

WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS TERM AT TCHP?

- ❖ International Feast Evening
- ❖ Coffee morning hosted by the Senior Class
- ❖ Infant Community Sessions
- ❖ Installation of AED Defibrillator
- ❖ Family Play on a Saturday Morning in the school garden
- ❖ Open Day
- ❖ Hallowe'en Party and Fundraiser - €2180 raised for The Children's Health Foundation
- ❖ Senior Classes Hallowe'en Concert
- ❖ Hallowe'en Camp
- ❖ World Book Day
- ❖ MS ReadAthon
- ❖ Christmas plays
- ❖ AIJS handwriting Competition – a Highly Commended place
- ❖ Continued visits to The Orchard Day Care Centre (Alzheimer's Society)
- ❖ New windows and insulation
- ❖ Senior Class featured on Ireland AM radio talking about MS ReadAthon involvement
- ❖ Ms Kuh at AMI events in India and Australia
- ❖ Erasmus student visitors
- ❖ Friendsgiving Rollerskating Party at The Rink
- ❖ Southside People newspaper article about TCHP

THE MONTESSORI TIMES

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Dear Parents

The theme of this newsletter is 'WRITING IN MONTESSORI' to show you the different phases the children go through within our school that finally culminate in writing and producing their own Christmas play.

As the Chairman of the AIJS (Association of Independent Junior Schools) commented this is the only independent school in Ireland where children write their own play!

How do the children arrive at this?

Do read on and enjoy sharing those moments together over the Christmas period of joyful chatting, card and thank you note sharing! As we know all forms of expression support the written word.

Wishing you all peace, joy and community for the Festive season and a joyful 2026!

**Micaela Kuh, Principal
and the staff at TCHP**

NEXT TERM'S DATES

- ❖ **MONDAY, 5 JANUARY** School re-opens
- ❖ **THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY** Parent Evening 'A Montessori Education and its Relevance Today'
- ❖ **MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY** St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday
- ❖ **FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY** Coffee morning hosted by the Middle Class
- ❖ **HALF TERM** 16 February - 20 February (school closed inclusive)
- ❖ **THURSDAY, 5 MARCH** World Book Day
- ❖ **MONDAY, 16 MARCH** School closed
- ❖ **TUESDAY, 17 MARCH** St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
- ❖ **FRIDAY, 27 MARCH** School closes at 3pm for Easter holidays
- ❖ **SATURDAY, 28 MARCH** School open 10:30 – 12:00 for families to play in the garden
- ❖ **30 March – 2 April** Easter Camp

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, 5th January, 2026



THE WRITING ROAD TO READING

As in all Montessori practice Maria Montessori believed in isolation of difficulty:

- In the 3-6 Classes the children are encouraged to develop oral expression and vocabulary – they play the Eye Spy game and learn how words are broken into sounds.
- With the sandpaper letters they learn what the sounds look like. They can then put letters together with the movable alphabet to form words. As they do this they are writing.
- Parallel to this they do Practical Life exercises to strengthen their pincer grip and then they use chalk to form letters. Finally after much preparation they are given a pencil.
- With coloured pencils they do the metal insets and eventually they write letters and numbers.
- In parallel reading emerges naturally.
- In the 6-9 Class they work on their penmanship. Fueled by their creativity and expanding imagination they write great stories, make comic books, do projects, take part in the MS ReadAthon activities nationwide and start to look at the grammar in their writing.
- Ongoing research feeds the intellect of the 9-12 Class children and they learn how to create PowerPoints, Calligraphy and take part in song writing.
- Over the years they act in each other's plays and in the last year of the 9-12 Class they write the Christmas play for the class performance.
- It is wonderful to look back at the children's journeys over the years and keep in mind the preciousness of the spoken word where it all began!