

# St. Pius X BNS Newsletter HALLOWEEN 2020

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

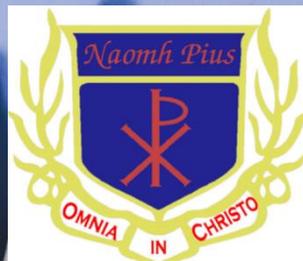
Happy Halloween to everyone in the St. Pius X BNS community! We have all worked so hard (parents, pupils and staff) to make the reopening of school such a positive experience. I'd like to thank every member of our community who pulled together to make it happen. While Covid and its associated restrictions are to the forefront of our minds, we have a clear and measured system to make school as safe as we can during these strange times. I'd like to also pay tribute to the school's Board of Management, under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Ronan McMahon. It continues to provide crucial leadership to the school and monitor the progress of our efforts, providing support throughout the reopening process. I'd like to acknowledge the Parents' Association, under the leadership of Caroline Costello, for the support it gives to the school, in particular, in relation to the staggered start and ending times.

I'd like to welcome to the teaching staff, Ms. Herity, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Finnegan and Ms. Ward, and to our SNA team, Samantha, Jackie and Katlyn. As we bid farewell to Mr. Ryan (see below for a tribute to him!), I'd also like to congratulate Ms. Sinéad Lally on her appointment to Deputy Principal. Sinéad has already been a fantastic addition to the school leadership team and has helped enormously since September. Lastly, I would like to thank (again!) our amazing secretary for all the work she does on our community's behalf. Karen is patient and kind to all those she meets, in particular, the principal!

I hope every one of the pupils in our St Pius X BNS family has a restful and enjoyable mid-term (and that parents and guardians get a break at some point too)!

See you all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November!

Lorcan Coyle  
Principal



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## Our Achievements!!

### SCHOOL CLOSURE - 10 DAY ART CHALLENGE

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – Luke; "This is my Starry Night" (Mr. Faherty's Class)



## Runner up – Max; “Lockdown Cravings” (Mr. Dillon’s Class)

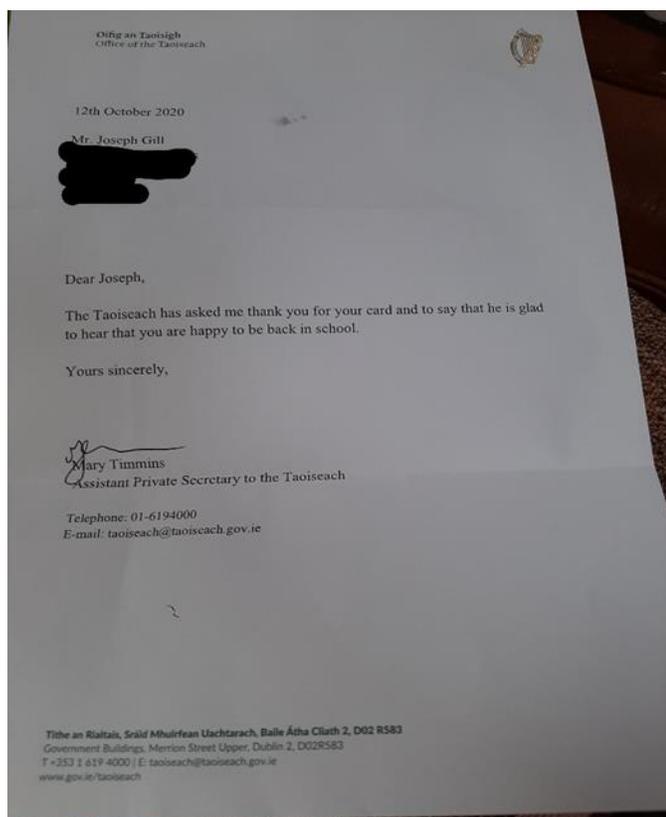


### Certs:

Eoghan Friery (Ms. Brogan’s Class)  
Daniel Gill (Ms. O’Connor’s Class)  
Kieron McDonnell (Ms. O’Connor’s Class)  
Charlie Martin (Mr. Geraghty’s Class)

## HAIL TO THE CHIEF!

Joseph in Ms. Stewart’s class had very important correspondence waiting in his letterbox this week. He wrote to the Taoiseach thanking him for reopening schools and to let him know that he was happy to be back at work!



## POETRY CORNER

A sensory poem about Autumn,

by Jack Hogan 6th class

### Autumn

*Looks like a misty morning.  
Smells like harvested hay.  
Sounds like the crunch of dried leaves.  
Feels like a smooth conker.  
Tastes like ripened blackberries.*

## Wellbeing

The health and mental wellbeing of your child is paramount to us here in St. Pius X B.N.S. It is a testament to both them and you how well they have settled back after such a long and unexpected break. I know we, as teachers, are so happy to have them back . . . and to be back ourselves. It is certainly true here in Pius -we are happier together! The Covid-19 pandemic is a considerable source of worry for children and families, and young people are having to cope with big changes at home and at school. In response, Children’s Books Ireland, in partnership with Jigsaw and ISPCCC Childline, is launching Mind Yourself - the Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide. It is a book list designed to support young readers to navigate difficult issues through literature.

The Mind Yourself reading guide is a resource that can be used by adults - parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers - to support and educate young people in relation to mental health and wellbeing. The guide contains reviews and recommendations of over 400 books for children and young people from birth to age eighteen and is designed as a ‘first-aid kit’ for worries, sadness, loneliness, anxiety and any number of feelings that a young person may want to explore. Mind Yourself also contains mental health and wellness information from Jigsaw and ISPCCC Childline, including tips and coping strategies for young people and advice for adults on supporting children to build resilience. The guide is available free of charge through every library authority in the Republic of Ireland and a digital version is available on the website.

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/mind-yourself/>

As with a first aid kit, these books won’t fix all ailments -a plaster on a broken leg is not much use- but it is hoped that for a great many young readers there will be solace in seeing their lives reflected on

the page, and understanding what others might be quietly going through also.

We hope you find the guide useful and I would strongly advise including some of the titles in your child's personal reading or as bedtime stories.

Mind yourselves and be well,  
**Ms. O'Neill**



## PE - Update

I am delighted to inform you that PE has been running efficiently with current Covid-19 protocols in place. All classes receive PE outdoors alternating between myself (Ms Goddard) and their class teacher. This ensures the safe delivery of PE lessons which are vital for your child's physical and mental wellbeing.

A block of athletics has already been completed from infants to sixth class with great success. Each class competed in the hurdles, long distance, sprinting and throwing events and I am confident that St. Pius has some of the hardest working children at primary level I have seen yet!

We have now moved on to the games strand. The main focuses here are; receiving, passing, kicking, defending with a ball and small-sided games within their pods. So, with that said, during the mid-term I urge young and old to bring a ball to your local park and practise throwing, catching and kicking because you never know where it will take you...(Irish soccer internationals Enda Stevens and Dara O'Shea both attended St. Pius).

Keep moving, keep positive and always eat your veggies.

**Ms Goddard**

## GAA Returns!

After weeks of careful planning, our GPOs returned to St. Pius X BNS and resumed their ever-popular sessions. **Tommy from Faughs GAA club** has begun hurling sessions with the boys in 1st and 2nd class. They are over the moon learning new skills each week. **Kevin from Templeogue Syngé street** has started football sessions with the Senior Infants. It is hoped to extend this to more classes after the break.

**Mr. Smyth**



## Slán, Mr. Ryan!

Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, was a sad day here in St Pius X BNS. It was the day we had to say goodbye to our beloved Mr. Ryan. He retired from his teaching career of 25 years!! Mr. Ryan made huge contributions to the school over those years. He made a difference to so many boys as their teacher, particularly in the area of maths and technology. He also organised many mountain walks for staff and parents along the Wicklow Way. Mr. Ryan had lots of patience and was happy to help anyone (staff or students) in any way he could - this was usually related in some way to an interactive whiteboard! In his last few months in St Pius X BNS, Mr. Ryan was the Deputy Principal. This was a very busy few months for him as he worked hard helping everyone to work and learn from home during lockdown.

His kindness, his wisdom and his storytelling are a few of the many things we will remember about Mr. Ryan. But what is so sorely missed already is his smile and the sound of his laughter along the corridors. Mr. Ryan was a ray of sunshine in our school. He was always in good humour and made everyone he met smile. That was his most unique talent! All of us wish Mr. Ryan a long, happy and healthy retirement and we hope he will not be a stranger to the school.

**Ms. Carroll**



## Art Appreciation



**Pablo Picasso**

*'Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.'*

So said Pablo Picasso, one of the most important art figures of the 20th Century. Known as the 'father of modern art,' Picasso was responsible for co-founding the entire Cubist movement which changed forever the face of European painting and sculpture.

By exploring his life, art style and works this year, we hope that the boys will appreciate the tremendous impact he made on the art world.

This will be a good skill to have when we are all able to venture out again and explore museums and art galleries in whatever city we may find ourselves in.

**Ms. Beatty**

## Autumnal Visits

All of our Infant classes visited our local amenity of Bushy Park over the last month. Pictured is Ms. Robinson's class on their inaugural exploration!



# Important reminders for all of our parents

- ✓ We'd ask everyone to support us and continue to adhere to the Covid-related protocols we have in place, in particular to not send pupils with Covid-like symptoms to school without consulting your GP.
- ✓ The school's Annual Admissions Notice is open until **13<sup>th</sup> November 2020** for those who wish to join Junior Infants in September 2021. Application form is downloadable at [http://www.piusxbns.ie/all\\_pdfs/application-form\\_2021\\_ji.pdf](http://www.piusxbns.ie/all_pdfs/application-form_2021_ji.pdf)
- ✓ Continue to observe our systems and times for arriving and collecting your child.
- ✓ Ensure you are registered in Aladdin Connect and have provided up-to-date and correct email and mobile information.
- ✓ A MASSIVE thank you to all the parents who have paid the school contribution. Payments can be made through Aladdin Connect.

# School Calendar

**October Mid-term Break 2020**  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020



**Christmas Holidays**  
Closed @ 12 noon Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020  
Re open on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**February Mid-term break 2021**  
Closed Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**St. Patrick's Day 2021**  
School closed Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Easter Holidays 2021**  
Closed @ 12 noon on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Re-open on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**May Bank Holiday 2021**  
Closed Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**June Bank Holiday 2021**  
Closed Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Closing 2021**  
Wednesday June 30<sup>th</sup> @12 noon

