



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

SMOTHtalk

E A S T E R 2 0 2 3

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the second SMOTH Talk of this academic year. There have been many activities and learning opportunities the children have been involved in throughout this second term and it is through the fabulous work of our dedicated staff that they are able to gain these experiences. If you would like to see more of the life of our school, please go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOnTheHillPS/>.

As we become closer to Easter it is an important time to reflect on the journey of Christ. In this light I would like to thank everyone for their generosity over the Lenten season and in particular for giving so willingly during our Trócaire campaign. You all continue to show great support not only in our own school community but to those in need across the world. On behalf of pupils, staff and governors, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a Happy and Holy Easter.



A Snake in our School!

Primary One had a lovely visit from some creatures from Belfast Zoo! The children shared lots of interesting facts that they knew about animals with the education officer. They learned all about some exotic creatures and their habitats. The children loved handling a hedgehog, a stick insect, a giant snail and a tree frog. Their favourite was getting to pet a friendly snake!

Trócaire Fundraising

We have learned about how important Trócaire is this term. We had an assembly by Mark from Trócaire who told us that Trócaire means compassion in Irish.

We now know that Trócaire helps 16 countries around the world. Before Easter, we had a pyjama day and all of our class came in wearing our pyjamas, dressing gowns and we even had our teddies. We were able to buy ballots to win Easter eggs. We did all of this to raise money for Trócaire.

This is important to help lots of people who are in need of food, clean water and safety.

by Seth Wright and Anna Makin P4A

P5 W5 Trip

Our Primary 5 classes went on an amazing trip to W5! When we got there, we went on the Climbit frame! It was a little scary because it was very high, but it was great fun. Then we went to the Nature Zone. There were bones and creatures that you could zoom in! We very much enjoyed it! Then the presentation began. We were told a lot about Belfast Harbour. The people were very kind to let us help with the experiments! We played tug-of-war with a different school! And we also enjoyed the marvellous machines! When it was time to leave we got to go to the gift shop! Our P5 classes had an amazing time.

By Evie Wagstaff & Isla McGarvey

Magnets

During Play Based Learning, we found out that magnets can stick to other metals. We also found out that magnets can work through glass, fabric, paper, card and plastic. We had great fun playing with the 'Magnet Tiles'.



Forest Schools

P4B go to Forest schools on a Tuesday. We need to wear our welly boots, coats and high visibility jackets to keep us warm and safe. When we walk up and down the hill we walk sensibly with our partners and freeze if we see a bus. When we got to the park, we did lots of different activities like, guess the tree while we wear blindfolds, birds and worms and guess the natural material. We read a story called 'Not a stick' and we acted out different stick actions such as , a stick for a saw, a fire breather, a bat, chopsticks and a walking stick. We had great fun building dens for ourselves and for small animals. We also whittled sticks to make mini beast hotels. We made a picture of a tree using fallen sticks and leaves. We love going to forest schools but it is the best when it is sunny. **By Roise Mc Stravick, Aidan Donnelly & James Mc Mullan P4B**



P6 Trip to the Ulster Museum

On Friday morning 24th of March, we went to the Ulster Museum. It took about half an hour to get there, and it was pouring. When we got in, we were soaked. We went into a room with Nigel and talked about plants and insects. After that we named the animals based on their skulls. Then we had a look around this room with crystals and animals. Sometime later, we had lunch and sat at big white tables. After lunch we went to the art room and played with some puppets, dressed up, and drew ourselves. Then we went to see an ancient Egyptian mummy. Her skin was all black and her hair was an orange colour. We saw a mummy case and a mummified cat, and we could see its teeth from a rip in the plaster. We also saw bottled water from the olden days and then we went to the painting room with some great paintings. Lastly, we got into a line, came back to school on the bus, got packed up and went home.

P2B had lots of fun during Science week. They enjoyed going outside to plant seeds. The children discussed how they can look after their plants. They also enjoyed learning about the Scientist Alexander Graham Bell and made their own 'string telephones'.



Peace Proms is a concert that celebrates peace in Ireland

The P6's and P7's spent months learning all the songs for Peace Proms with the help of Mr McEvoy. Then came the day of the performance at the SSE Arena, Belfast. As we walked in we could see that it was huge and there were thousands of seats and many were filled with people. We had a practice with the youth orchestra and conductor to make everything sound perfect. This was a proper professional concert! After the practice and eating our snack we started with our first song - The Hall Of Fame led by the conductor Greg. During the performances there were many dancers including Irish dancing and highland dancing, there were also many solo performers. It was a brilliant experience. If you ever get the chance to go we would highly recommend it.



By Eabha Doyle, Ryan Mullan & Grace Doyle P7B

My First Confession

On Tuesday I made my First Confession. First, I went to St Bernard's Church. Next, I went up and said a prayer. Then I made my First Confession. When I was done, I felt happy and brilliant. My Mummy and Daddy were so happy.

By Isla Deery

My First Confession

On Tuesday I made my First Confession. First, I went to the church, I was nervous. Next, I made my First Confession, I was happy. Then we sang a song. After I went to Corr's Corner with my family. I felt really proud of myself.

By Orlaith Galloway

My First Confession

On Tuesday I made my First Confession. First I went to the church. Next I sang some songs. Then I made my First Confession. After that I went out for dinner and I saw Grace and Ciaran.

By Bonnie McKenna-Amos

Half-time whistle Antrim

Pupils from St Marys on the Hill got invited to play at the half-time whistle for Gaelic and Hurling by Cumann na mBunscol. The Gaelic match that we played at was County Antrim vs County Fermanagh senior inter-county Gaelic. The score ended Antrim 3 -9 Fermanagh 2-13. It was a very good match to watch and we really enjoyed playing at half time. It was also a really good experience for all involved which included, Aidan McAllister, Maeve McMenamin, Caitlin Donnelly and Lorcan McGarvey. There were a lot of other schools involved. We were mixed into 4 different teams with the other schools so that there were 2 matches happening at the half time break.

Antrim were winning by a lot, then in the second half Fermanagh made a comeback. We all thought it was going to be a tie but Antrim's keeper ran out of the box and lost the ball, one of Fermanagh's players picked up the ball and put it over the bar leaving Antrim losing by one point. Thank you to Mrs Carey for organising. We also got an opportunity to play during half time at Antrim vs Tipperary senior men intercounty hurling. Tipperary defeated Antrim by 4-28 to 2-17 points. It was a great experience for Adam Conway and Lorcan Smyth who represented St Mary's On The Hill. Thank you to Miss Kerr for organising. **By Caitlin Donnelly and Adam Conway P7B**



P1 celebrated the end of their 'Brrr, it's freezing' topic with a hot chocolate party! We had a great afternoon chatting about our topic and watching 'Happy Feet' the movie.

On Thursday we went to the Planetarium. On the way there I sat beside my friend Niamh. We told each other spooky stories. When we got there we visited all the planets, but not in 'real life.' Then we made rockets and blasted them up the hill. We had lunch but then it was time to go home. It was a long time back. I felt sad that we had to go home.
by Eimear McDermott P3A

Our Planetarium Trip

Last week P3s went to the Planetarium. First we went to the cinema room and watched a tour of the solar system on the roof! Then we went to an explore room and I made my own solar system and I smelled Neptune and Uranus. Malachi and I made a rocket and we launched it. We went inside and the lady talked about space. I was so happy!

by Sonny Briers P3A

On Thursday, P3s went to Armagh Planetarium. On the coach I was really bored so Ava and I played some games. I tried to get to sleep on the coach but it was too bumpy. When we got there, I saw a Lego Planet Earth. We went to the cinema room and watched an alien movie. Afterwards, Ava and I blasted off our rockets into the sky. Then we learned how astronauts go to the toilet. We had our lunch in a room and then got back on the coach. Ava and I sang songs and told jokes to keep busy. When we got back to school it was home time straight away! I felt happy. **By Olivia McAvoy**

P7 Futsal Tournament

Futsal is a football-based game played on a hard court. The court is smaller than a football pitch and it is mainly played indoors.

The teams in the tournament were Greenisland, White Abbey, St Marys On The Hill and Silver Street. It was 7 a side. We played 5 games and won 4 out of the 5. We drew in the other one. The score was 1-1 so that meant we were undefeated. Conor, Cruz and Maeve scored 2 goals in the final, Conor O' scored 1 goal.

Our teams were made of: Conor M, Patrick, Cruz, Alex, Aidan, Adam C, Maeve, Caolan, Joe, Farrah, Conor O, James, Rory and Noel.

We were named Belfast Met Futsal Cup winners 2023 and were awarded gold medals.

By Conor McKinley, Cruz O'Neill and Joe Brennan P7B

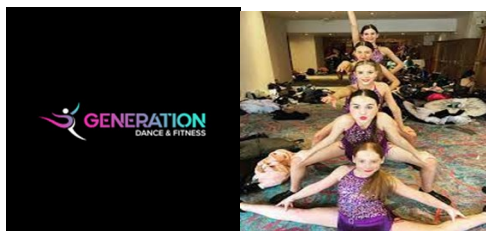


Rainforest Animals Visit P6

We were excited to enter the hall to see the brilliant animals that the nice lady had brought in. When she opened the boxes, everyone let out a gasp! The first animal was a little turtle and it immediately started to walk towards the teachers! Then there were two small snakes which we thought were terrifying - everyone screamed! After that, there was a shy chameleon holding on to a little twig. The lady said we could not touch him because he would get scared and change his colour. I wish we could have seen him change colour but didn't want to scare him! The next animal was a big orange lizard who was making his cheeks really big. The lady said he does this because he wants to get a girlfriend which we thought was so funny! The lady offered for Mr O'Brien to hold the lizard and he was very brave - it was so big in his arms! Everyone wanted to touch him so the nice lady told us to get into groups and we all had a go, it felt smooth underneath and bumpy and spikey on top! Then the lady told us she was taking out something scary and everyone cheered! It was a hairy tarantula and a creepy scorpion! There was also a slimy sticky frog which we got to pet but our hands were too warm for him! It was such a good day and we all had great fun!!!

By Adam Grzona and Lucy Erwin P6B

Generation Dance & Fitness



Generation Dance and Fitness is my dance club. I have been in the competition team for two years and will be trying out for the competition team for the third year. My team just competed in the Ulster's which was held in Queens University. We got placed 2nd in our three groups. Me and my cousin got placed 1st in our duet which we were super happy about. I also do Acrobatics on Mondays, Ballet on Tuesdays, Lyrical, and Jazz on Thursdays and then competition team on Saturdays. Each year we do around three competitions. I 100% recommend going to Generation Dance and Fitness in Newtownabbey if you are interested in dancing.

Dana Doyle P7B

St Mary's On The Hill Primary School

BREAK the RULES DAY

Learn to Love, Love to Learn

Rules to be broken include:

1. Wear school uniform
2. School shoes only
3. Healthy breaktime snack only
4. No temporary tattoos
5. No crazy hairstyles
6. No soft toys at school
7. No make-up/temporary tattoos
8. No nail varnish
9. No odd socks or crazy tights

Here's how it works:

When?
Thursday 4th May

£1 to break a rule.
Donations will be collected on School Money
Donations will go towards School Council Projects

Parentkind Member Association