

# ***KNOCKANEAN N.S***

## **Newsletter**

## **June 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the summer holidays approach we are finishing a very different last term of the school year. This newsletter is a lot shorter than usual when pupils would normally write about the various in school and out of school activities that took place since Easter. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 restrictions a lot of these activities had to be cancelled or curtailed. However below is a brief summary of some of the events that did happen here since Easter. Before we get into the pupils descriptions of these events, I just want to thank you most sincerely for your cooperation, support and patience since we opened on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 throughout this year, since reopening on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, and we couldn't have done this without the help of you, the parents.

Your children have been amazing all year. This wasn't easy for any of them as they had to adjust to new routines and restrictions. A lot of the activities they enjoyed had to be either cancelled or severely curtailed, but they just got on with it and made the most of what we could offer them. We are massively impressed with the way your children responded to the sacrifices asked of them in what has been , no doubt , a challenging year .

We wish 6<sup>th</sup> class all the best as they leave us and move on to secondary school to start a new chapter in their lives. We thank them for their enormous contribution to the school over the last eight years.

We wish John all the best as he also leaves us after 29 years to start a new chapter in his life. We thank you John, for your enormous contribution to teaching and learning in Knockanean. We thank you for the way you minded and looked out for each and every pupil you taught, not to mention the staff who were lucky enough to work with you and learn from you over the years. May you have a long, healthy and carefree retirement!

Finally, on behalf of all here, we hope you and your family can make the most of the summer and we look forward to seeing you all on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>.

Stay safe and take care.

Jim

# TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Shona's Junior infants along with Niamh's Junior and Senior infants and Sinead's Senior Infants brought their favourite teddy to school for a Teddy Bear's Picnic .

Great fun was had with lots of treats and even the teddies managed to sneak a few treats!!

After the treats, the children played games and they performed their dances that they have been learning for their teddies and showed Michelle's 1st class some of the amazing dance moves that their teachers had taught them.





## The Forest School

Our school has been involved in a Creative Cluster for the past 2 years. This initiative aims to bring together a number of schools in an area to share ideas and learn together. Our journey this year began after Easter when the restrictions lifted. Due to covid we did not meet up with the C.B.S and St. Anne's Schools in our Cluster, but we kept in contact remotely. Both first classes took part in the Happy Out Forest School for 8 weeks. It was a precious experience during such an unusual time in our lives when so much has changed. We took part in a wonderful adventure in the woodland, building dens, making clay forest creatures, taking part in scavenger and bug hunts and learning about the animals of the forest. We made flower and leaf bunting, musical clackers which we played under the leafy canopy of the trees and enjoyed the freedom of learning together, in and through nature. We had such fun and made precious memories together. Not only that but we also created art work for an app created by the three schools. Colm and David Forde created the app for us and we populated it with our artwork and questions. The app is a lovely way to engage in a learning adventure with friends. You have to answer a series of questions to move through the game and complete the round. We launched our app on the 4th of June in Lees Rd. Environmentalist Éanna Ní Lamhna came to launch our app for us. We had a great day and had such fun playing it on the day. We were so proud of our lovely drawings. A huge thanks to Colm and David for their guidance and hard work. We carry with us great memories of this lovely time together.







On Monday we went on a bus to meet our pen pals in St. Joseph's hospital. When we were there we got ice-cream, malteasers and orange. We got to meet our pen-pals and have a little chat with them. One of our pen pals sang us a song. We had made a mural and friendship bracelets for them. We each made a sign with our pen pals name on it so they could find us.

Second class.









## *The Spheros Experience*

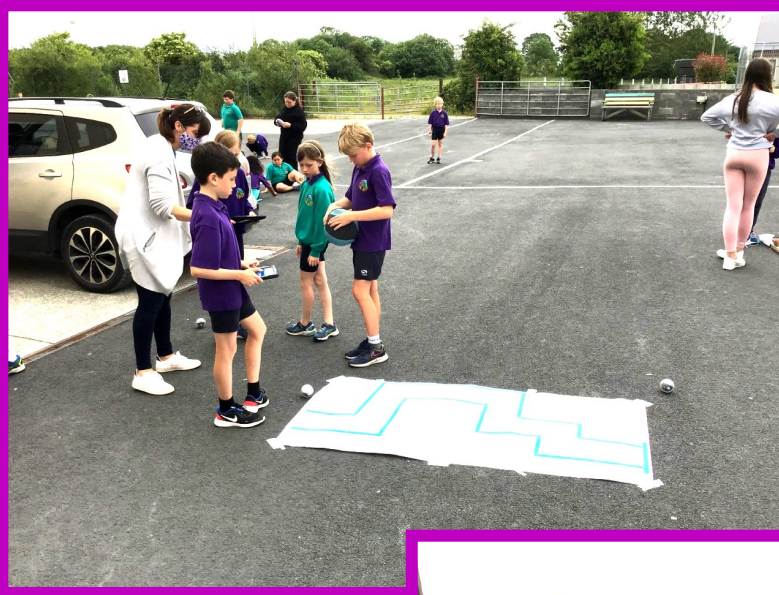
Today we controlled cool robots called Spheros they had a few modes including the coding mode, painting mode and the main one joystick mode. The Spheros were small robotic balls with sensor and lights. We also had 5 stations, a bowling to help our aiming, a city to move around a map of Ireland to help with finding target places and a maze to help with accuracy and a painting one for the fun of it. We could also change the colours on the top of the Sphero, we could aim them with included joystick in the app. The experience helped our engineering and coding skills. There were three people helping us one at the map, one at the paint area and the last person helping everyone on every station. It lasted one hour in total. Every station lasted ten minutes.

It was a very fun experience for all of us.

Written by Cadhan and Jessica (3<sup>RD</sup> Class)









## ***LEES ROAD***

On the 1st of June 3rd to 6th class took a trip to Lees Road. When everyone arrived the teachers organised the classes into groups so we could begin.

Our 1st activity was with Michelle. We did the spud and spoon race and the 3 legged race with partners. We also had a relay race and wheelbarrow race. Then we had a snack before going to Mr. O Reilly where we played 2 new games a bit like dodge ball and capture the flag.

We went on a nature trail with Saoirse and Aileen and when we came back the ice cream van was there! After the ice cream we had a soccer league with Jamie and circuits with Mr. Mullen. Each teacher had something different planned at their stations and it was very enjoyable day.





# *Some Sports Day Pictures*





## *Some More Sports Day Pictures*





## *Sixth Class Cycle to Tulla*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 6<sup>th</sup> class cycled to Tulla. We set off around 10:00 and arrived back to the school at 2:30. We went with the teachers John and Michelle. We cycled around 15km to get to the playground in Tulla followed by going up a very steep hill which paid off as we got to go to the shop after. After we sat down and ate some food we started the 15km back. In all we cycled 30km.

Though it was a long journey it was all ok as we enjoyed all the beautiful sights. We want to pay a big thanks to the teachers, John and Michelle for coming along and keeping us safe as well as the parents for giving us permission.

By Aoife Sullivan and Maeve Barry.





## *End of Year BBQ*

