

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

Christ the Saviour N.S
Ballingarry
Co.Limerick

WELCOME

Welcome to the Christmas 2020 edition of our newsletter.

As you will see, we have had a very busy end to term 1.

Our staff and pupils have been working extremely hard during difficult times to keep safe and ensure the safety of our entire school community.

Given the extraordinary circumstances in 2020 we are delighted to show you all the fantastic learning, fun and school spirit demonstrated by Christ the Saviour N.S.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter!

JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infants have had a wonderful half term and are well and truly settled into big school! This term, in Aistear, we learnt about working on the construction site and all about christmas in Santa's workshop.

We really enjoyed performing in our first Christmas Carol concert and we loved coming in every morning in December to see what mischief Twinkle the elf has been up to!

We have been extra good too lately so he will tell Santa how good we are! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all in Junior Infants.



SENIOR INFANTS

Trip To The Post Office

Senior infants learned all about the post office for Aistear during the month of November so we decided to take a trip to the post office.

We got to stamp and post their own letters for Santa. We were so excited! Take a look at some of the photographs that we took.



SENIOR INFANTS



SENIOR INFANTS

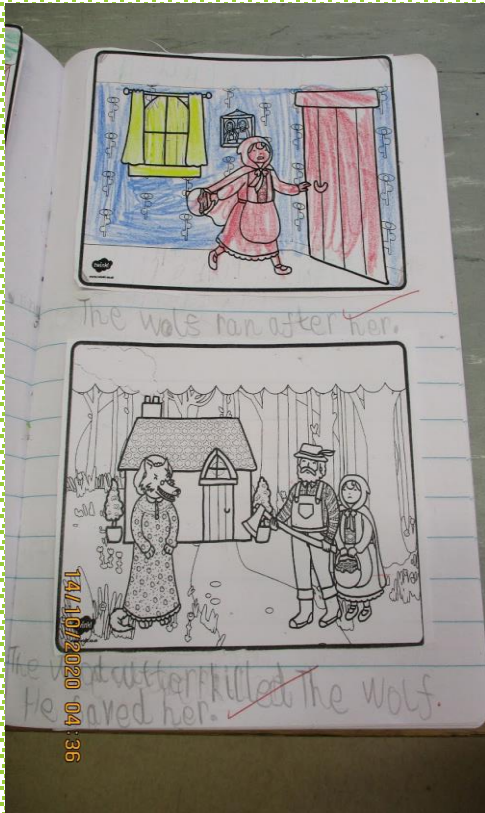
During December, Senior Infants were busy making their own Christmas tree decorations out of clay.

We made Christmas trees and baubles.

Here are some samples of our beautiful work.



SENIOR INFANTS



We have been busy learning all about narrative writing throughout November and December.

We learned that narrative writing must have a title and it must include characters, a setting, a problem and a solution.

We did some writing based on the stories of Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs.

1ST CLASS



Meditation/Mindfulness

First Class have begun to take some time out during the week to become a bit more mindful and create a bit more space in their eager to learn minds.

They have been exploring how a quiet mind is just as important as a busy mind and that sometimes it is nice to take some time out from school work, do a quick self check in

1ST CLASS



This term, first class have been challenged with designing and constructing different structures each week.

They have been busy building towers, paper airplanes, rockets, and catapults.

They experimented with different 2D and 3D shapes and discovered that triangles and tetrahedrons provided the best support and strength in structures. Many engineers use these shapes in their designs of bridges, cranes and buildings.

We studied the 3 S's of triangles - Support, Strength and Stability and tested them for ourselves.

1ST CLASS



Christmas Carol Competition/Lámh

This year, First class were successful in making it to the last 15 in a Nationwide Christmas Carol competition run by Audiology Medical Services.

They sang "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" using Lámh an Irish based sign language used by people with hearing and intellectual disabilities. They did a fantastic job and give huge thanks to the school community for supporting them throughout the voting stages of the competition.

This is just the start of their journey this year learning through Lámh, watch this space.

2ND CLASS

Pupils from 2nd class were joined virtually by Go Fly Your Kite who specialise in art and educational workshops. The workshop entitled **Up, Up and Away** engaged with pupils to discuss what sort of things fly and how do they fly? The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based workshop included exciting experiments based on gravity and aerodynamics.

The pupils then trace, colour and construct their own kites. All children construct their kite which is an important element of engineering in STEM. Finally, the class identified the do's and don'ts when flying their kites and keeping safe.



2ND CLASS



Second class were also busy exploring magnets. We learned that a magnet is an object that has a magnetic field (an invisible pattern of magnetism). A magnet attracts or repels other items. Magnets come in different shapes and sizes: horseshoe magnets, bar magnets, round magnets.

We worked scientifically to carry out a range of experiments

We even got to create our own magnets too. Look at some of our finished magnets.



2ND CLASS

Following on from second classes carol service where we sang 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' we decided that that we would do exactly that. We decided to adopt Hippopotamus.

Pygmy hippos are native to West Africa, with the largest population in Liberia. They live in dense forests near rivers and streams. They are good swimmers and have muscular valves that close their ears and nostrils when submerged. They have large and extremely sharp teeth, which they use for protection.

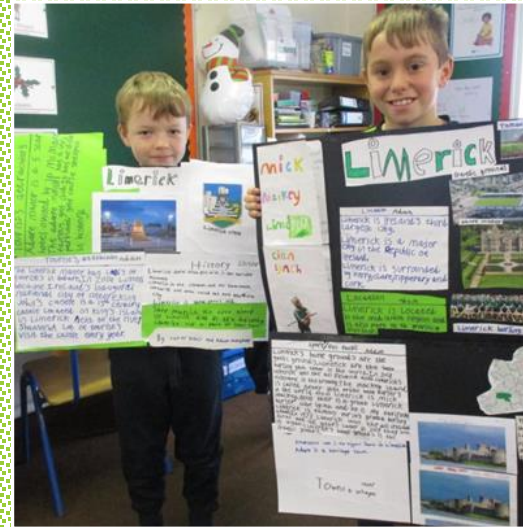
Pygmy hippos are herbivores. They uproot swamp plants which they bite with their lips and crush hard fruit with their teeth and strip leaves from shrubs and trees. They also eat leaves and grasses. Mothers defend their calf aggressively and they stay together for at least two years.



3RD CLASS

For the month of November, 3rd class learned all about Ireland. We learned about all about the provinces and counties in Ireland. Each pair then picked a county to research.

We spent time in school and at home researching and making our posters. We each presented our projects to the class. We enjoyed learning about different counties!



3RD CLASS

Talent Show in 3rd class

To celebrate the toy show, we had a talent show. Each child performed a talent to the class. Some people sang, played an instrument, showed a skill or read a story, etc.

We had lots of fun sharing our talents with our peers.



3RD CLASS



The sense of sight!

In our Grow in Love recently, we learned about the life of Helen Keller. When Helen was a baby, she was very sick and lost both her sight and her hearing. Helen was a great learner and she used her other senses to help her learn.



We put blindfolds over our heads and drew a picture without using our sense of sight. We shared our drawings with our pod group. We loved learning all about the life of Helen and we appreciate how important each sense is!

3RD CLASS

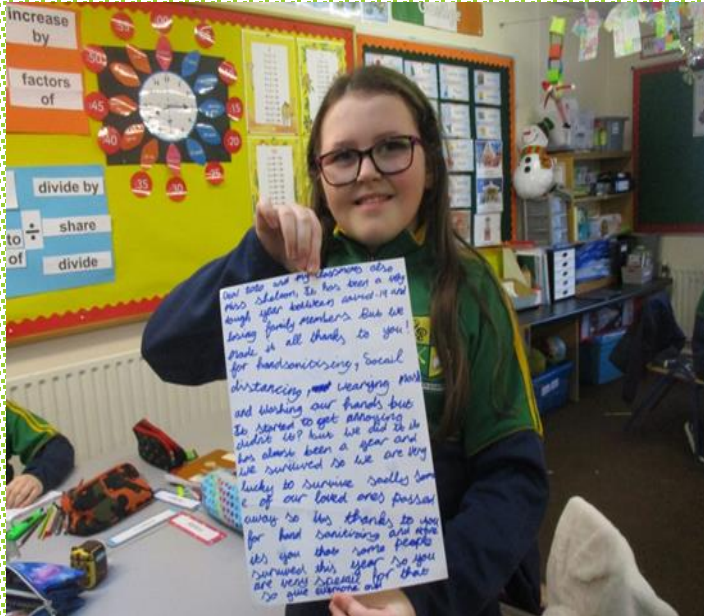
Continent research

For the month of December, each pod group researched a continent. We together compiled facts and created a travel catalogue for this continent.

We then in groups presented our catalogue to our classmates. We also had to convince Ms. Shelton on which continent she should travel to on her next holiday (in Covid free times)



3RD CLASS



A Christmas letter

Emily Jane in 3rd class recently wrote a letter looking back on 2020. Here is some of her letter;

“Dear 2020, my classmates and also Ms. Shelton. It has been a very tough year between COVID-19 and losing family members, but we made it all thanks to you! For hand sanitising, social distancing, wearing masks and washing our hands we did it, thank you. So give yourself a pat on the back this Christmas, you deserve it!”

3RD CLASS

OT News

Here are some of the wonderful activities completed during OT time this half term.



4TH & 5TH CLASS



Festive season was in full swing in 4th & 5th class. We completed a variety of beautiful Christmas art.

We tried to put together pieces we could recreate at home over the Christmas holidays.

We created snow globes using recycled jars, toys, glitter, water and glycerin. It was nerve wracking and exciting to see if they worked out when we turned them upside down.

Thankfully there were only a few little leaks that could be fixed with some silicone based glue!

4TH & 5TH CLASS



The children were very excited on the last Friday of November for the “Late Late Toy Show”.

We decided to focus on toys as our Oral Language topic that week. The pupils selected their favourite toys and completed a video presentation on SeeSaw.

It was wonderful to see the variety of toys from dolls to hurleys, trampolines and wrestlers.

We really enjoyed seeing everyone’s presentation.

4TH AND 5TH CLASS

Ms Tangney's pupils were very busy earning Class Dojo points for the month of December.

The pupils had to earn 825 to earn a hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream along with a Christmas movie.

The children worked hard in class and doing their homework, were kind to one another and their teacher and they surpassed their target!

Well done boys and girls!

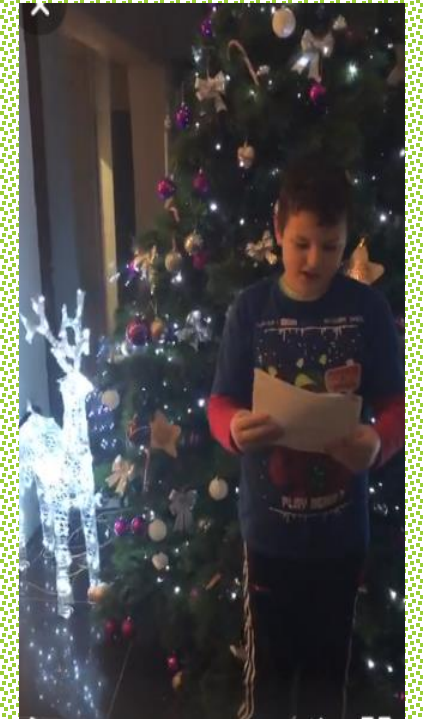


4TH & 5TH CLASS

4th & 5th class put in hours of work to plan, edit, draft and publish Christmas narratives.

The pupils then uploaded a storytelling session on SeeSaw for the pupils in the younger classes to enjoy.

As you can see the children put their best foot forward by dressing up, creating illustrations and setting the scene with a festive background. Some children even had Christmas songs playing softly in the background.

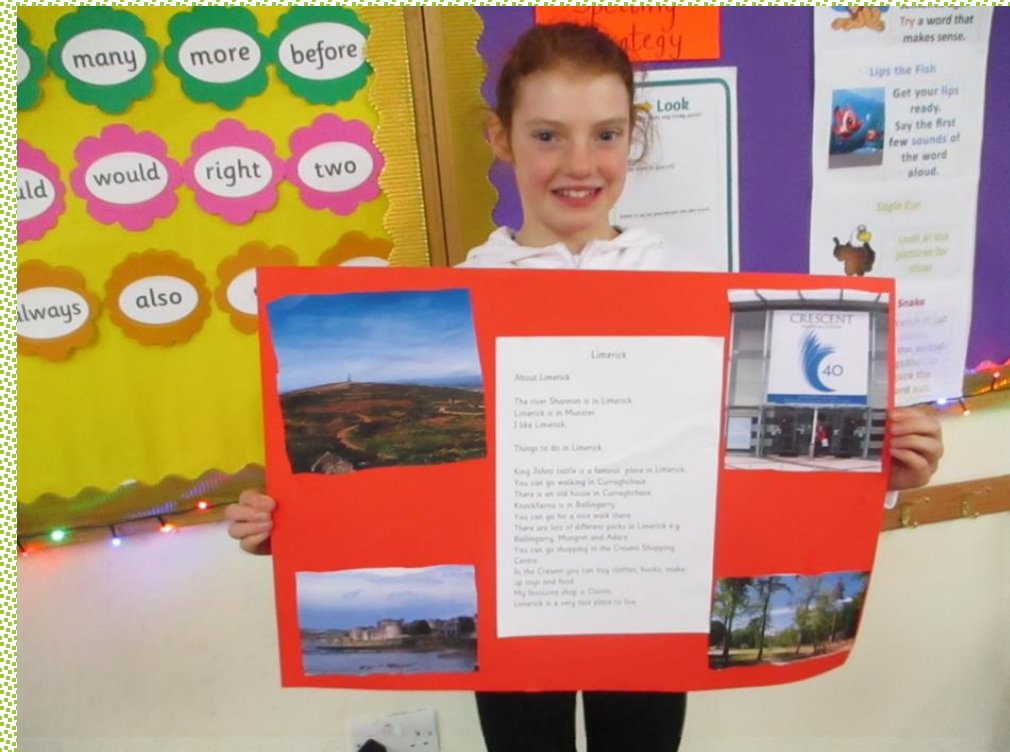


4TH & 5TH CLASS

After learning about Limerick in class, Lucy decided to type up a project to tell people about why Limerick is a great place to live.

Lucy picked out some of the lovely places that we can visit in Limerick like King John's Castle, Knockfierna and Curraghchase.

Lucy loves living in Limerick. Well done Lucy!



5TH CLASS MATHS



5th Class have been working very hard in maths this term learning lots of new things like long division, drawing and measuring angles, number theory and lots more. We finished off our term by doing a Christmas Maths Trail.

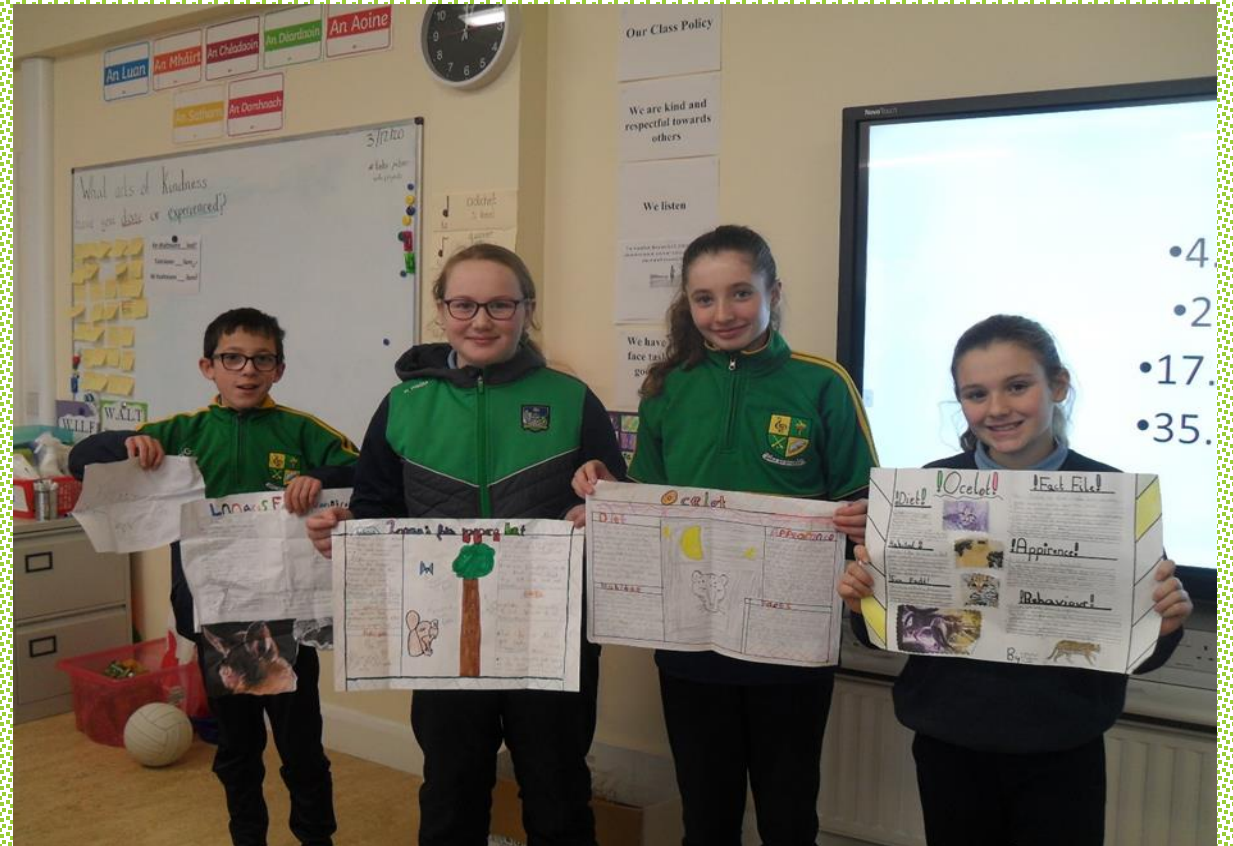
The class had to work in pairs and use their knowledge of what they had learned about place value, lines and angles, 2D/3D shapes and number theory to complete the trail. It was great fun!

5TH & 6TH CLASS

In 5th and 6th Class we did a unit of work on Mexico. In Geography we learned about what Christmas is like in Mexico, about a special festival called Dia de Muertos and about Mexican food.

We also learned about some of the unique physical geographical features in Mexico. The children enjoyed finding out about Copper Canyon, the Lacandon rainforest and the Chihuahuan Desert.

We learned about the different layers in any rainforest and in Science we researched different animals which can be found in the Lacandon rainforest. We each made a project on our animal and presented it on SeeSaw.



5TH & 6TH CLASS

In history we learned all about a very interesting ancient civilization who lived in Mexico called the Aztecs.

We created our mosaic Aztec masks and learned about some of the gods they worshiped.



5TH & 6TH CLASS

In English we learned about the painter Frida Kahlo and created our own self-portraits using her style.



5TH & 6TH CLASS

In P.E we learned a Mexican dance and in Music we learned some Mexican songs like 'La Bamba' and 'Feliz Navidad'. We loved performing them.

We even had nachos as a treat!



5TH & 6TH CLASS

We learned about the Fairtrade organization and about the production of chocolate from cocoa beans. We discussed the difference between wants and needs and found out that many cocoa farmers do not earn enough money to meet their basic needs.

We learned about how Fair Trade helps cocoa farmers by making sure that they are paid a fair price for their products. This allows them to improve their farms and make enough money so that their basic needs can be met.

We made posters persuading people to buy Fairtrade products. As a treat we even shared some Fair-Trade chocolate together. It was delicious!



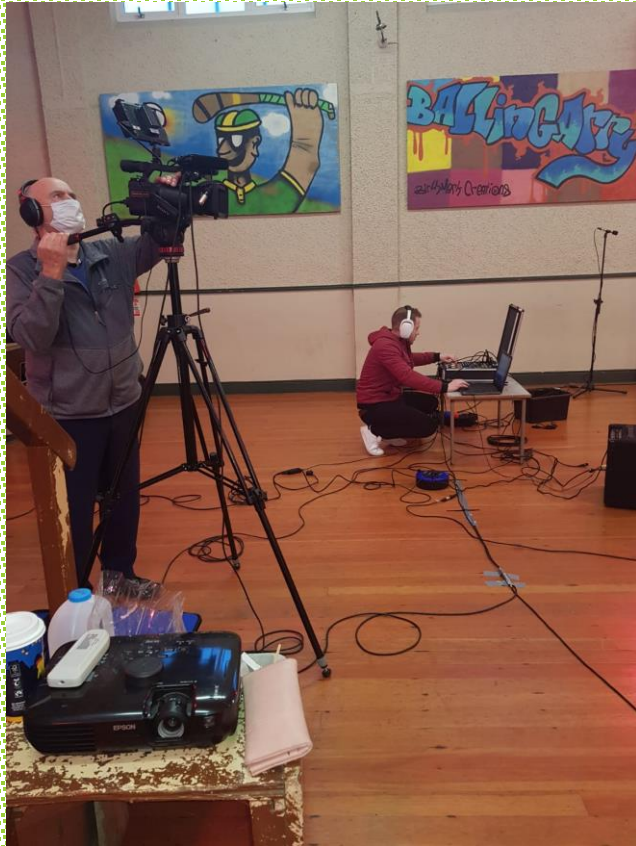
CHRISTMAS AT SCHOOL



CHRISTMAS AT SCHOOL



CAROL SERVICE



We held a very successful and enjoyable Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 8th December. It brought some badly needed Christmas spirit into the school. As usual our pupils did not disappoint on the day and gave it their all for the recording. Thanks to Jim Liston, Mr Flynn, Steve Tynan & Mrs Murphy for their expertise.

Thank you to our parents for supporting the school by buying the DVD/USB. A total of €884 profit was raised to spend in our school garden/outdoor classroom project.

GREEN & WHITE DAYS

In the run up to the All-Ireland Hurling final, we had 2 'Green and White' days. All the pupils displayed their county colours for the semi- final and the final. Granagh/Ballingarry GAA Club kindly donated sliotars to our school to raffle.

Some prizes were given for the best dressed supporters and some were raffled off. A big thank you to Granagh/Ballingarry GAA club for generously donating sliotars to our school.



GREEN & WHITE DAYS

A little splash of color can brighten up the day and when it's our 'Green and White' day to cheer on the Limerick hurlers in their All-Ireland performance against Waterford its truly fantastic.



ALL IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS 2020



On the 13th of December, Limerick were crowned All-Ireland Hurling Champions for the 9th time. We would like to congratulate Donal O' Grady and all of the Limerick team on this brilliant achievement. **LUIMNEACH ABU!!!!**



RAFFLE WINNER

A big thank you to Donal O'Grady and SPAR Ballingarry for donating a gorgeous hamper to our school for the Late Late Toy Show.

We raffled the hamper in class and Ryan in 3rd class was the lucky winner!!!



GRADUATION DAY



Huge congratulations to Ms Aherne who recently graduated from Hibernia College.

The graduation was held virtually.

We hope Ms Aherne enjoyed her special day!

We wish her continued success in her teaching career.

FAREWELL MS BARRY

Ms Barry our second class teacher will be sadly leaving our school once term one is complete. She has been such a hard working and dedicated teacher we are very lucky to have had her on staff.

Even though we are sad to see her leave we wish her all the best in her new teaching role.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs McHale back in the new year.

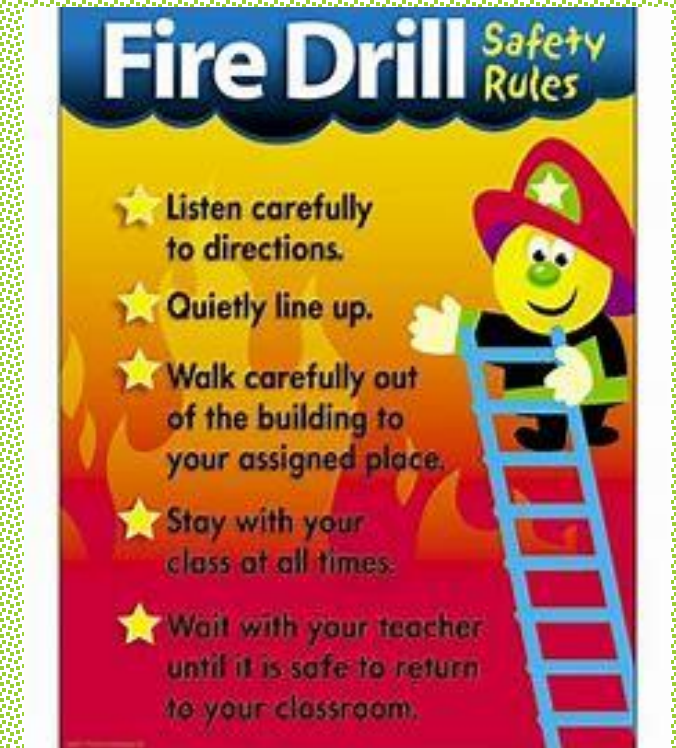
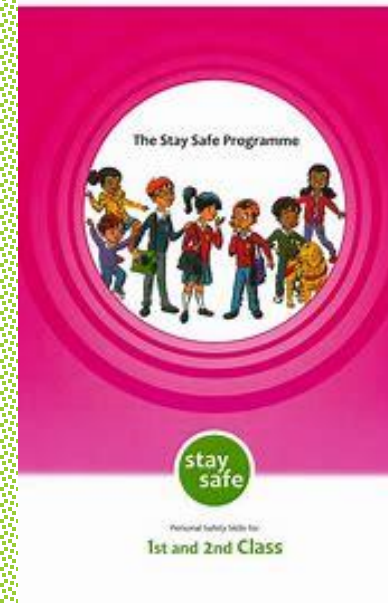


SAFETY AT SCHOOL

For the end of term 1, the entire school has been focusing on implementing the Stay Safe programme at school.

We also completed a fire drill with the whole school adjusting very well to the new layout adhering to Covid19 regulations.

Well done to all the pupils and staff on their continued dedication to safety at school.



CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION WINNERS

In the month of October, each class took part in the Credit Union Art competition. This year's theme was 'IMAGINE MORE'. As usual, the standard produced from the boys and girls in our school was exceptional. Congratulations to the following winners:

Donagh Morrissey 3rd Class

Aibhlinn Looney 3rd Class

Lucy Quaid 5th Class



PARENTS COUNCIL

Wishing all the pupils and their families a very happy and safe Christmas from the Parents' Council. Thank you all again for the fantastic support for our recent Clothes Drive. We collected an unprecedented volume of bags. Thank you also for your co-operation in adhering to social distancing and keeping as safe as possible. Many hands make light work and thank you to all of you that helped load the two van loads. As mentioned in an email that went out from us through Aladdin, the format for collection was different this year. Gary took the bags back to his depot in Galway. He is currently sorting through them and hopes to have the total of money raised for us before the holidays. Keep an eye on the Parents' Council Whatsapp group and Aladdin for updates. We have not been able to hold an AGM yet this year to elect the Council members for 2020/2021. We will take guidance and advice in January as to how we could safely do this and I will let you all know via Aladdin.

Kind regards,

Aisling Relihan, Secretary/PRO



ADVENT — A TIME OF PREPARATION



Advent is a time of reflection and preparation for the Christmas season. In our whole school sacred space there was an Advent Acts of Kindness wall for the entire school.

We each got to select an Act of Kindness that the whole school take part in every day in preparation for Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

Kate and Mrs Murphy put up the school crib and indoor decorations. Kieran Irwin delivered our beautiful outdoor tree.

Every class has been busy learning about the Nativity and singing beautiful carols.

It really is the most wonderful time of the year!

ANONYMOUS DONATION

A very kind and generous anonymous donation of €500 was made to the school recently. The family who made the donation requested that the pupils and staff be treated to something nice before Christmas, as a token of their appreciation of the school over the years. The remaining money will go towards the school garden/outdoor classroom project. Thank you again to our generous donor, it is very much appreciated.



A VISIT FROM SANTA ON MONDAY 21ST



Santa called to visit us here at the school on today Monday 21st at 11am. Mrs Murphy got a big fright when a loud knock came at the door of the office just as she was starting the whole school assembly. Then I heard the sleigh bells ringing and I knew who our mystery visitor was. Santa joined in our assembly and loved hearing about our wonderful pupils. He delivered some treats for the boys and girls to enjoy at home and of course.... NO HOMEWORK!! Thank you Santa, 4 more sleeps until you see us all again.

COVID 19

The school is coping very well in these difficult times. I am glad to report that our pupils, staff and parents are continuing to work hard together to protect one another at this time.

We ask the community for their continued support in trying to keep this virus out of the school. This may pose further challenges in the New Year but we will work hard to keep safe and be vigilant about our hand hygiene and Covid-19 protocols. A reminder to those who intend to travel abroad over the Christmas holidays, you must quarantine/self-isolate as appropriate on your return. Also I would like to remind parents about the Attendance Notes facility on Aladdin for absences, late arrivals and early leaving. Using the app will eliminate the use of the sign in/out book in reception.



A VIRTUAL HUG

A hug for everyone

We would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas. Here is a virtual hug from all of us to you!!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

We wish you a very health and happy Christmas with your families. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Wednesday 6th January in the New Year.

