

KNOCKANEAN N.S

Newsletter

December 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As Christmas approaches we are finishing a very different first term of the school year. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions a lot of the activities that would ordinarily taken place, had to be cancelled or curtailed. However ,the children still managed to achieve a lot and this is a brief summary of some of the events that did happen in school since we returned to school.

Intel Mini Scientist:

Normally in the run into Halloween 4th – 6th classes take part in the Intel Mini Scientist competition. This year this programme went online just in time to coincide with the celebration of National Science Week 2020 The core theme for Science Week 2020 was ‘Science Week - Choosing our Future’ and focuses on how science can improve our lives in the future, and in the present. It is hoped this will help students explore how science can help us to make positive choices that will impact the environment, our health, and our quality of life.

Classes 2nd – 6th were signed up for this online programme and they received a series of science related videos which are accompanied by activity packs including detailed lesson plans and work sheets with additional information guides for students.



Junior Infants : Shona

Yard Games:

Shona's junior infants told us all about the yard games they play. Shona taught us how to play the following yard games.

Ship Wreck is a game where you have to do different things when the following words are said....Starboard, Port, Scrub the deck, Steer the boat.

Quoits where you have to throw a circle onto a stick. You get three chances to do it. Hula Hut is a game where you have to make a tent using hoola hoops. You use 4 hula hoops and then you have to put one on top. Its difficult.

Bowling is where you roll a ball and try and knock down skittles or as many as you can. If you knock them all down and if you only knock some down you half win. You only get three goes

Frost and Sun. 2 people are frost and one person is sun. If the frost tags you , you have to freeze and if the sun tags you then you become unfreezed!!

We really enjoy playing these games at break times

By Eoin Erskine, Alan Mc Donogh and Hannah Smyth



Junior / Senior Infants : Niamh

During Science week Niamh's Juniors and Seniors did experiments. In one of the experiments we put Mentos into diet coke and it made a big explosion. Another experiment was the "Dancing Raisins" We put some raisins into ordinary water and some raisins into fizzy water. The raisins in the fizzy water started jumping up and down because of the carbon dioxide in the water. The raisins in the ordinary water just sank, all except one and we don't know why it stayed up. In another experiment we put skittles around a plate and we then poured hot water onto the plate and the skittles went into the middle of the plate, the colour came out of them and it all mixed together. "The Gummy Bears" was another experiment we did. We had 3 cups and we put one gummy bear into each cup. We left one gummy bear on the table not in a cup. We put vinegar in one cup and it caused the gummy bear to get massive and it was camouflaged in the water. In another cup we put salt and here the gummy bear got small. In the 3rd cup we put water and the gummy bear stayed the same. We left one gummy bear out so we could compare it with the others. We really really enjoyed doing these experiments.

By Alfie Higgins, Finn O' Dwyer, Tessa Cosgrove and Katelyn Cullinan.



Senior Infants

In Sinead's seniors we did an experiment called "Dancing Raisins". We put raisins in two cups. In one cup we put normal water and in the other cup we put in sparkling water. In the cup with the normal water the raisins sank but in the cup with the sparkling water the raisins danced because of the carbon dioxide in the water.

We also made hedgehogs out of clay. We used clay, matchsticks and googly eyes. We gave all our hedgehogs names.

Cards for the nursing homes: Each of us made a card for somebody in a nursing home because they have nobody to visit them, they might be lonely and the card would give them something to look at and something to read. We used card and then we used our handprints to draw out the antlers for the reindeer. Sinead then cut them out and stuck them onto our card. On the outside of the card we put Snowmen and Rudolf

By Daniel Giller, Oisín O Malley, Molly Fahy and Ciara Reynolds



Bird in the room.

When we came back from outside we saw a robin flying around our room. He stopped and sat on a line where all the Art and Craft was hanging up. He flew up high and rested on the high up windows. We think he was a bit scared and didn't know what to do. We had all the windows and doors open and he tried to get out but at the last minute he flew back into the room. Sometimes he would swoop really quickly around the room and we had to duck our heads. We had Michéle, Mary, Madge, Mr Curran and then Michelle came in and 22 pupils looking at the robin....nobody could get him out. Eventually he found his own way out the window.

By Alison Casey, Kayla Hanrahan and Ellie O'Brien



2nd class: Building Projects

The full class had to do a project on any building either one that already exists or a fantasy building. The building could be made from any material, cardboard, wood, egg cartons, tennis balls etc.. We created models of some of the following buildings: The White House, The Great Wall of China, Áras an Uachtaráin, Kellehers Castle, Urquhart Castle, Riding Stables, The Grand Pier, and NASA Space Centre. One pupil even created a model of what the new school will look like. Because of Covid 19 we couldn't bring them in, so we uploaded them to Seesaw and then presented them to the whole class. After we presented them the class got an opportunity to ask us questions. We really enjoyed doing our projects and seeing other people's projects.

By Ellie O'Keeffe and Lily McMahon



3rd Class: Colm

Colm's 3rd class told us about some of the differences in school since September. In class usually we can mix with other tables but now when indoors we have to stay in our pods. Even when writing this we are all from the same pod. Sometimes it's hard to stay in your own pod, particularly when some of your friends are in other pods. A lot of events have been cancelled like Halloween, football and hurling training and competitions, cross county running, the Intel Mini scientist, Music Club, Drama, Homework club, no footballs during break time. We also can't give high 5's or hugs. Today writing this was the first time since September we were in the main building. It's particularly difficult for junior infants as they have still to experience school life without restrictions. They haven't got a normal start. It's also difficult for staff because they have to have separate breaks. It's more difficult to correct work and we have to go back over stuff we missed from 2nd class. We're spending longer on Maths, English, Irish, SPHE and PE than normal. We're not doing as much Art, Drama or Music as we used to. We also have to keep the windows and door open and sometimes it can get cold. We also have to wash/sanitise our hands 4 or 5 times per day. We're looking forward to normal school resuming.

By Jessica Hassett, Cadhan O'Loughlinn, Emily Mulcaire and Daire Cullinan



Random Acts of Puppetry:

Both 3rd classes on Nov 24th watched the "Random Acts of Puppetry" by Tommy Baker, which is a new online puppet theatre for Clare primary schools delivered through Zoom. Shows have been designed for all ages, containing a mixture of storytelling, the legend of Billy Goats Gruff and a variety act which has been fine-tuned to each individual audience. We loved watching the Troll and the Billy Goats which was really funny!

Each session ends with a guided tour of the puppetry workshop and a Question & Answer session. It took approximately an hour. We are one of 16 schools in County Clare participating in this innovative and exciting new puppet theatre platform.

By Isabella Mangan, Johnny Brennan and Ella Johnson

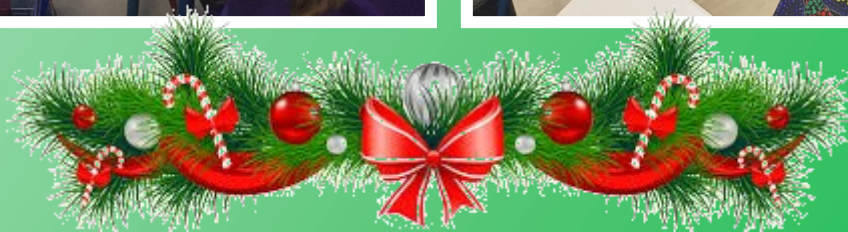


4th Class:

Climate Action STEAM Programme:

This is the first comprehensive curriculum aligned climate change programme for primary schools. 4th class, over a period of 6 weeks, were one of only six primary schools in Clare to take part in this programme. It involved a zoom call every Thursday for the 6 weeks with Evelyn Sorohan environmental artist and teacher. It lasted approx. 90 minutes. We learned about climate change, we made art based on climate change, we made houses and cars of the future, we did experiments on melting ice, we watched a video on the ice caps from 1860 to the present day and how much they have shrunk. The aim of the whole project was to educate us about climate change and to get us to tell other people about us. Its aim was also to get us to burn less fossil fuels and to use the correct bins for our waste.

By Erin Kennedy and Cillian Sullivan



5th Class

Projects:

Covid 19 . The aim of our project was to learn all about Covid 19. We researched the information in groups of two or three on the internet. When we had all the information gathered we presented it on a chart to the class. We got guidelines from Jamie on what to include and then we could choose ourselves what to include from these guidelines.

Clare County Development Plan 2022 - 2028:

5th class decided to give their input to Clare County Council in what should be included in their plans for the future development of Ennis and the surrounding areas like Knockanearney ! Before we started we watched a video explaining on what the project was about. The headings we submitted ideas on were “Your Local Area”, where we suggested wider roads, cycles lanes, more footpaths and more recycling areas. Under the “Heading Community and Recreation” we suggested a green area where you can go for a walk and to develop the quarry as a leisure area and a playground. Under the heading “Environmental and Climate Change we suggested more charging points for e cars and more pickers for picking up rubbish in public areas. We are really hoping the Clare County Council take our suggestion into account and implement them!

By Síofra Quinn, Leanne Dixon and Ailbhe Curran



6th Class

Advent Calendar:

6th class decided they'd have an Advent calendar this year. We have assigned a fun activity to every day in December, for example skip a subject, extra break during the day, watch a movie, bring in treats, go for a walk, paint the windows, decorate the classroom etc . We made an Advent calendar on the wall and we each designed a door. Behind each door is one of our surprises. Every day Michelle gets a pupil to open a door and reveal what's the surprise for that day. The only person who knows what's behind each door is the person who designed it.... We're really enjoying it!

By Aoibheann Moore, Hayley Dixon, Naoise Kelleher and Amy Reynolds



SOME OF OUR ARTWORK IN THE CORRIDORS AND CLASSROOMS

Junior and Senior infants



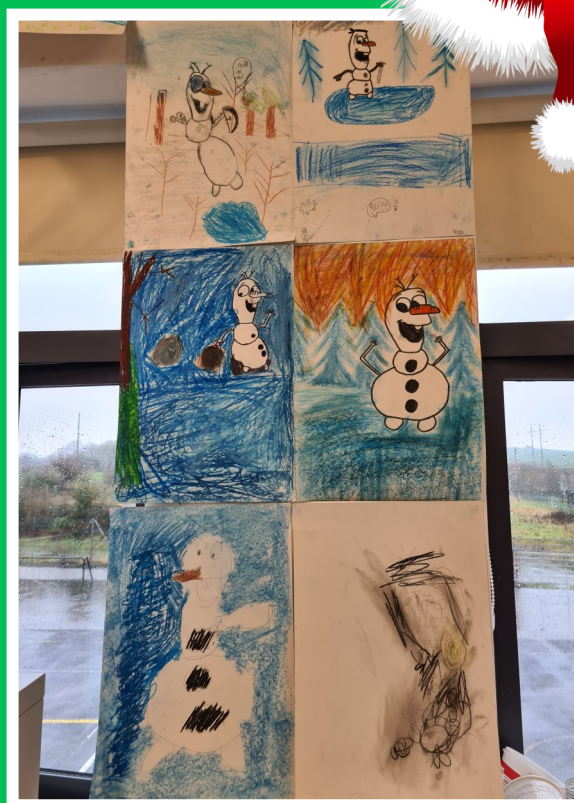
First Class



2nd Class



3rd Class





Creative Clusters:

The purpose of this pilot scheme is to demonstrate how the creative practices can support clusters of schools to work together to address common learning challenges over a two year period. It aims to:

- Promote new ways of working and collaboration between schools and the arts and cultural sector
- Improve teaching and learning
- Provide an opportunity for clusters of schools to experiment, innovate and collaborate on the design, implementation and evaluation of a bespoke creative learning project
- Develop the creativity of learners and teachers
- Understand, whether clustering schools at different stages of their journey in using the creativity in the classroom and in developing longer term partnerships is an effective model for developing and embedding practice in schools.

The Creative Clusters scheme provides schools with access to creative people, skills and resources and supports them to draw on their own skills and experiences and those within their wider communities. This year we have teamed up with CBS Ennis and St. Anne's Special School Ennis .

This year both first classes will be collaborating (virtually) with the CBS and St Anne's on a project called "Into the Woods". The "Happy Out Forest School" will be providing a 6 week programme in Lees Road for the 3 schools. The children will learn about the biodiversity of the woods, through the Forest School Experience. Our aim is to collaborate on an app/website based on these learning experiences .



Christmas Cards:

This year we wrote Christmas cards to the elderly in Clarecastle Daycare Centre, Cahercalla Day Care Centre, Cuan an Chlair, the Alzimers Society and St Josephs Hospital. We wrote these letters to lighten up their Christmas and moods. We put a lot of thought, time and effort in to these cards. The pupils in 6th class wrote letters to folks in Clarecastle Day Care centre. Everyone was assigned a person in the day care centre to write to. Some people added things like scratch cards, crosswords, paintings, books, artwork etc. Everyone wrote a card and a letter which was approximately a page long. These cards are now delivered to the various daycare centres in Ennis. They will be quarantined for a number of days before they are delivered to the old folks. We really hope these cards will make their Christmas a little bit better, because this year has been very difficult for everybody especially our elderly. A sample of some of these cards can be seen on our website.

By Sean O Callaghan, Oscar O' Gara, Kate Mc Donough and Kate Mc Mahon



Covid 19 Policy review:

The following policies were reviewed since September to reflect any changes in our Response Plan for reopening.

Code of Behaviour

Acceptable Use Policy

Equality Policy

Anti Bullying policy

Anti Cyber Bullying policy

Child Protection Policy

Data Protection Policy



Building Update.

As mentioned in a message on Nov 24th, it is planned that we will relocate to Doora Barefield GAA grounds at Gurteen for the duration of the build on this site. This is of course subject to planning permission being approved. If it is, then a temporary prefabricated school will be built in Gurteen, consisting of classrooms, special education rooms and offices. When we find out more we'll let you know.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our school community- parents, pupils, Board of Management, Parents Association, teachers and staff for all their hard work, dedication, commitment and help, in what has been a very busy and strange term.

Finally, I just want to thank you, the parents, most sincerely for your cooperation, support and patience since we opened on Aug 27th. I want to thank you in particular, for the responsible manner in which you adhered to the protocols and guidelines issued for reopening. We, as a staff, are delighted at how things have gone since we reopened in late August and we couldn't have done this without your help and support.

Your children have been amazing since we returned. This wasn't easy for any of them as they had to adjust to new routines and restrictions on a lot of activities that they enjoyed.

On behalf of all here, we hope you and your family can make the most of this Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Stay safe and take care.

Jim

Merry Christmas!