

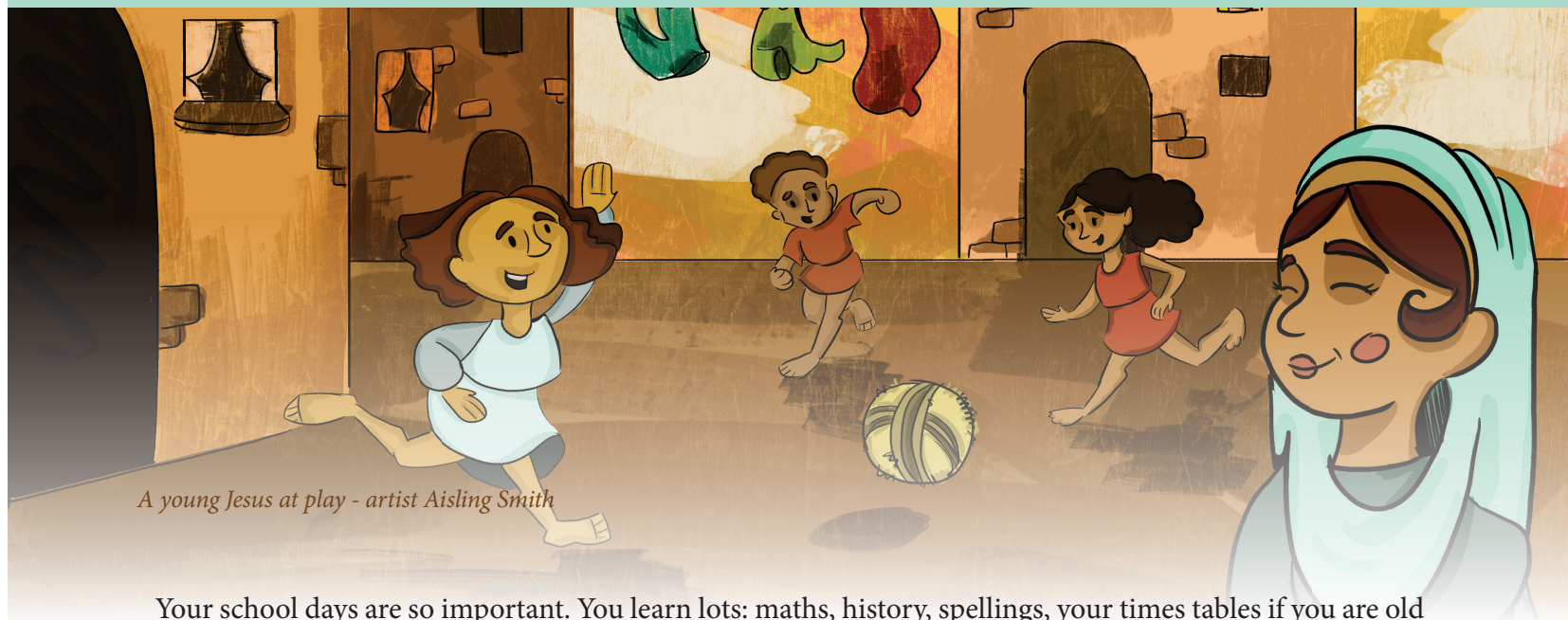


Bishop Denis Nulty
Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin

School Days in September

Imagine what Jesus was doing at your age? He was a normal boy growing up just like you are. He had to learn things. He had to make friends. I am sure he played sport too. Try to imagine what hobbies and interests he had? What are the things that you like - might he have liked them too? Try to imagine what his school days were like.

The Bible tells us that Jesus “grew in wisdom and stature” (Luke 2:52).



A young Jesus at play - artist Aisling Smith

Your school days are so important. You learn lots: maths, history, spellings, your times tables if you are old enough. But, in our schools, you learn a lot more too.

You learn how to share, how to be kind, how to include others. I think the most important thing you learn is how to make friends. Some of my best friends are those that I made when I was your age. In primary school, playing on teams together. Imagine what type of friends Jesus would have had in school? What were they like do you think? Would your friends be among them?

Last year and again this year our schools are a little bit strange. We are not able to do a lot of usual things. We are washing our hands a lot - but that is ok. We are doing all this for each other - to keep each other safe. Aren't we always being reminded at home to wash our hands!

Use your imagination again. God wants you to use it - that is why he gave it to you. What do you want to be when you grow up? Can I tell you something really important; something that Jesus teaches us; something that I now know - with God's help we can become anything, with his help we can do anything. So dream big and start today - you have lots of people to help you get there.

Don't forget to say thank you to your friends, to your teacher, to your family, to God. They are all there to help you, like Jesus did, to grow in wisdom and stature.

+Denis Nulty
Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin