



St. Colman's NS

New School Tracksuit Top

Following consultation with our Parents Association and Student Council, we are delighted to announce that St Colman's will be introducing a new school tracksuit top for PE days from next September.

These new tops will be phased in over a two-year period and the children will be welcome to wear either their current school hoodie or the new half-zip for PE days during this time. Our plain navy tracksuit bottoms will remain the same.

The new half zips will be available from local suppliers KC Sports, who will visit the school to take orders in June. They will

also be available to purchase online from KC Sports. Our current hoodies will still be available through O'Sullivan's Menswear while stocks last. Further details to follow in due course.



ST BRIGID'S DAY



Sixth Class went to St Brigid's Well on her feast day, where they blessed themselves with water from the holy well and said the rosary.

Dates for the diary

- **Midterm:** School closed Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February
- **Full Day Closure:** for In-Service Training Friday 3rd March
- **First Confessions:** Wednesday 8th March at 6pm, St Paul's Church
- **Grandparents Day Celebration:** Friday 10th March, 11am in St. Paul's Church
- **Confirmation:** Saturday 25th March at 3pm, Mullingar Cathedral
- **Half Day Closure:** for In-Service Training Friday 12th May
- **First Holy Communion:** Saturday 13th May at 12 noon in St Paul's Church

Amazing performances of Joseph by Colman's

After months of rehearsals and a huge amount of hard work, the students in our Sixth and Third Classes took to the stage to perform Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, in Mullingar Arts Centre on two golden nights in January.

First up, on Wednesday night, were the boys and girls from Mrs Connaughton's sixth class. On Thursday night it was the turn of Ms McLaughlin's sixth class.

Each night, the casts were ably supported by some young actors from our third classes. The choir was made up of our third class students and they complemented the action on stage to perfection.

Both performances had the theatre packed to the rafters and it's safe to say that the audience was not disappointed if the rapturous applause and cheers were anything to go by. The sets and costumes were worthy of a

professional group of actors and, who knew we had such a talented group of superb actors, graceful dancers and angelic singers here in St Colman's! For many, this was their first time performing for such a large audience, but for some, I'm sure it won't be the last time we see them treading the boards.

Rather, this is just the beginning of their career in the performing arts.

All in all, these two shows were resounding successes for all concerned. Huge thanks must go to Sarah, Sarah-Ann, Sean and the entire staff of the Arts Centre for all their help and guidance in putting together two outstanding performances and of course heartiest congratulations and well done to all our sixth and third class students.

We hope you all enjoyed your time in the spotlight!





Quiz team scoop first prize in Mullingar area

St Colman's has won the first stage of the Credit Union Schools Quiz 2023 with the winning team due to compete in the next round in Athlone on Friday 3rd March.

The annual quiz has returned to being held in person after a number of years of virtual quizzes.

The first stage was held on 30th January in the Park Hotel in Mullingar, with 39 schools from the Mullingar area competing.

Of course, St Colman's was keen to take part and after holding class quizzes in our fifth and sixth classes, we whittled it down to two teams of four to enter in the U13 age group. Team A - Shay Leavy from Ms McLaughlin's Sixth Class, Aoife Irvine & Daragh McCabe

from Mrs Connaughton's Sixth Class and Aisling McCormack from Mr Ennis' Fifth Class. Team B - Alfie Rock from Ms McLaughlin's Sixth Class, Robin Byrne from Mrs Connaughton's Sixth Class and Ellen Gallagher & Eddie Leavy from Mr Ennis' Fifth Class.

Both teams performed extremely well throughout each round of the competition and did us proud.

At the end of an extremely exciting contest, St Colman's Team B came out as the overall winning team.

Huge congratulations to Alfie, Robin, Ellen and Eddie and we wish you success in the next stage of the competition.



Shay top in spelling

In readiness for this year's Eason Spelling Bee (launched in 2011), our fifth and sixth classes held internal heats during January.

The top spellers from each class, 15 in all, participated in the school final, held in the school hall with their classmates in attendance. After a tense battle and many rounds, the winner was determined.

Our St Colman's representative for 2023 is Shay Leavy from Ms McLaughlin's sixth class. Congratulations to Shay on a wonderful contest, and to all our superb spellers.

Shay will represent St Colman's in the county finals on 15th of March at Gaelscoil An Choillín, and we wish him the very best of luck in his endeavours.



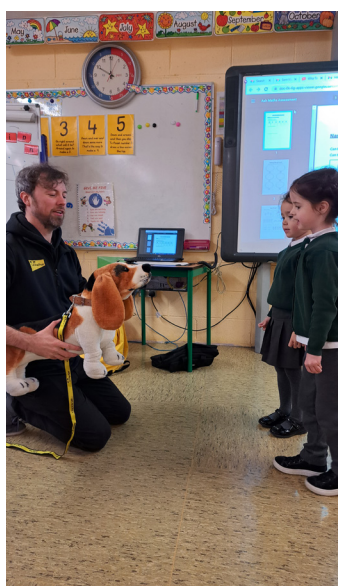
Dogs Trust visit to St Colman's

Your children may have come home from school last month sharing knowledge about how to look after a pet dog - that's thanks to Peter Cleary from Dogs Trust, Ireland who visited St Colman's in January.

Over the course of a week, Peter paid a visit to every class in the school from junior infants up to sixth class and imparted some of his extensive knowledge of dogs to the children.

When Peter visited the school in previous years, he brought his rescue dog, Magic, with him. Sadly, this time Peter couldn't bring Magic with him, as she is getting older - 12 years old which means she's in her 80s in human years.

The excitement of meeting all the children is too much for her now. Peter brought a soft toy dog



with him for demonstration purposes.

Ireland has only one Dogs Trust Centre, situated in Dublin. Every

county has a dog pound however to cater for stray dogs. At the moment, there are 150 dogs in the centre and although they can cater for more than 200 dogs, Peter explained that they try to keep the numbers down so that they can give the correct amount of care to each dog.

Peter gave the children some helpful tips about caring for a dog. By law, all dogs must be micro-chipped and must always wear a collar that bears the name and address of the owner. He told them about foods that you should never give dogs and food that is good for them. He stressed the importance of having your dog neutered to avoid having unwanted puppies. He encouraged walking your dog daily and most important of all... enjoy your dog!