



# Summer Newsletter 2021

Christ the Saviour N.S.



# Read All About It....

- \* Since our Easter Newsletter, all our pupils have been so busy here at school.
- \* We have had Teddy Bear picnics, climbed Knockfierna, had Active schools week, had a manic 'Fun Day', had a visit from Garda Brian Murphy, had our 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation, had First Penance for 2<sup>nd</sup> class and lots, lots more.....
- \* Take a look .....

# Junior Infants

- \* Junior Infants have had a fantastic third term. Here are some of our favourite activities we have done recently:
- \* We really enjoyed our Teddy Bear's Picnic in the park!
- \* *Aedín*, our lollipop lady and Brian, our local Garda, popped in to visit us and tell us all about their jobs.
- \* Our favourite day was the School Fun Day!
- \* Check us out ...

# Junior Infants



# Junior Infants



# Junior Infants



# Senior Infants

- \* Senior Infants have been very busy during the month of June. We have been doing lots of fun activities!
- \* This month for Aistear we have learned all about the garden centre. We learned about the different things that plants need and we thought it would be a good idea to plant some different seeds. Take a look at some photos that we took!
- \* In English we were learning about Procedural Writing and we decided to make some rice krispie buns. After making them we wrote about the different things that you need to make rice krispie buns and how to make them. Our favourite part was getting to eat one afterwards!
- \* Two weeks ago we had a fun trip to the park for a Teddy Bears Picnic. We got to play in the playground, have a picnic with our favourite teddies and we even got to have ice creams at the end of the day. It was a great day out, we had so much fun!!
- \* We were very lucky that we had three new pupils join our class during the year. We have all had so much fun together this year and are sad that it's over but we are so excited for our summer holidays!

# Senior Infants



# Senior Infants



# Senior Infants



# Senior Infants



# First Class

- \* First class has been learning and practicing their basketball skills for the past 4 weeks.
- \* They even used their basketball skills to explore the beat, rhythm and pulse of different songs.
- \* Check out our video on the school website to see us in action.

# First Class Basketball



# First Class Lámh Signing

- \* First Class were busy learning the Lámh alphabet and how to say their name through Lámh.
- \* If you see one of the First class make sure and ask them to show you a few signs.
- \* Check them out ...

# Lámh Signing



# First Class Procedural Writing

- \* First Class didn't realise how good procedural writing could taste when they got to make Rice Krispie buns in class and write up the recipe and instructions afterwards.



# First Class at the 'Fun Day'

- \* First Class gave it their all during this year's fun day and had an action packed day to round off a very busy year for them.
- \* They enjoyed programming Bee bots to complete challenges and make their way around obstacle course and they built Lego robots and programmed them to move using iPads.
- \* They then made their way over to the GAA pitch where they partook in relay races, obstacle courses and even managed to get their hands on some water balloons towards the end of the day.
- \* Take a look....

# First Class 'Fun Day'



# First Class 'Fun Day'



# First Class Nature Walk

- \* First class recently went on a nature walk down to the local park in Ballingarry. One of their tasks was to go on a mini beast hunt where they collected and examined insects in their natural environment.
- \* First class enjoyed using the schools pooters, magnifying glass bug viewers, and insect nets and we learned all about the bugs we collected on our return to class.
- \* We then enjoyed eating our lunch on the picnic benches down at the park and had some surprise ice creams to help cool us down after our busy day.

# First Class Nature Walk



# First Class Literacy Lift Off

- \* First class have just finished taking part in the Literacy Lift Off programme. This is an early intervention programme for helping literacy and writing levels. It is a daily literacy hour where first class in collaboration with other teachers will work on a range of literacy activities.
- \* Here are some of the stations first class enjoyed over the past 6 weeks.
- \* Familiar Reading  
Pupils read previously seen PM+ Readers.  
Purpose: Development of enjoyment, fluency, comprehension and speed.
- \* Word Work  
They use magnetic letters on the whiteboard to make and break words.  
Purpose: To show children how words work, so that they can make a fast visual analysis of their reading.
- \* Writing  
Pupils write sentences based on their own experiences, using words that they encounter in their readers.  
Purpose: That they will learn how they can write their own messages by hearing and recording sounds in words, using analogy and learning unusual words.
- \* New Reading  
Encountering new texts each day challenges the pupils to discover new ways to go beyond their current operating ability and lift their literacy processing.  
Purpose: Pupils learn to use strategic activities to read new texts.

# Literacy Lift Off



# When First Class met Sgt. Dave Callanan and Garda Cathy Healy



# News from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

- \* What a busy term we have had!! Many of our activities are already on show on the school website, [ballingarryns.com](http://ballingarryns.com). Check it out if you wish to see lots and lots of photos from this term. (Best viewed on a tablet or PC due to slideshow feature)
- \* **First Holy Communion**
- \* Pupils are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion. They have done an excellent job so far. I am so impressed with how well they have represented the school in the church, and on our walks through the village. All of us in the school wish them well on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

# Second Class Art

- \* This term we studied several artists. We enjoyed learning about the work of Frank Stella, Damien Hirst and Bruno Torf.



# Second Class Art



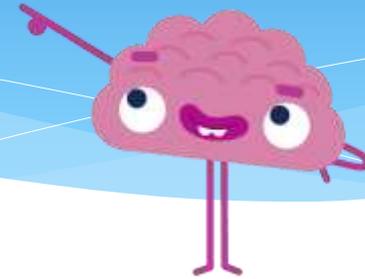
# Second Class at the 'Fun Day'

- \* We had such a fantastic day!! A mixture of sport, Art and technology, something for everyone to enjoy. We started the day in the GAA pitch with a giant game of rounders. We also completed the obstacle race and did some races. Mrs McHale was definitely the fastest 🏃 .
- \* At lunch we discovered that there are some fantastic pop singers and dancers in the class. After that we attempted to make slime. Some people, who stuck with it, made slime. Others made a mess. Still good fun though.
- \* Once that was over, we came inside to work on Lego WeDo. This is a type of Lego that can connect to the Lego Education App via Bluetooth. Groups made Mars rovers, windmills, glowing snails and other Lego creations. They used coding to create movement, colour changes and sound effects.

# Second Class 'Fun Day'



# Second Class 'Fun Day'



# News from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class:



## Yes day

- \* 3rd class have been working very hard since the Easter break and won the reward of a YES DAY! For our Yes day, we went to the park. We played lots of games, visited the playground and got to eat our lunch there.
- \* We returned to school and made some pinch pots using clay. We all made different styled pinch pots which we painted after.
- \* We got to ask Ms. Shelton lots of requests during the day: she could not say no! We asked for extra yard time, PE, Art, sweets and some dojo points. We all enjoyed the day!

# Yes Day in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class



# STEAM in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

- \* For the last few months, we have taken part in lots of STEAM activities working together as a team. We had a challenge of making the tallest spaghetti tower using only spaghetti and masking tape; it wasn't as easy as it looks!!
- \* We also made some bridges using recyclable materials. We had to plan our design before we made it. We then made our bridges and gave them a name.
- \* Some names included The Sparkle Bridge, The Sponsor Bridge, The Sky Bridge, etc. We tested the bridges with toy cars to see if they were strong and well-designed.
- \* Take a look ...

# STEAM in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class



# STEAM in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class



Active Learning: We have been playing lots of Maths games recently to make sure we know our multiplication and division tables. We love practicing our tables through



# Fun Day in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Class 'Fun Day'



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Class 'Fun Day'



# Friendship Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May



# News from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class:

## Shadows

- \* In Science we learnt about how shadows are created. We learnt that when objects block light it creates a shadow. We also learnt that the position of the sun in the sky can have an impact on the size of the shadows. We completed an experiment to show this. We outlined shadows made by the sun and observed how they changed through the day.

# Shadows from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class:



# More Shadows



# Volcanoes in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class:

- \* We learnt all about Volcanoes, how they are created and where in the world some of them are found.
- \* We then made our own volcanos using recycled materials and papier mache.
- \* Once the Volcanoes were finished we completed and eruption of the volcanoes using vinegar, baking soda and food colouring.

# Our Volcanoes



# More Volcanoes:



# Volcanoes:



# STEAM in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class:

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> were challenged to create a marble run from recycled materials.
- \* They had to ensure that the marble would successfully complete the course they had created.
- \* They worked together in groups and made some fantastic marble runs.
- \* Check it out ...

# STEAM in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class:

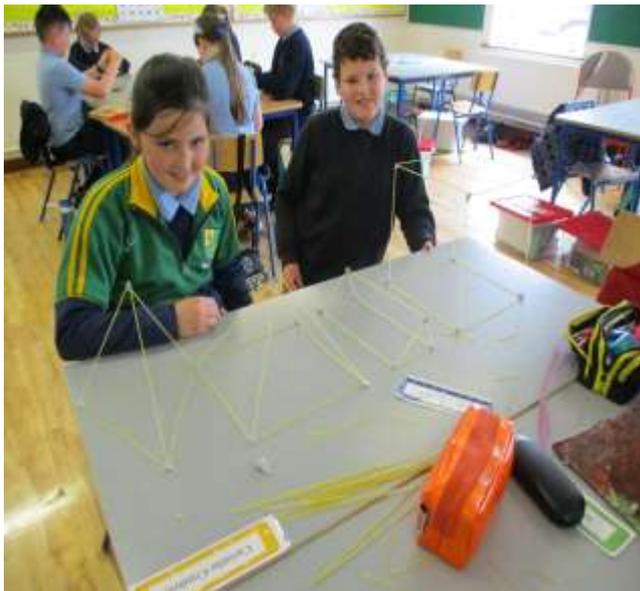


# Marble Run Pictures:



# 3D Shape work in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class

- \* In maths we learnt all about different 3D shapes. We looked at how many corners, edges and faces each shape had.
- \* We then completed a challenge to make some 3D shapes using uncooked spaghetti and blue tac.



# 3D Shape work in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class



# News from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class:

## Guest Speaker

- \* This month 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class had guest speaker Pat Courtney in to talk to them about secondary school and to answer questions they had on the differences between primary and secondary school. They looked at timetables, discussed how to manage homework, strategies to help them keep organised and who to go to if they need help.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation:

- \* 6th Class had their graduation ceremony on Tuesday 22nd June. The ceremony took place outdoors with family members present and we were delighted with the beautiful weather!
- \* Fr Tom Carroll kindly joined us to lead the ceremony and many other hands pitched in to make it a very special day.
- \* Thank you to Mr Flynn for being our sound engineer for the event and to Mrs. Murphy for her help during the ceremony.
- \* A big thank you to Kate, our school secretary who made a cake for all our pupils to enjoy.

# Graduation Day



# More from Graduation Day:





# Goodbye to 6<sup>th</sup> Class

- \* All the staff at Christ the Saviour N.S would like to wish our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils the very best of luck in their new schools next year.
- \* Ms O' Sullivan is very proud of all you have achieved this year and knows that you are ready for the next chapter. Remember to come back and visit us!



# Sporting News

- \* Well done to Danny O'Grady in 5th Class who is partaking in the Desmond U13 soccer trials. He took part in the third stage of the trials on Sunday 27th June where he was one of 44 players left out of 124 players in the first round. Best of luck Danny!



# Active School Week 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June

2021

- \* A big 'Thank You' to Ms. Shelton for organising a most enjoyable and fun-filled 'Active Schools' week.
- \* Our pupils had 5 busy days filled with various activities to exercise their bodies and put smiles on their faces.
- \* Click on to see what we got up to...

# Monday

- \* On Monday, we kickstarted our Active Schools Week with a Dance Day. Each class were guided through a HIIT/Dance style workout to some popular pop songs. We also played musical statues . There was lots of excellent dance moves on display from everyone. Thank you to Ms. Shelton, Ms. O'Sullivan and Mr. Flynn for leading the dance day.



# Tuesday

## \* Tuesday: Athletics Day

- \* On Tuesday, each class went to the local GAA field. The focus today was Athletics where each child got the opportunity to take part in hurdle races, long jump, long throw, sprint races and team relay races. The classes also played lots of games with the focus being on movement and having FUN!!



# Wednesday

- \* **Wednesday: GAA day**

- \* On Wednesday, each class got the opportunity to travel to the local GAA field. Sean O'Connor from Granagh/Ballingarry GAA club helped out with our matches and skills challenges. The classes got to play some hurling and football on the day and plan some ball based games. We also celebrated Cumann na mBunscoil on Wednesday by holding a Jersey Day. Thank you to Granagh/Ballingarry GAA club for all their support and the use of their pitch throughout our Active Week.



# GAA Day



# Thursday

## \* **Thursday: Soccer Day**

- \* On Thursday, each class went to Ballingarry AFC soccer pitch. Each class played some soccer matches and took part in a penalty shoot out. Past pupils Anthony Forde and Nicole McNamara came to the field to meet each class. Anthony and Nicole both started out their soccer careers at Ballingarry AFC. The pupils had lots of questions for them and really enjoyed meeting them both. Thank you to Ballingarry AFC for the use of their pitch and also for giving each child a drink and fruit after their busy day.



# Friday

## \* Friday: Sports Day

- \* As tradition, we finished off our Active Schools Week with our Sports Day. Each class took part in our novelty sports races; 3 legged race, egg and spoon race, sack race, wheelbarrow race and sprint races. We had lots of fun and really enjoyed all the activities throughout the week. Thank you to all the pupils for taking part in all the activities with such enthusiasm and to all the staff for organising the activities each day.





# Knockfierna Trip

- \* 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class enjoyed a trip to Knockfierna on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. They had a great day with Ms. Foley, Ms Hanley, Marion, Mrs. Murphy, Ms O'Sullivan and Ms Ahern. A huge 'Thank You' to Tadhg and Eileen Keating for providing a free bus shuttle service to get us there and back safely on the day.



# Knockfierna Adventure:



# More from Knockfierna



# Shared Reading Experience

- \* Junior Infants enjoyed some story time outside in the school yard. They listened to the story Hello World being read aloud by our 5<sup>th</sup> class pupil Lucy Quaid. Lucy asked all the pupils to pick out their favourite parts of the story at the end. It was a lovely afternoon.



# Gardening in progress

- \* Some of our pupils have been busy creating beautiful flower pots. The pots were looked after each day by the pupils and they enjoyed watching the flowers bloom over the last few weeks.



# Wildflowers from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

- \* Mrs McHale planted some wildflowers with 2<sup>nd</sup> class earlier in Spring. The bees in Ballingarry are celebrating this week to see all the beautiful flowers blossoming just before the summer holidays.





**Good News Alert!!!**

**8<sup>th</sup> Mainstream Teacher  
Sanctioned for September  
2021**

**\* We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our school has been sanctioned an 8<sup>th</sup> mainstream teacher for 2021/2022 following a staffing appeal application submitted by the Board of Management.**

**\* We currently have 202 pupils on our roll books. This teaching post has been granted for the school year on a temporary basis. This teaching position will be appointed during the summer holidays.**

**\* Based on our enrolment figures of 206 pupils for September, our school will be sanctioned a permanent teaching position for the school year 2022/2023.**

# What does this mean for our school?



Our enrolment figures have grown.

For the first time in the history of our school, we will have 8 mainstream teachers in September 2021.

**No class will have to be divided or split** as we have had to do in previous years. Our pupil-teacher ratio is greatly reduced as a result. The sanctioning of this teaching position will benefit all the pupils in our school.

In September, we will have a total of 11 teachers – 8 mainstream, 2 SEN teachers and an administrative principal. We also have 2 SNA's and a full time secretary.

# Best Wishes to Mr Keogh



- \* Mr Sean Keogh has been on career break from Christ the Saviour NS for the past 2 years teaching in Belfast. He has made the difficult decision to continue his teaching career in Belfast.
- \* On behalf of the Board of Management and teaching staff of Christ the Saviour N.S., we would like to sincerely thank him for his dedication and commitment during the years he taught in our school in the SEN setting and also with 5<sup>th</sup> class.
- \* Mr Keogh started teaching with us in 2014 and made a big contribution to the SEN department of our school. Mr Keogh was always great fun and the pupils and staff will miss him.

# 'Thank You' to John Joe

- \* A big thank you to our caretaker, John Joe for his support throughout the year.
- \* John Joe is always on call to help us out with moving furniture, setting up the pitches and lending a hand in any way possible.
- \* The hard work that you do daily does not go unnoticed each day.
- \* Thank you John Joe.



# Covid-19 Update

- \* We are very grateful to say that, due to the dedication of our pupils, staff and parents we have managed to keep our school community as safe as possible from Covid-19 during this academic year.
- \* Our pupils have adapted so well and the support from you, our parents has made our job so much easier to do.
- \* We wish you continued good health and hope you keep safe over the summer holidays too.

# Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling (SSPS) Inspection on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May

- \* Our School Inspector, Carmel O' Doherty visited the school on Friday 14th May and carried out an inspection called "Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling". This inspection focused on what Covid-19 procedures and policies the school has implemented to ensure pupils and staff are safe.
- \* Carmel viewed the school's Covid-19 Response Plan and all relevant policies. She conducted a walk through the school and yard and viewed all the changes to our school building to help ensure the school is a safe place. She also visited three classrooms: Junior Infants, 1st class pupils and 4th/5th class and also the SEN setting.
- \* She spoke with pupils in these classes and was very impressed with their behaviour and how they have followed the Covid-19 procedures such as hand washing, hand sanitising, working in PODS etc.

# Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling (SSPS) Inspection on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May

- \* Carmel also conducted a Child Protection inspection as part of her visit and viewed our school's Child Safeguarding Statement. We are fully compliant in all areas. No recommendations were issued. Carmel spoke very highly of pupils and staff and thanked them for their diligence in adhering to the Covid 19 guidelines. She thought we had a lovely school building, beautiful classrooms and yard/school field area. This was a very positive report from our school inspector.
- \* Thanks to all staff, pupils and parents/guardians for their co-operation throughout the year to help keep our school a safe place.

# News from Parents Council

- \* Greetings to all our pupils, staff, parents and guardians from the Parents' Council. Given the year that we have had, there hasn't been a lot to report from the Parents' Council. We were unable to hold our AGM due to the restrictions so the existing Council remained in situ with the exception of Claire Gilbourne moving to another role in the Board of Management. Since her departure I have been acting as Secretary as well as Public Relations Officer. Gemma Brady is our Chairperson and Louise Kelly is our Treasurer. Hopefully we will be in a position to host an AGM in the Autumn and will be welcoming new nominations for these positions.
- \* We had another successful Clothes Drive in May and raised €360. Thank you to everyone who donated and assisted in gathering and loading the bags in a safe manner.
- \* We donated €500 towards the Whole School Fun day on June 16th and everyone really enjoyed themselves.
- \* We only recently discovered when we were settling our account in O Grady's that Donal O Grady donated the contents of the Halloween Goodie Bags we gave out before Halloween. Thank you Donal for your generous gift and apologies for not acknowledging it in the Halloween Newsletter but we didn't know at the time.
- \* We also sponsored the Easter Eggs which were raffled to each class before the Easter holidays.
- \* We hope everyone has a great and safe Summer and look forward to seeing you all back in September 2021. Best of luck to all our 6th class boys and girls heading off to secondary school.
- \* Kind regards,
- \* Aisling Relihan, Secretary/PRO

# Happy Summer Holidays!

- \* We wish all our pupils a healthy and happy summer break. We wish our 6<sup>th</sup> class well as they begin their next chapter in Secondary school.
- \* We will look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 9:00am

