



SMOTHtalk

EASTER 2024

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the Easter edition of SMOTH Talk. There have been many stimulating activities and learning opportunities for the children this term and it is through the fabulous work of our dedicated staff that our children benefit from such a variety of 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 come 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. An amazing £5,200 was raised for both Trócaire and the Daughters of Charity. 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.

We Grew Cress

We put cotton wool in a little tub and we put water in it. Then we put seeds in it. They did not need sunlight. We came back to school on Monday and the cress had grown. It was great.

Ben Maxwell P2PMI



A big thank you to Mrs McVeigh who came in on World Book Day to share stories with our P1 -P4 children. The children loved listening to all the inventive ways in

which Mrs McVeigh shared stories. So much fun!

Daughters of Charity School, Nairobi

Ms Walsh has arrived in Nairobi to the delight of all the boys and girls who attend the Daughters of Charity School. The children were thrilled with their 'new' sports tops and art work. Thank you for your giving so generously to such a worthy cause.



St Patrick's Day Assembly P2MMA

It has certainly been a busy half term with so many wonderful celebrations over the past few weeks. In Primary 2, Miss McAnallen's class marked the huge celebration of St Patrick's Day with a wonderful assembly that they were able to showcase for their loved ones. The children got to retell the story of St Patrick, as well as perform some brilliant singing and dancing. Grace said, 'I really enjoyed doing my Irish dancing for my mummy, daddy and baby sister Ava.' The children loved getting to learn a new song, 'I'll tell me ma' for their performance, and have been singing it ever since - it's definitely a catchy tune! Mia and Aoife's favourite part of the performance was the singing because they loved learning all the fun dance moves to go along with the song.



Our Primary 7 Cinema Trip

As soon as we left the building there was a warm breeze as we walked down to the cinema. It was not very far and we enjoyed the fresh air. It was a cheerful atmosphere and the pedestrians were very nice. Once we got to the cinema the staff were really welcoming and showed us to our seats. We sat down in really comfy seats and waited for other schools to arrive. Once the other schools arrived the movie began. It started off confusing but as time went on we started to understand. The movie was thrilling and exciting. It made us jump quite a lot! When the movie was finished we threw our rubbish in the bin and started the walk back to school. The weather shocked us by how warm it was and it was an exhausting walk. We asked some cars to beep at us but when we asked the lorry, it beeped so loud that we all jumped out of our skin laughing! Overall it was a fun experience that we enjoyed. If we got the opportunity to go again we definitely would.

Beth & Marissa P7MOB



P7 Visit Bee Safe

On Tuesday 12th March, P7 went to Mossley Mill to take part in an educational program called Bee Safe. This consisted of lots of activities focused on keeping us safe. Our first activity was how to be safe online. It was extremely helpful to know things you should and should not do online. After that, we did Take 5; we watched a video about feelings and learned that it is ok to show your emotions. It was very relaxing and interesting. Next, we went to see the police. This was one of the best activities. When we were with the police, we learnt about what age you would be dealt with by the police if you committed an offence. The police gave us a brief scenario of what would happen if we did something like break a window in McDonalds. Then we went and learnt about drugs, alcohol and vapes. This was remarkably interesting about how you cannot drink and drive and you should not be vaping because it can cause cancer.

Our favorite was the bus because it looked like a bus from the outside but on the inside, it was used as a classroom to teach kids about being safe at bus stops and on buses. Finally, we went to meet the fire brigade and they taught us about making sure we have a smoke alarm in our house to keep us safe.

Overall it was a fun but educational morning! **Erin and Eva P7KC**

My First Confession

It was my First Confession on 12th March. At the Confession I was the first person to say a prayer. I was nervous but my heart told me "Don't be nervous" so then I felt brave and when I talked to the priest I felt like I could do anything.

By Logan Kelly P3MM

My First Confession

Our class made our confession in the church. It was so special. I was shy and happy as I walked up to the priest. He was called Fr Pat. I talked to him and I told him my sins. After I was happy.

By Isla Ross P3MM

My First Confession

On the 12th of March, our class made our First Confession. Before we made our confession we sang a song and Fr Pat had to say a few words. Finally, it was time for everyone to make their confession with the priest. I had to wait patiently. I was really nervous but once I made it I felt really happy and relieved and I know that God forgives me. **Aidan Pollock P3MM**

Mr McEvoy's class have had a very busy but fun term. We made pancakes for shrove Tuesday and enjoyed flipping them. We cooked Chinese noodles to celebrate the Chinese New Year. We planted seeds and bulbs and have been watching them grow in springtime. Our visit to the library for World Book Day was very enjoyable, as was Glengormley Playpark afterwards. We loved the Saint Patrick's Day festival on last week had a special treat with a trip to the cinema.



Congratulations to all the children in P3MM who received their Sacrament of term. They made our school community so proud.

My First Confession

Yesterday I made my First Confession. It was a special day. In the church I sang two songs and said prayers. I told the priest my sins. I went home and I got pizza. I told my mum I had fun. It was hard but I did it! I am so happy. **By Nuala McCleave P3SR**

My First Confession Yesterday I made my First Confession. Before I made my confession I got out of school early. My mummy curled my hair. It took very long. When she finished she put it up in a half up. It hurt. In the church we sang songs. I was nervous. I made my sins to the priest. We said a lot of prayers. We were a little quiet because we were spread apart. After my confession I got ice-cream. I had a really good day. **By Anais Leonard P3SR**

Fundraising for Daughters of Charity – Nairobi

We had a zoom call with a school in Nairobi called St Louise's Primary School. We wrote letters and put pencils, rubbers and pokemon cards in an envelope and sent them to our friends in Nairobi. We also did a fundraiser to raise money. We had a raffle in our classroom – the prize was a giant hamper. We also had a non-uniform day to raise money as well and last but not least we had a jumble sale in our classroom. We raised £265.27 and finally we had a play about our friends in Nairobi.



World Book Day in P1!

We loved our very first World Book Day! We dressed up as our favourite book character and had a tiger themed tea party!! We drank tea and ate yummy biscuits. We also did some 'Tiger Aerobics.'

P4 School Trip to the Folk Museum

On 29th February, our two P4 classes set off on a trip. We all got the bus to Holywood to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. We were so excited! When we arrived we all went to a church hall where we had our break and met Mr McBride, my grandad, who sorted this whole trip for us.

P4AW headed to the National School first, where we met Mr Savage, the school principal, and had to pay him to go to school!! We were made to write with our right hand as years ago this is what the teacher would have made you do. Our favourite part was when we got to go out to the yard and play with all the old games the children would have played with, like the stilts.

While P4AW did this, P4RT were at the bank and the bank manager's house. Inside the bank manager's house, we could tell someone rich lived there because there was wall-paper and carpet and a big kitchen compared to the smaller houses that didn't have any of these things inside. All of the things inside the houses were ancient!

After lunch, in our groups we all were able to have a look around the museum. Some groups went to Bairds, which was the print shop. We all saw a 150 year old machine which printed newspapers, other groups went and looked around some houses.

Finally, after all our fun, we made our way to the sweet shop. Everyone got a ticket for sweets, we all had to choose between fizzy cola bottles, strawberries, razzle and bon-bons. We all had a great day! Thank you so much Mr McBride, my grandad.

By Caleb Callow P4RT and Katie Stewart P4AW

Our 'Out of this world' school trip!

P3 classes were lucky enough to go all the way to Armagh this term to the Planetarium. We have been learning all about Space in class and this was the perfect end to our topic. It was a long journey on the coach, and we chatted to our buddies and played games like rock, paper, scissors to pass the time. When we got there, we made rockets and blasted them off outside. None of our rockets made it into space but it was great fun anyway!

We explored the exhibition area and our guide Mark taught us some amazing facts. Did you know that the international space station travels at a speed of 17,500 miles per hour?! Then we went into the cinema room. The ceiling was a dome shape and we really felt like we were flying through space! We looked at the solar system and the stars in the night sky and learned that there are over 80 constellations!! Finally, we got to eat our lunch. Everyone was starving!! We got on the coach and when we got back to school it was already home time! We had super fun!

P5 Visit the Titanic Centre

P5 visited the Titanic Centre on the 27th February. When we got there we had break. After break everyone went to the workshop and got put into groups. We sorted survival equipment that we might have needed if we were in a lifeboat. Next, we went on a tour with headsets we went into the gallery and saw some linen and got to see what 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers rooms looked like. We also got to see pictures and videos of the Titanic.

After that we visited the SS Nomadic, we ate our lunch there. We also got to go to the gift shop. We loved our trip. The best things about it were the ride, the headset tour and most of all the SS Nomadic. **Michael and Nainsi P5MD**

Our topic in P6 this term is IMPACT. We have been looking at different aspects of the rainforest. We have been doing a carousel of activities each week which include:

- 1. Life cycle of a frog**
- 2. Food chains**
- 3. The water cycle**
- 4. Comparing tribes to modern life**
- 5. Rainforest blackout (electrical circuits)**
- 6. Habitats**

One of our favourites was making the habitats. We got to make our own mini rainforests out of shoe boxes using a range of materials and including key information that we have been learning about over the last few weeks. Have a look at some of our work!



Congratulations to all the children in P3SR who received their Sacrament of term. They made our school community so proud.