

St Joseph's BNS Spring Newsletter

www.stjosephstereure.ie

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We have had a busy term. Enjoy reading about all our wonderful pupils and staff as they have fun teaching and learning every day!

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School Insurance

The Board of Management is concerned in relation to its duty of care to the large number of pupils who come into the school grounds and premises before the official starting time of 8.50 a.m. **The school insurance applies to pupils only within school hours and during teacher supervised activities outside of school hours.**

The Board cannot accept responsibility for pupils arriving before 8.50 a.m. A similar situation arises in relation to caring for pupils after school hours. The Board cannot accept responsibility for pupils who await collection after 2.30 p.m. Whilst we understand that families have busy lives, it is imperative that pupils are not left at the church car park or the school gates unsupervised.

Teachers and SNAs may be on the school and church grounds completing safety checks before school starts but they are not supervising the boys upon arrival until after 8.40 am.



School Attendance

Parents are advised of the following requirements regarding school attendance under the Education Welfare Act. Section 21 of the Act obliges the Principal of the school to maintain a record of:

- (i) *all pupil absences for each school year and*
- (ii) *the reasons for each absence.*



April 2025 Easter Holidays Closing Friday 11 th Closing at 12.00 noon for infants/12.30pm all others Re-opens Monday April 28 th		
May 2025 May 5 th May 16 th	Bank Holiday Teacher in-service	School Closed Closing at noon
June 2025 June 2 nd Bank Holiday	School Closed	
Summer Holidays 2025 Friday 27 th June	School closed 12.00 infants 12.30 all others	

The school Principal is obliged to notify the school's Education Welfare Officer when a pupil is absent for twenty or more school days and when a pupil is not attending school regularly.

In order to implement these requirements, the Board of Management asks that when a pupil returns to school following absence, the class teacher should be informed in writing of the reasons for the absence. The school is obliged to keep the written records which may be inspected by the school's Education Welfare Officer.

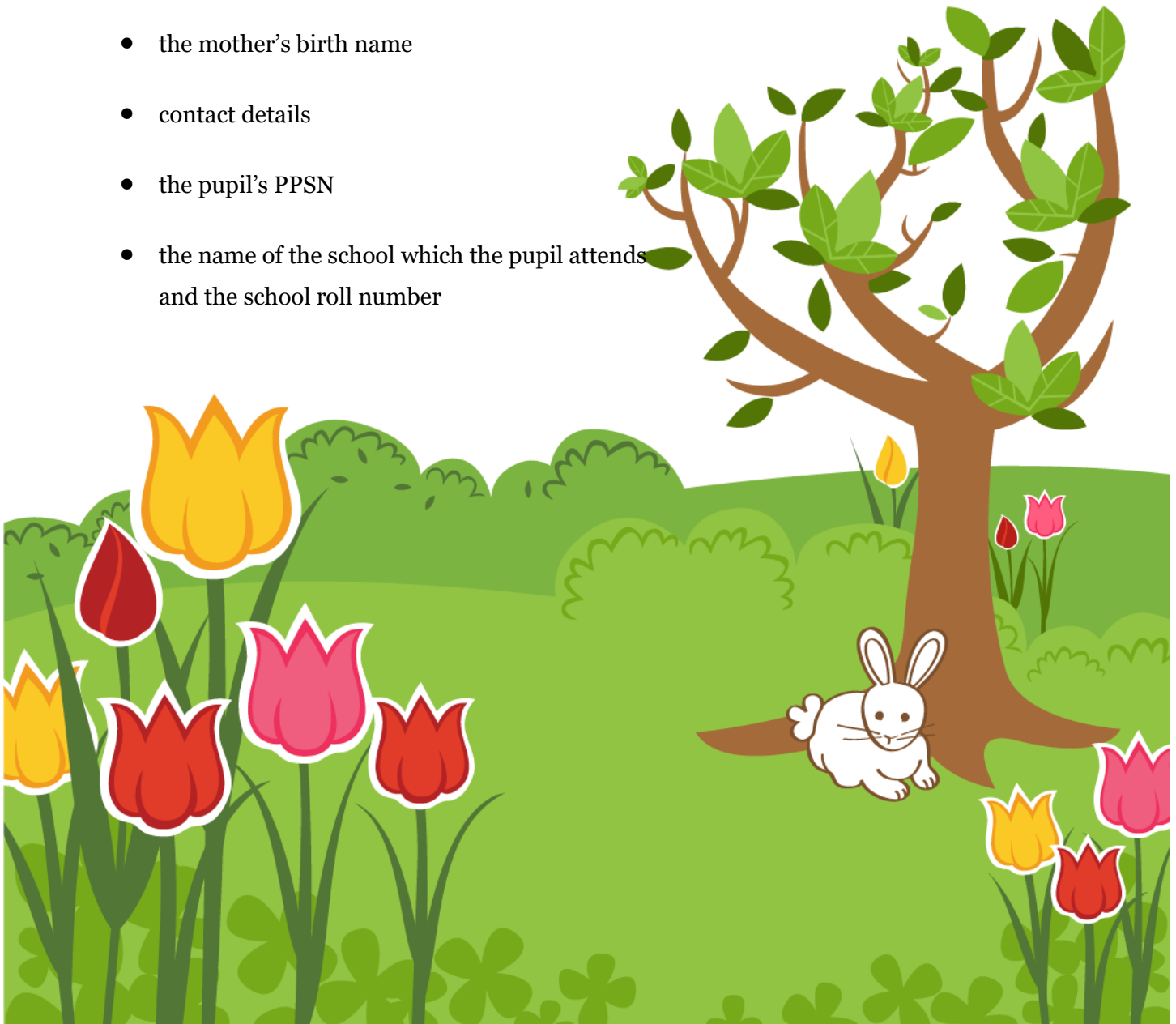


The HSE's school health programme

The HSE school health team will contact the school when planning their visits. They will ask for information about children eligible for the eyesight and hearing screening, vaccines and dental checks programmes.

Under statutory regulations and obligations under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), the school must provide the following information:

- the name, address, date of birth, and sex of the pupil
- the mother's birth name
- contact details
- the pupil's PPSN
- the name of the school which the pupil attends and the school roll number



First Aid, Nut and other allergies

The school staff completed a *First Aid for Everyone* seminar for schools before Christmas. The course content comprised of activation of emergency services, airway obstruction, wounds/bleeding, allergies (use of medical pens), asthma (use of inhalers), seizures, respiratory emergencies and burns.

All parents of pupils with chronic/ongoing conditions must complete a School Healthcare Plan for their child. Your child's completed plan will store helpful details about your child's condition, current medication, triggers, individual symptoms and emergency contact numbers. This plan will help staff to better understand your child's individual condition. Please make sure the plan is regularly updated and the school is kept informed about changes to your child's condition or medication. Also check dates on medication and replace as is necessary.

St Joseph's is a nut free zone as we have pupils with severe nut allergies.

Please check that lunches do not have hidden nut ingredients. Sharing of lunches is not permitted in school.



Child Protection and Anti-Bullying

The Board of Management (BoM) has adopted and implements fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary (Revised 2023). An annual review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was completed at the BoM meeting 03/03/2025.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Ms Anne McCabe

The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is

Ms Rachel Harte.

The Board of Management of St. Joseph's BNS also wishes to inform you that its annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation was completed at the Board Meeting on the 03/03/2025. This review was conducted in accordance with the checklist set out in Appendix 4 of the Department's Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.



Restorative Practice Journey

Our restorative practice journey continues. We are practicing using restorative language in our everyday interactions in school. This journey of building and maintaining positive relationships is helping us to assimilate a way of being in our school community: a way of knowing, caring, listening, feeling and accepting with accountability and growth and without blame or shaming.

For March we focused on **Teamwork**. The boys worked in groups and reflected on why teamwork is important, what it means, what makes a good team player, and how teamwork relates to our previously identified values/themes of **fairness, honesty, kindness, friendship, and respect**.

Acceptance of others is the value/theme for April and again we are getting a huge input from the boys.

They are creating art work, and engaging in role plays, and writing pieces on how they see and envisage ‘**acceptance of others**’ through their eyes. We are all learning so much from our kind compassionate boys!



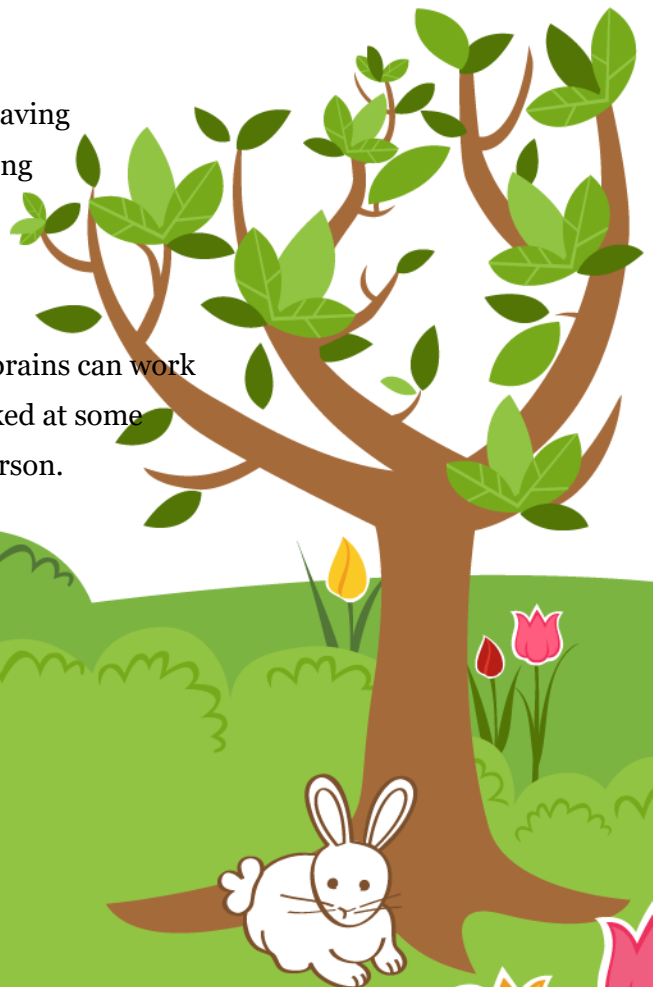
Wed, Apr 2, 2025



We celebrated World Autism Awareness Day with great gusto!
We talked about autism and neurodiversity, our strengths and differences, the ways we communicate, our sensory systems and showing respect for ALL kinds of minds.

We discussed how neurodiversity is the idea that having different kinds of brains is totally fine and something to celebrate.

Just like people look different on the outside, our brains can work differently on the inside. Most importantly we looked at some ways that we can be a good friend to an Autistic person.



Parents as Partners in Education

The parents have been very busy in school these days. They have organised a successful blazer rental system for Confirmation and Communion boys. They gave 6th class their blue hoodies commemorating the class of 2025.



Confirmation and Communion individual and class photographs have also been organised by the parents.

They are scheduled to take place as follows:

Confirmation photographs in school: Tuesday April 29th

Communion photographs in school: Thursday May 22nd



Parents as Partners in Education

The Parents Association (PA) are introducing a No Smart Phone Voluntary Code for the parents of our boys to sign up to. This has been in the pipeline after a lot of hard work behind the scenes for the past two years. See below the link for parents to sign up. It is anonymous and we hope to get a big sign up.

<https://forms.gle/8fcpAJwgk6KGNyG37>

As you already know we have a policy for the pupils who do bring in a phone or any smart devices, that they leave it first thing at the teacher's desk in the phone/smartwatch drop box. It is the pupils' responsibility to collect it at the end of the school day.



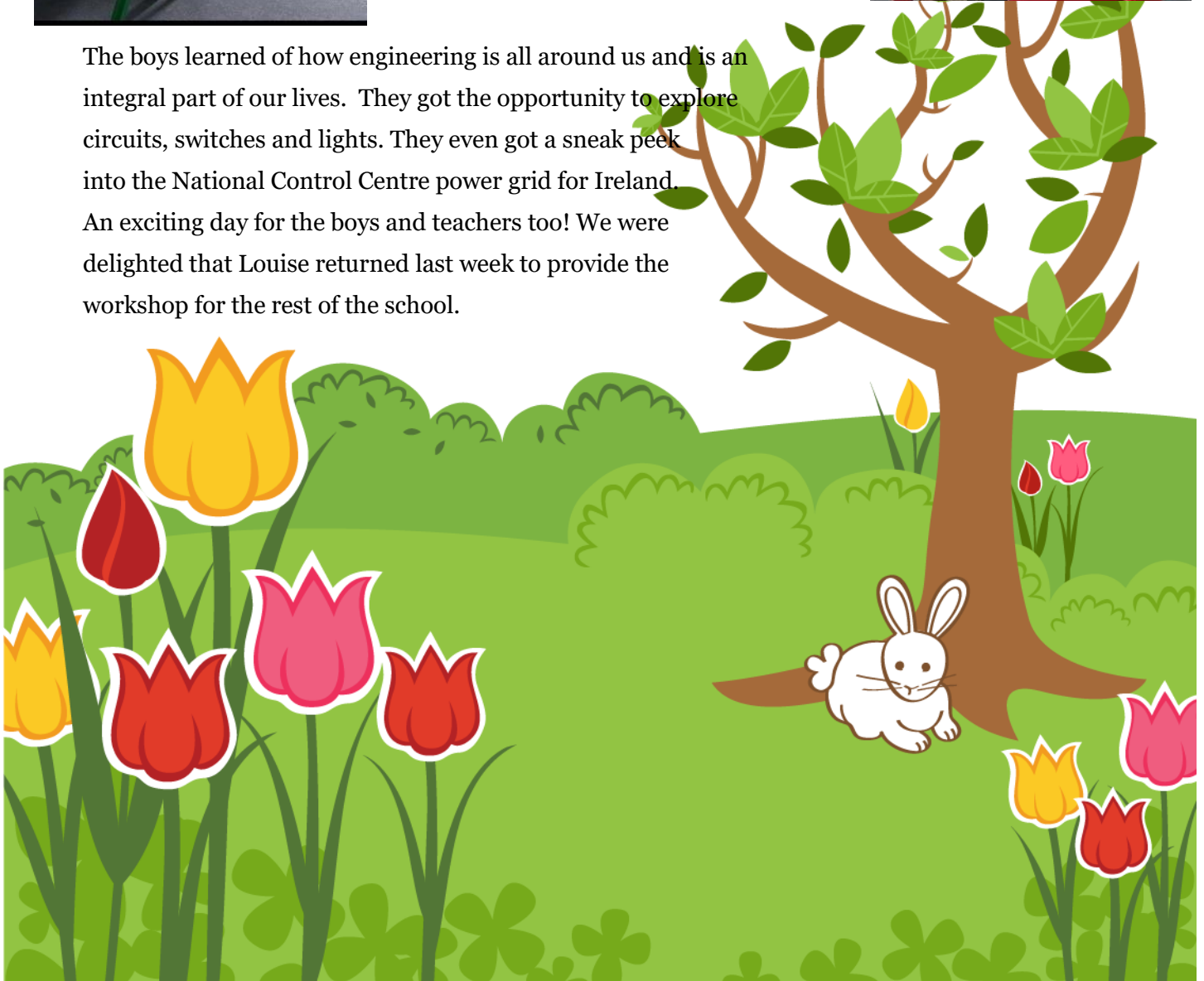
Engineering Week: Parents as Partners in Education



As part of Engineer's Week half of our classes were treated to a day of engineering fun and exploration facilitated by one of our engineer parents, Ms. Louise O'Flanagan. Two graduates from EirGrid helped out on the day.



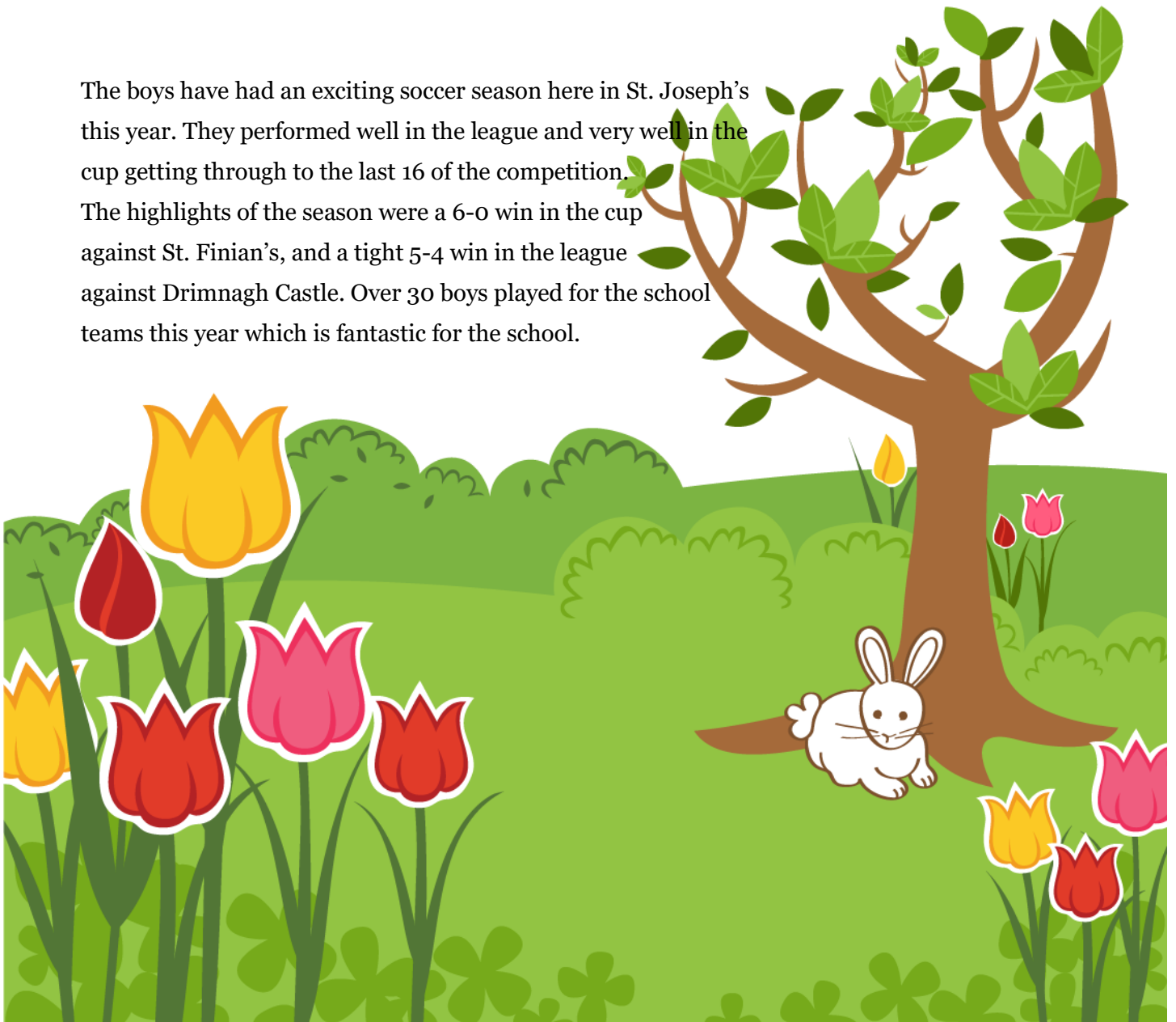
The boys learned of how engineering is all around us and is an integral part of our lives. They got the opportunity to explore circuits, switches and lights. They even got a sneak peek into the National Control Centre power grid for Ireland. An exciting day for the boys and teachers too! We were delighted that Louise returned last week to provide the workshop for the rest of the school.



Sport



The boys have had an exciting soccer season here in St. Joseph's this year. They performed well in the league and very well in the cup getting through to the last 16 of the competition. The highlights of the season were a 6-0 win in the cup against St. Finian's, and a tight 5-4 win in the league against Drimmagh Castle. Over 30 boys played for the school teams this year which is fantastic for the school.



Sport – What a great achievement!



James O'Flaherty (5th Class) represented St Joseph's at the All-Ireland Minor Schools Gala.

Over 1,100 swimmers qualified from schools all over Ireland north & south.

James competed in the Individual Medley, which is all 4 strokes, Butterfly, Backstroke, Breaststroke & Freestyle and also competed in the 50 m Freestyle event.

St. Josephs was featured on the notice board and in all event information. James did really well and did the school proud by being placed 12th & 15th in Ireland.



More Sport

Well done to our senior hurlers who have just started their league season with a thrilling victory over Ballyroan. Coaches Mr. Reale and Mr. Ó Riain were delighted as we came from 10 points down in Bushy Park to win on a scoreline of 4-10 to 4-5. Senior and junior hurling leagues will continue after Easter.

Our Junior hurlers have been training hard for the last number of weeks with Ms Dwan and Ms Ormond. They are looking forward to the season ahead. Recently, 17 of our boys took to the field with their first set of challenge games for the year in St. Mary's. They played with great determination and showcased their skills, securing two well-earned victories. The boys are really looking forward to their first Cumann na mBunscol game which will take place after the Easter break.



Sports Day

We'd like to say a massive thank you to Jamie Barron of Templeogue College and the TY students for organizing a fantastic sports day for our 5th Class boys in their grounds on Thursday 10th April. It was a stunning day of fun and sun and was a brilliant display of inter-school links with teams from St. Pius and Bishop Galvin also competing.

Our boys exhibited exceptional sportsmanship, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day, some going on to win silverware. It was fantastic to see lots of parents come down and enjoy the weather and cheer on our excellent boys who we are very proud of!



Creative Schools

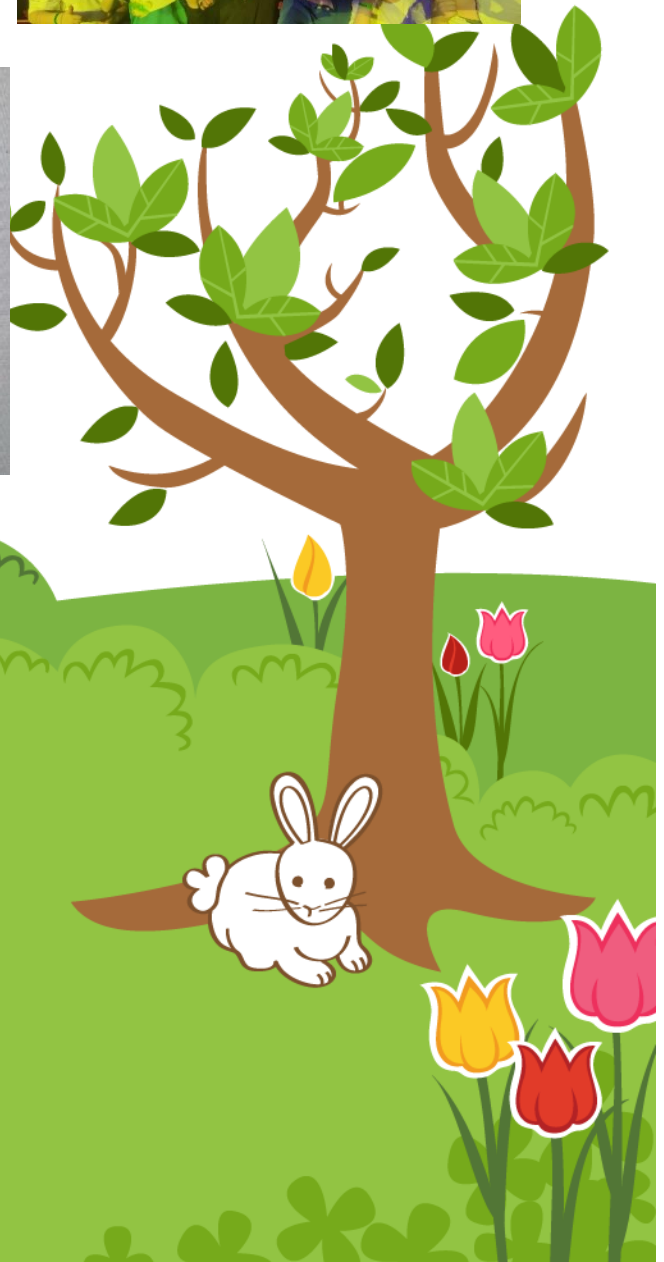


The 3rd and 4th classes boys were thrilled to take part in *The Big Sing* concert on April 1st in the National Stadium. The children performed a medley of popular songs and everyone enjoyed the experience. See the blurb below from our boys about the night.



We, the performers, arrived at the gates of the National Stadium at 5:30 p.m. We went into the waiting room and received our wristbands. The students had a quick bite to eat and tested their banners. A little while later, the students headed into the stadium for a rehearsal at 6:00p.m. We ran through a couple of songs with the conductors. Then we returned to the hall to have a quick snack and get ready. Finally, the moment came (THE BIG SING). The students walked out into the arena. The whole stadium erupted in a chorus of cheers. Suddenly the band burst into song, playing loud music. The singers had the time of their lives. The crowd sang along with THE BIG SING choir. What a great night. We all had a blast.

By Cian, Zakaria, Seán, Jacob, Eddie



Our Creative Schools Projects



Our classes have been hard at work designing imaginative suggestion boxes as part of Our Creative Schools project. The results have been truly impressive, featuring everything such as Lego marble runs for a

pizza oven. The boys are very eager to generate creative ideas for our school in the coming months.



Also our 6th class boys have been coming up with ideas for the school garden.



Cultural exchange with Escola Sant Ignasi



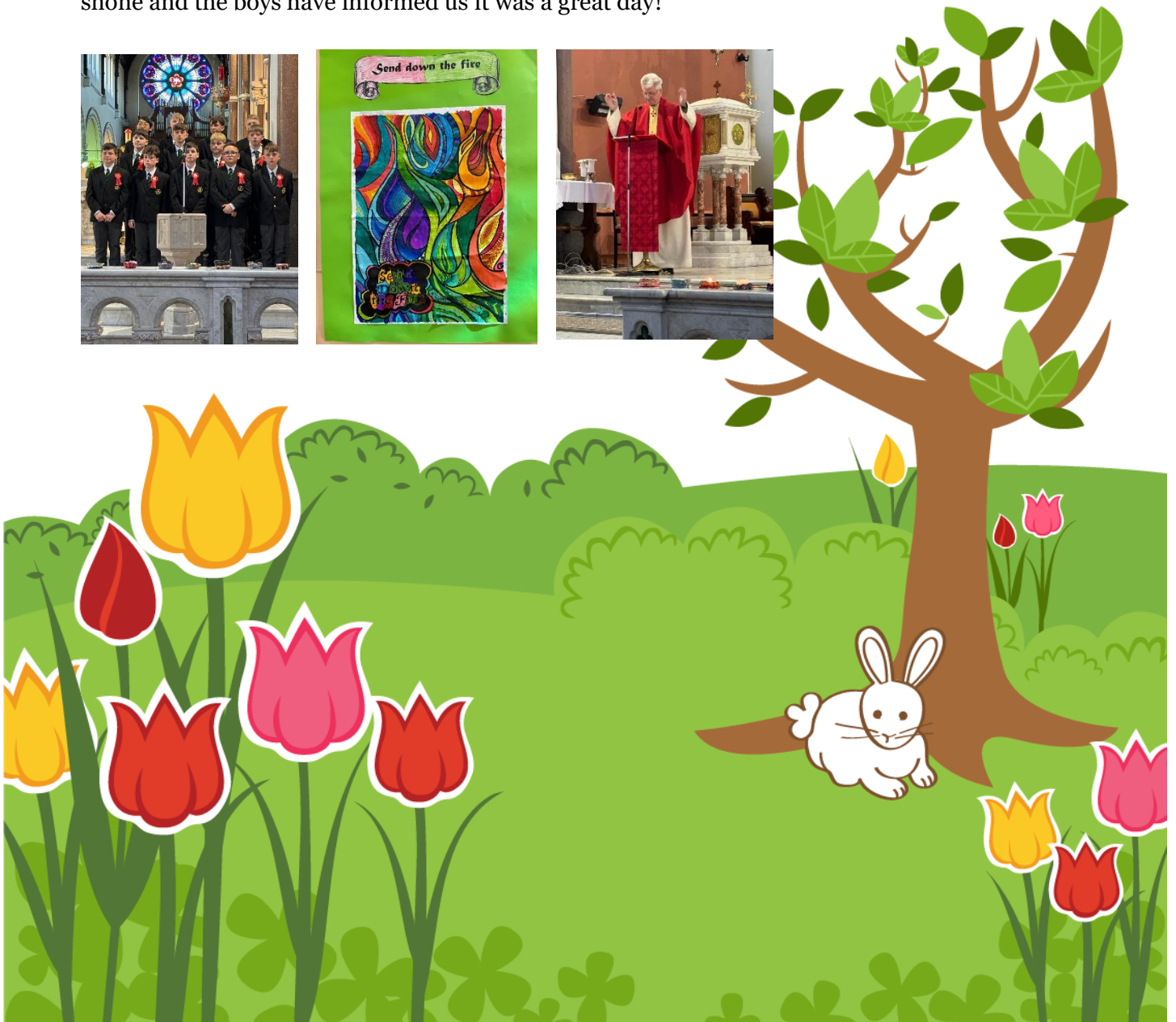
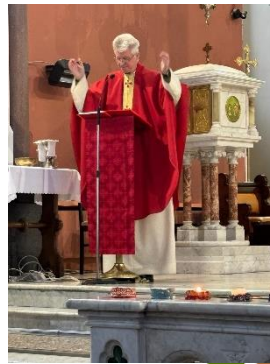
In March we welcomed two teachers and fifteen Year 6 boys and girls from St Ignasi, Barcelona to our school. They spent the week with our pupils and joined many of their classes. Our boys introduced themselves to our guests at our Monster Table Quiz where each visiting student joined a team of Irish pupils from sixth class.

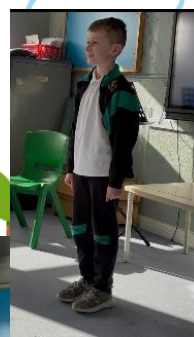
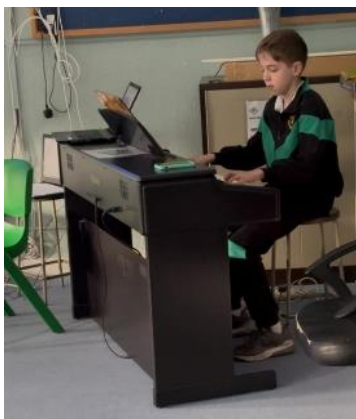
The socialising continued as the boys played 'board games' with our visitors and taught them our Irish rules. They learned about Ireland and our culture and received a lesson on cricket from our coach Fintan. They also learned some GAA skills and played some hockey too. They were treated to a concert where our Feis Ceoil winners and other talented pupils from our school entertained with poetry, song, juggling, drama and traditional/classical music.



Confirmation

The pupils of 6th class received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Joseph's Church on Thursday April 10th. It was a special ceremony for the boys where Fr. Dave Brannigan spoke about how receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is a milestone in a young person's life. The boys were commended by Fr. Dave for their dedication and hard work in preparing for the sacrament. Ms Harte and Ms Bleahene were thanked for their guidance and preparations for the day, and Ms O'Donoghue, our wonderful pianist provided the accompaniment for the ceremony. The sun shone and the boys have informed us it was a great day!





**Our talented
boys in action!**





Happy days!





**Lots of fun, learning
and celebrations!**

