow race, 300metre run, 100 metre run, three-legged race, the laundry race and the egg and spoon race. The classes were all divided into three teams, red, yellow, and blue. Each team was made up of students from Form 3, 4, 5, and 6. The red team were the overall winner, but it was really close in the end. Afterwards they gave our trophies to some people. We all got a surprised then when an ice cream van



Art Zone

On the 30th of March we had a visit from Artzone. We made clay octopi and coral reef and they turned out amazing! We started by drawing our ideas on paper, then we were given a big block of clay. We moulded our reef first and then used our pencils to add more details. The clay was very squishy and soft. We had to take time and care creating our coral reef. Next used more clay to create our octopus, fish, and treasure chest. Once the clay dried (which took around two weeks) we painted them. We are all very proud our clay and love how they turned out. It was fun making our octopus, we love how every masterpiece looks different in their own way. We all had so much fun and couldn't wait to take them home.

Arnie and Saul



pulled up. Everyone got an ice cream. It was an amazing day.

Daisy, Heidi and Maurie



Tayto Park

On Wednesday the 1st of June we had our final school tour to Tayto Park. We began by taking a 45-minute bus journey to get there. The first thing we done was visit the zoom, we saw lots of different animals like rabbits, monkeys, alpacas, snowy owls, peacocks, meercats and a silly hornbill called Henry. After the we had lunch, we got chicken tenders, sausages, and chips. Finally, after lunch we got to go to the rides. We were all so excited. We went on the Cu Chulainn, dino dash and the Viking splash. The cu chulainn was definitely the scariest! When it was home time, we were all given a free packet of Tayto crisps. We all had so much fun!

Alexia, Mahy and Olivia

Bake Sale

On Friday the 8th of April we had a bake sale. It was really fun. There were loads of yummy treats like lemon drizzle cake, cupcakes, and cookies. There were even gluten free treats for Ms McCready. Everyone had a great time, we got to eat our treats outside in the garden. Form 5 organised the bake sale and set up all the treats. We paid either €1 or €2 for the treats. We raised loads of money and donated it all to charity.

Mia



Parents Hockey Match

On Tuesday the 5th of April we had parents' hockey match. All the parents came to Three Rock. We were split into teams and had to play against each other. It was a lot of fun watching the parents trying to play hockey. We all really enjoyed it and had so much fun. In the end the yellow team won. We all got an Easter egg for participating. We are all very excited for the next one!

Emily and Rhea





Baking

On Friday the 29th of April we got the opportunity to make scones in class. We were learning about 'How we make Bread' in SESE. To make the scones we got the dough and we had to kneed it for around 5 minutes. Then

Christmas Play

On Thursday the 16th of December we performed our Christmas play. This year our school play was Annie. We were all so excited for this opportunity as it is one of our favourite musicals. We had lots of fun while we were practicing. We began practicing at the beginning of November. We had so many different songs to learn as well as our lines. It was a very busy time of year as we had to set up our stage, make props and organise our costumes. Unfortunately, because of Covid the parents were allowed to watch us in person, so they had to watch us live over zoom. To surprise them after the performance we went outside to sing 'tomorrow' on the steps in front of them. To celebrate the next day, we had a movie day in class. All the practices paid off! We could not have done it without Ms McCready.

Daisy and Heidi



we got to add our toppings to it, some people added chocolate chips, raisins, raspberries, and fruit. After that we shaped them and put them in the oven for 25 minutes. Once they were ready, we ate them for our lunch. They were so good.

Gavin



World Book Day

On Friday the 4th of March we celebrated World Book Day. We all dressed up as our favourite book characters. In assembly we had a fashion show. All the costumes were really creative and fun. In the garden we got to see everyone's costumes. In class we done lots of fun literacy activities. We wrote a book review of our favourite book and created a new front cover for the book. They turned our really cool. It was a really enjoyable day.

Gavin and Lorcan



Terenure Library Trip

On Thursday the 13th of May we visited Terenure library. We left school at 10am and walked down to Terenure. It took us 25minutes. When we got there, we realised we had the whole library to ourselves. We read some books and then all got to bring a book home with us. They had a great choice of books. We were all tired after our visit, so we got Dublin Bus back to school. Everyone enjoyed their day. *Luán and Rhys*

Dublinia

On Wednesday the 6th of April we went to Dublinia. It was our first trip on Dublin Bus. We were all so excited to get on it, it was some peoples first time every riding the bus. Once we got there, we had a tour guide bring us around Dublinia. We learned all about how the Vikings lived, what jobs they had, what they ate and their homes. It was cool. We learned about what disease they had back then, some of them were pretty gruesome. After Dublinia we had a picnic outside the cathedral. It was a fun day!



Projects

On Thursday the 17th of February we presented our projects to the class. Our topic this year was famous landmarks around the world. We looked at some images and then thought about what we wanted to do. We had 3 weeks to create our landmarks. We had to build a 3d model of the landmark and add a fact file including key information about the building. Some of landmarks presented were Niagara Falls, the Pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Colosseum, Twin Towers, Big Ben, the Leaning Tower of Piza, Easter Island, the Sydney Opera house, the Empire State and the Spinx. We all really enjoyed making them and they all turned out amazing.

Saul and Maurie



Form 3

2021/2022



Form 4

Airfield

On Wednesday 3rd November we went to Airfield. First, we left our bags in a little cabin and learned all about the owners. Then we looked at animals such as pigs, goats and cows. We looked at the cows being milked; it was not appetizing! We went to the pond to hunt for bugs and frogs. Next, we had lunch. After lunch we started to hunt for oak galls. After that we went to a chicken pen and picked up the chickens. Then we had a second lunch. At the end of the day, we went back on the bus, back to school.

Joe and Milo

Pantopandemonium



We practised our lines and acting for a few weeks to make sure we all knew our parts. We did a dress rehearsal in our costumes. On Thursday 16th December, we performed Pantopandemonium to our parents. We got the props and the stage ready. This year, because of Covid, the performance had to be on Zoom. We waited for all the parents to join the Zoom call. We performed the play. It was a lot of fun!

Frida and Zoey

Dublin Castle



On January 2nd 2022 the Form Four class went to Dublin Castle. We got an activity sheet and had to solve some clues. First we had to find a mirror. Next we had to find decorations relating to Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. Then we went to a hall full of portraits of famous Irish people. Then we saw a table where Michael D. Higgins had meetings. We had to draw an Irish King in his throne. He was massive and so was his chair. We went outside with our partner to solve clues around the castle. Then we went to have lunch in St. Patrick's park beside a playground. We went back to school on the bus.

Harry and Tom

National Museum of Ireland – Egyptian Exhibition

On Wednesday 30th March we went to The National Museum of Ireland. When we arrived, we got activity sheets and went to the Egyptian room. We answered the questions and saw lots of Egyptian Artefacts, like papyrus sandals and jewellery. We even saw a mummy! After we had finished the sheets, we went to look at other parts of the museum. We split into different groups and looked at different things.

We left the museum and went to the park. We had lunch at the par and played on the playground. We played games like hide and seek, tag and running. After that we got the bus back to school.

Max and Gregory

Egyptian Musical



On Friday 8th April we performed our Egyptian musical. We first went down to the school gym and we performed it for the school in assembly. We then had a fifteen-minute break before we performed it to our parents. Everyone had a different part. We performed three songs; Gift of the Nile, Make a Mummy and Sand Dance. With the songs we performed dances and actions. We all dressed up in costumes and used suitable props. The play was about six children who went to Egypt after winning an archaeology competition. They met lots of interesting people there like Anubis (God of mummification and embalming). They also met the Pharaoh and his wife and the Vizier. The play was so much fun and we learned a lot.

Beatrice and Francis

Terenure Library and Bushy Park



On Thursday 6th May we walked from school to the bus stop and waited for the bus. When we got on the bus we sat opposite or beside our partners. Luckily, no one had to sit beside a stranger! When the bus arrived, we were dropped off right beside the library. When we went inside, we were greeted by a very nice lady. She explained the different sections, which were labelled with numbers depending on the different genres. Once we had picked our books and left the library, we went to Bushy Park. When we got there we had lunch and then worked in groups of 5-6 people to work on our bug hotels.

Marty and Henry

Sports Day



On Tuesday 31st May it was senior sports day. We left school early so we could make it to CYM for 2 o'clock. Then we got into our classes to do the class races, which included the 100m sprint, 300m sprint, three-legged race, wheelbarrow and egg and spoon. Then we did the clan races which were the clan relay and the normal relay. We also had the marathon, which was done by the whole senior school. To conclude sports day, there were trophies given out and there was an ice-cream van too. It was a perfect way to finish our wonderful day.

Rebecca, Robyn and Alexia

Cooking All Stars



Four weeks ago we started Cooking All Stars. It's where you learn to cook nice and healthy meals. Before we cook we learn about our 'Hero' ingredient which is different each week. For the first week our hero ingredient was eggs. We learned how to cook scrambled eggs on toast, which I think everyone liked. The second week our hero ingredient was cheese, because we were learning to make cheesy quesadillas. On the third week, our hero ingredient was bananas. We learned all about bananas and where they come from. We made pancakes with bananas, which were really good. On the fourth week our hero ingredient

was oats. We learned all about cereals and we made granola, which was filling but good.

Alexia, Rebecca, Robyn

Music Day



In the weeks before music day all the classes prepared songs to sing to our parents. Some people performed individual pieces as well. When Wednesday came, Ms Bowens, our music teacher decorated the gym so it was very nice when our parents arrived. KGB – Form Three performed and they were very good. Then it was our turn. We performed two songs; 'In The Jungle' and 'Try Everything'. Then some people played by themselves and they were all very good. Everyone had a good day and our parents enjoyed it a lot!

Tayto Park



On Wednesday 1st June we went to Tayto Park. When we got to school, everyone was



**Form Five
Newsletter 2022**



Copper Collection and McDonald's Day

The whole school started collecting coppers in September for 'Peter McVerry Trust'. On December 20th the coppers were ready to be counted and it was Form Five's job to do it. In the morning, we got all the coppers on our tables and the great copper count began!

It was so much fun! Altogether it took us about an hour and a half to count every coin, but it was worth it. We got into groups of two and counted the coins that were put on our table. In the end, we made €724.05 and as a treat we got to go to McDonald's.

We washed our hands really well and got ready to leave. We had been begging our Irish teacher, Ms Coffey, for nearly two years now, to treat us to McDonald's and we finally got it. We walked to McDonald's, it was a total surprise, we had no idea and we were all exhilarated with joy. We arrived and got our 'Happy Meals' and drinks. We walked back to school, sat in our seats and ate our 'Happy Meals'. Thank you, Ms Flaherty and Ms Coffey, it was a great day.

By: Jessica, Edie and Chloé.



RJS First Ever Science Fair

Firstly, let's explain! Form Five and Form Six went down to the gym, where Mr Chambers and Ms Flaherty explained that we would be doing a science fair and what that actually meant! After that, we put ourselves into groups and started discussing ideas. The project was set for four weeks so we had lots of time. Ms Flaherty suggested going to each other's houses, where we could experiment our ideas. In the last two weeks we were allowed to bring in ipads and laptops to research and put our project together. The science fair was on 11th May, in the school gym, from 3 until 4 and all our parents were invited to trial our experiments and learn the science behind them. Below are just some examples of the brilliant projects that were on display.

Taran's Group:

My group did, 'What gets rid of rust?' We were pretty successful with our results. In our live experiment we put rusty blades in to different solutions. It came down to lemon juice and vinegar. We found that the lemon juice worked the best of all. Lots of people came to our table and enjoyed our display board and listening to our findings about our project.

Saoirse's Group:

In my group, I was with Xander, Patrick and Aidan. Our experiment was called, 'Taste Test'. In our experiment, we blind folded our visitor and we had three foods for them to taste, they had a drink also to wash down any flavours they did not like. Some of the foods were dark chocolate, humus, crackers and Baby Bells, and last but definitely not least, Starburst! Our results were very interesting, 70% to 30%, with 70% being the people who passed the taste test!

Ella's Group:

In my group I had Edie, Chloé and myself. We did, 'The Red Cabbage Water' experiment. This is where you basically boil red cabbage in water and then pour it into different cups, which has different liquids in them. Some were an acid and some were a base. When we poured the red cabbage water into orange juice it turned red, which told us that orange juice is an acid. We found out that if the liquid was an acid, it would turn red and if it was a base that it would turn green. Our experiment turned out great and we really enjoyed showing it to the parents and also to the rest of the school at assembly the following day.

By: Taran, Saoirse and Ella.



Causey Farm!

We arrived at school at 8.30am. We got organised and when we were all ready, we got on the bus at 9.00am. The drive to Causey Farm was nearly an hour. When we arrived, we had a snack. Our first visit was 'Gloria' the pig, which we stroked and gave her a soft tap on the nose. We then visited the lamas and the goats escaped and came into our tour and our tour guide, Peter, took them outside. We all got a turn of milking a wooden cow for 10 seconds each. Then we went to a mirror maze, which was tricky to find each other. We then went to make some humongous bubbles which took time and effort to form. The cute bunnies were the ones we visited next and they were soooo cute! We got to hold them and it was a good experience.

Right after the rabbits, we saw a trailer and got a nice photo of our class. Then Peter showed us the alpacas and when we were about to move on it started to rain so we ran to the shelter with lambs and cows. We all got to hold the baby lambs. After that, Peter showed us some horses, which we got to pull up some grass and feed them. Then we moved on to our next animal.

Chickens! When we arrived at the chickens, Peter said that we could pick them up, so we did! As we went in, Jamie decided to pick up the rooster, who was double the size of all the chickens! After that, we had lunch and got in a big trailer which brought us to the bog. We had to take off our shoes and socks to keep them clean. Then, we started crawling along the bog to get to where we needed to be to jump in. When you jump in, you are not advised to pencil dive because you will get stuck. When we jumped in it was really fun and we all had an amazing trip.

By: Hugo, Matthew and Jamie.



Baking

On Thursday 10th February, we moved our tables into groups, set up the equipment and ingredients, went in to groups and got baking. We made banana muffins. Each group made 12 small muffins or 6 big ones. Then Ms Flaherty put them in the oven for an hour. When they were ready, we ate them, they were delicious.

On Thursday 7th March, we made tasty buns. The first thing we did was got into our groups. We got everything set up and ready to start baking. It took about 45 minutes to make them. When we were ready, we decorated them with loads of different 'tasty' toppings, such as, chocolate, sprinkles, marshmallows, homemade caramel, to mention just a few.

We really enjoyed baking, had lots of fun and we would definitely love to do it again.

By: Emilia, Órna and Megan.



Glasnevin Cemetery

In the morning of the 3rd of February, Form Five got ready to go to the private bus. On our bus we talked with our partners for 30 minutes until we got to Glasnevin Cemetery. Then we walked to the entrance and had a snack. After that, we went to see Daniel O'Connell's grave. It was massive and there was a tower and his family was buried in there with him. After that, we visited other graves of 'Rebels' and our guide, Paul, told us all about 'grave robbers' and how they dug a hole near the grave and lowered their children into the coffin to steal the bodies to sell to scientists. The cemetery had to have high walls and guards to guard the graves at night.

Then, we went to Michael Collins' grave and we learned that his grave is the most visited grave in Ireland and lots of other interesting facts and stories. After that, we went to the indoor area where we saw a video about the cemetery and learned about different religions. Then we had the rest of our lunch. Then we left Glasnevin Cemetery and went across the road to a park and we rolled down big hills! After the hill rolling and running about, we got back on our bus and rode back to school. We really enjoyed this trip and would highly recommend to all.

By: Christopher and Isaac.



Bushy Park

So, we got to school and got ready for the trip. We walked to Bushy Park, which took about 30 minutes. We enjoyed chatting with our friends and noticing things along the way up Rathgar Road.

When we arrived at Bushy Park, we had pieces of paper and needed to find different trees and signs of nature around us. Then we went to the lake and saw the swans and ducks swimming. Next, we scaled the roots of a huge old tree and skidded back down again, that was lots of fun and was really high up. Then we went to the playground and played on the zipline. After that, we were hungry so had a snack. Then we played in the field and had a great game of tag.

Later, we walked around one last time and then began our walk out of the park. We stepped across the stepping stones and enjoyed looking at the mini waterfall. It took us about 30 minutes to walk back to school and we did leaf rubbings with leaves we collected from Bushy Park. We had a great time and it was really fun.

By: Calvin, Roan and Jonny.



Bake Sale and Sale of Work

On Wednesday 4th May, just after assembly, we got set up for the bake sale and the sale of work. I was working in the bake sale with most of Form Five and I couldn't believe how many buns there were. We split them into sections depending on their size and toppings; 3 for €1, 2 for €1, 1 for €1 and gluten free section. All the classes took turns to visit the sale of work and bake sale. It was easy to sell the treats as they were very inviting to the customer!

Some of the Form Five children helped Form Six in the sale of work and there were so many wonderful things on sale. Both the bake sale and the sale of work were all donations from our wonderful families in our school. The sale of work raised €663.27 and the bake sale raised €497. It was a really enjoyable day, we also get to buy some cakes and nice things in the sale of work, even if we did have to let the other classes go ahead of us!

By: Xander, Aidan and Patrick.



News From Form 6

This school year has been a bit different for Form 6. We have been through restrictions; classroom moves and all the highs and lows that come naturally with being in your final year of RJS. There is not enough space in this newsletter to let you know all of what we have been up to and so we will tell you about some of the class highlights throughout the year.



Stage building finally got to take place after a long hiatus in preparation for the schools Christmas Plays. Due to the uncertainty of whether we could perform the plays in person or virtually, the decision was made to build the stage anyway to bring back some of the RJS Christmas magic. We learnt a lot about engineering whilst Kevin guidance through the technical parts of the project. We managed to do the traditional jump off the stage and made sure it was ready in time for the all-important dress rehearsals.

Our Christmas play this year was *Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies*. Even though we didn't know if the play would be online or in person we treated every

rehearsal as if we had a live audience. Although we eventually had to do the performance online due to Covid restrictions, we still had an amazing time and put on a great show. It is sad that this is our last play in RJS but we are so grateful that we got to star in so many shows over the years.



1950's Day

As part of our 'living history' month at school, we lived a day in the life of a 1950's school pupil. We dressed up in 1950's clothes and spent the entire day being taught actual lessons from the 1950's, eating food from that decade and learning about the ever-present threat at the time of Nuclear War. The day was a lot stricter than we were used to but good fun. We are just glad that we were able to come back to 2022 by the end of it all.





Croke Park

Although much more of a challenge this year, we have been able to go on quite a few school trips. The first of these was to Croke Park. We caught the bus in to town and were taken on a stadium tour. It was amazing to see the stadium like that, with no crowds about and made us appreciate just how big it was. We got to go behind the scenes of the stadium and see the changing rooms used for the All-Ireland Finals. It was such fun day and great to be back on school tours again after such a long time of not being able to go anywhere.



Public Speaking

As part of preparation for Secondary School, Mr Chambers set us a challenge to improve our public speaking. He asked us to present a 10-slide presentation on a

topic of our choosing followed by a recital of a poem and a reading of a passage from our favourite book. To do the presentation we had to make sure that we were using Q cards rather than reading facts from the board to make it more professional. It was tough to prepare for but well worth all the effort. It took our presenting skills to the next level and was a great accomplishment for all the class.



J.E.P.

For the first time ever, Form 6 took part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programmes. In order to do this, the entire class came up with business ideas and pitched them to the rest of the class. A vote was taken to see which business would be most viable. After lots of discussion and number crunching, Form 6 decided to start a business selling 'pamper bags' which included: a homemade candle, a homemade body scrub, a homemade bath bomb and 2 lavender packets. A logo was designed, and bags were put together after we sourced all of the raw materials. We then worked out what our selling price should be based on how much we spent on buying the raw materials. It was decided that the 'pamper bags' would be sold for €15 and all profit made would go towards helping Ukrainian refugees, settle in Ireland. It took a lot of work and organisation to turn our raw materials in to a finished, sellable product but it was well worth it.



Form 6 Marathon & Sale of Work

After so many years of not being able to fundraise properly, Form 6 really wanted to leave their mark. They organised an amazing Sale of Work, raising over €1300 to be divided between 2 charities including Women's Aid Ireland. Also, instead of the usual Form 6 sponsored walk to Bushy Park, the class wanted to do something a

bit more challenging. They decided to hold a relay marathon where, as a class they would run a marathon distance (26.2 miles) as a relay. All sponsorship money will be sent to Laura Lynn to help children receiving Hospice care.



At Home

We were so delighted to hear that this years At Home show could go ahead as normal with our families being able to come and watch in the gym. Due to the enormous number of activities that we have been up to, we had to snatch rehearsal time where we could. The show came together nicely and was enjoyed by all. It was very emotional being able to perform in front of our parents and say goodbye to RJS in the traditional way, like so many before us.

Carlingford

At the time of writing this, we are only 1 week away from traveling to Carlingford for our annual overnight stay. We cannot wait and the excitement levels are through the roof. It is so special that we get to enjoy this trip away together and take part in all the activities which we couldn't do over Covid. Hopefully we may get to have at least 1 hour of sleep, but we won't mind if we don't.

A Note from Mr Chambers

What an incredible year Form 6 have had. They have had to deal with so much in the last 2 years and in their final year at RJS more was asked of them than any other Form 6 before. They managed to continue old traditions and start some new ones of their own. All of this year, they have tackled challenges head on with grace and good humour. We are so sad to see this class leave us but we are secure in the knowledge that they will all have an incredibly successful Secondary School experience. Good luck to all of Form 6 and make sure you come back to tell us about all your new adventures.



Hockey Update from The Captains.

This year was a great year for Hockey. Girls and boys in RJS played their best this season (the boys managing to finish 2nd in the league and the girl's 4th)



We would like to thank everyone who participated and gave their all-in hockey this season. Another successful year of hockey in RJS!

A big thanks to Ms. Butler and all our coaches for the effort they put in makes us a better team.

Rory, Ella, Benji & Carolyn.



Music Day 2022

Music Day returned after its three year break this year on May 18th and owing to the dedication and hard work of all the children involved, it was once again a fantastic success. The day showcased the wealth of musical talent we have in the school as we were treated to live performances on piano, violin, ukulele, harp and oboe. We had almost 40 instrumentalists performing individually along with class performances of songs we had learnt.

KGA & B kicked off the busy morning with a wonderful medley of four of their favourite chosen songs called “The Big Ship Sails”, “Caterpillar”, “Suki over the ocean” & “Pancake”. Form 1 followed on with a rousing performance of “Spotty Socks”, “Get a move on” & “I had a wobbly tooth”. All the junior classes learnt their songs from memory in such a short time which was a huge accomplishment. Form 2 performed 2 songs called “We’re here again” & “Music Italiano” in which they learnt a lot about music terminology. Form 3 had great fun rehearsing their songs, “Happiness is not...” & “I’m cross” which they performed with great authority and maturity on the day. Form 4 came next with their wonderful rendition of Shakira’s “Try Everything” & a song called “In the jungle” which featured lots of animal sound effects. Form 5 concluded the action-packed morning with the most amazing performance of a song called “The power in me” by Rebecca Lawrence. Their air guitar impressions were a very fitting addition!

The level of musical talent in RJS continues to astound me every year and I’m especially proud to bear witness to it. The commitment and enthusiasm that all the children brought to their performances was clear to see & hear. Thanks to all who helped make Music Day the wonderful experience it was this year and especially for your support as parents in nourishing their musical talents.

Well done to all!

Ms. Bowens.





Maidin na Gaeilge 2022

Bhí rí-rá agus ruaille buaille againn in RJS i mbliana ar an 16ú Márta. Ghlac gach uile páiste ó rang KGA go Rang a Sé páirt ann agus bhí craic iontach againn go léir. Bhí gach duine gléasta suas in éadaí glasa. Rinne na páistí an-iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt timpeall na scoile.



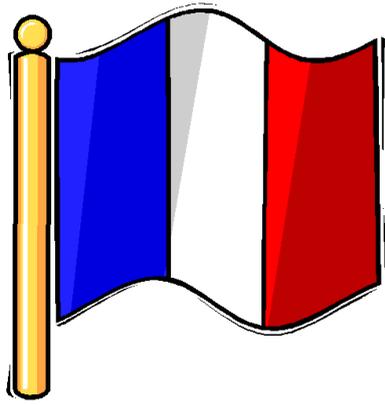
Mar is gnáth bhí Seó Faisin iontach ag Rang a Sé. Bhí na páistí gléasta suas i ngach saghas éadaí galánta, Kardashians fiú.

Bhíomar ag canadh agus ag damhsa sa ghairdín cúl.



Bhí lá den scoth againn go léir,
Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as.
Comhgairdeas do gach uile páiste!

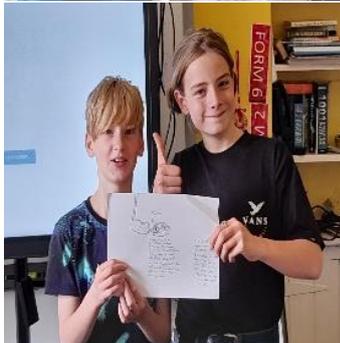
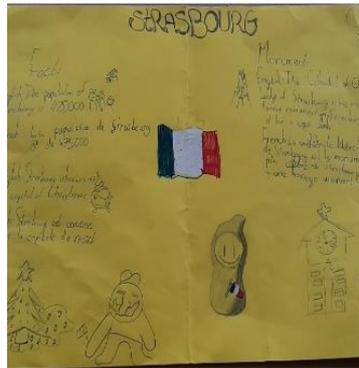




French

We have been learning French in a fun and interactive way at RJS. We are using songs, poems and we are doing a lot of activities based on improving children's speaking ability and reading comprehension. We have celebrated Halloween, Christmas, La Chandelier (Crepes' Day), Easter, Mother's Day in French by doing a lot of activities!

Ms Tsitsou





Final Thought

We would like to wish our Form 6 children all the best as they move on to secondary school! You are always welcome at RJS and we look forward to hearing all about your new adventures.

Wishing you all a very well-deserved summer holidays!

See you all on the 1st of September 2022.

