

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



*Take a look back at several events
and activities that occurred
during the final term of the
2023/2024 school year in
Knockanean N.S.*



»»» Active Schools Week



Active Schools Week took place in our school during the week of the 10th of June. The Active Schools committee came together with Shona to decide what activities we would do for Active Schools Week and on Sports Day. Some of the activities that we decided to organise were rugby, hurling, dance, yoga and many more. A number of coaches and parents also got involved in the activities during the week. We also did Wake Up Shake Up every morning with the whole school. During Wake Up Shake Up we did activities like movement skills and exercises. We also organised two Sports Days for the school.

The first Sports Day for the senior classes was on Monday the 17th of June, and the second Sports Day for the junior classes was on Wednesday the 19th of June. On each Sports Day the sixth class pupils organised many stations for the rest of the school to participate in. The stations included three-legged races, wheelbarrow races, dodgeball, basketball, beanbag throwing, obstacle courses and more. There were also sprints and long distance races at the start of the day. Overall, we had a great time during Active Schools Week, and our favourite parts included the races and the rounders station.

By Mia Connellan and Kacper Pawlowski.







»» Farm Animals Visit

One Friday morning in March the infant classes received a visit from four little piglets and one lovely hen called Rose. Two parents kindly brought in some of their farm animals to visit the classes as we were learning all about the farm and spring in Aistear. We all gathered in Michelle's infant classroom, and firstly the piglets came in. Rua and his father Colm brought in four newborn piglets. They were only one day old! We all got a chance to hold the piglets and they were really cute. They started squealing because they were a bit scared but we could calm them down by rubbing them. We learned a few facts about the piglets then, including that they love potatoes and they also eat meal and grain. Colm also told us that they had over ten thousand pigs on their farm!

Then Pippa and her father David came in with Pippa's pet hen called Rose. She told us that Rose was a Rhode Island hen, and she had lovely red and orange feathers. We learned that Rose liked to eat seeds and grain. She also lays one or two eggs every day. Pippa's dad took Rose out of her crate and he let everyone stroke her. She felt really soft and she had so many feathers! Rose was not very scared as she is used to people at home. We also learned that sometimes the foxes try to come and attack their hens, and once the fox got two hens but luckily Rose was safe! It was nice to see the animals and it was so fun to have them in our classroom!

By Macy O'Dwyer and Aoife Corry.



>>> Junior Infants School Tour



On Wednesday the 29th of May, the junior infants went on their school tour to the Burren Nature Sanctuary. Michelle, Sinéad and Doireann came with us on the day. We went on a bus and travelled to the Burren. When we got there we put our bags inside and we went back out to the playground. We got to play at the big playground for ages, and there were big slides, monkey bars, obstacle courses, swings and tyres to play on.

After the playground we went inside to the indoor play area. There were more big slides, a rock climbing wall and a zipline. We then had some lunch inside. We also got to see some animals like pigs, horses, goats and more. There was one old goat and two sheep that were having a fight! We got to feed the animals some nuts that we each took from a big bucket. We then went to the fairy garden and there were lots of fairy doors and cool creatures. We then got back on the bus and returned to school. We had the best day ever!

By Robyn McNamara and Conor Kennedy.

>>> Senior Infants School Tour

On Thursday the 13th of June the senior infants went on their school tour to Moher Hill Pet Farm. We left on the bus at 9.30. It took us about an hour to get there on the bus. Sarah, Michelle and Claire came with us on the day. When we got there we put down our bags and then headed out to see the animals. Martin greeted us and showed us all of the animals. Some of the animals that were there were llamas, ostriches, sheep, goats, rabbits and many more. We got to feed all of the animals except the ostrich as he would have pecked our hands! The teachers also got to feed the emu, and he had a very sharp bite! We then got to bottle feed a little lamb and we got to hold and pet a cute rabbit called Peter.

After we saw the animals we had lunch and then we went into the ball pit and bouncy castle. We then went outside and had so much fun in the playground, especially on the merry-go-round which we spun so fast on! Finally, we went to the go-karts and the sand pit. The go-karts were really hard to drive and there were lots of people crashing into each other! We then got on the bus and said goodbye to Martin and the girls at Moher Hill Pet Farm. We had a great day and it was the best school tour ever!

By Ellie Kerr and Séadna Waters.





»» First Class School Tour

On Monday the 17th of June, first class went on their school tour to the Galway Aquarium and Coole Park. We left school at around half nine. First we stopped at Coole Park. We ate some lunch and went to a big tree and started playing tag around there. We then explored the park and we went on a rock climbing board. We stayed at the park for about an hour. Then we got back on the bus and we went to the Aquarium. When we arrived we ate the rest of our lunch and then headed inside. We split up into two groups and the tour guides met us.

They then brought us to see the fish which were inside the tanks. There were fish like nemo, jellyfish, starfish, stingrays, baby sharks, shrimp, an octopus and more! There was also a really dangerous fish that stayed in the corner of one of the tanks. We then moved on to see a big ship and the bones of a blue whale. The final stop of the day was the playground. There were swings, slides, monkey bars and see-saws. We got back to school at around half three. It was a great day out and our favourite part was when the fish splashed water out of the tank!

By Darragh Carolan, Ruairi Mockler, Layla-May Watson, Fiadh Skerritt and Lucy O'Keefe.



»» Second Class School Tour

On Monday the 24th of June, both second classes went on their school tour to Turoe Pet farm. Amy, Mary, Shona and Ursula came with us on the day. We left on the bus at around ten past nine. When we arrived we had a snack and then we went to the play area called Jungle Town. This area had slides, a ball pit and obstacles. We spent a while in Jungle Town and then we went to the huge bouncy castle area, which had the biggest bouncy castle in Europe! There were huge slides and different areas on the bouncy castle and even Amy and Shona had a go on the bouncy castle!

After the bouncy castle we had the rest of our lunch and then we went to the pet farm to see all the animals. There were goats, pigs, sheep, hens, llamas, alpacas, a crocodile, a peacock and more! We got to feed them nuts and seeds and some of the animals licked our hands so much. There were also tiny rabbits that we got to hold. To finish the day, we played in the outdoor playground for a while. We played on the swings, see-saws, slides and a climbing frame. We then hopped back on the bus and we sang loads of songs on the way back! We arrived back to school at around three o'clock. It was a great day out and definitely the best day of school this year!

By Emily Giller, Aaron Hassett, Alan McDonogh and Aidan Williams.





»» Forest School

We participated in forest school for six weeks with Doireann and Claire. Every Thursday we all went up the back hill to a place with lots of trees. There were twelve pupils participating each week. Every day when we started we gathered in a circle to play some games like hide and seek, feelings games and animal games. We then sang a song about the Guardian tree. On a number of days we learned to use tools like hammers, sticks, a lighter, peelers, etc. We also got to make a lot of things like clay pots, crowns and other things.

We also did some cooking and made smores over a fire with marshmallows, and elderflower juice. It was all very delicious! Most days we got to play in the mud as well which was so fun! We jumped up and down and we didn't go too dirty because we all had wellies on. The weather was different on each day, some days were very sunny and on another day we got very wet! We also set up a hammock and a covering canopy to sit under when it was raining. We really enjoyed our time each week at forest school, and our favourite parts included eating smores and playing in the mud!

By Adam Callinan, Gareth Harte, Boo Christopher Gibbs and Malachi Longley.

»» Third Class School Tour

On Tuesday the 18th of June, third class went on their school tour to Craggaunowen and Newmarket Playground. We left on the bus at ten past nine, and we arrived at Craggaunowen at around ten o'clock. A few of the tour guides met us and split us into three groups. There were three different activities and each group went to one activity. The first one was to visit the boars, the fulacht fiadh, the crannóg and more. The second one was weaving using string, and the third one was making wattle and daub and clay pots. We had about forty five minutes at each activity and then we swapped around. In the middle of the day we had lunch.

After the activities we went to see the Shetland ponies. They were so close to us and we got to rub them! There were also four hens called Lunch, Dinner, Breakfast and Maggie. We also saw sheep, donkeys and cows. After our time in Craggaunowen, we got back on the bus and headed to Newmarket playground. There were slides, climbing towers, ziplines, swings, sand, tyres and many more fun things! We spent about an hour at the playground. We got back on the bus after that and returned to school at twenty past three. We had a great day out and our favourite parts were the playground, the weaving and the wattle and daub.

By Laoise Scully, Mollie Barrett and Hector O'Halloran.



»» Fourth Class School Tour

On Wednesday the 19th of June, both fourth classes went on their school tour to Lahinch. We left on the bus at around ten to nine in the morning from Fahy Hall. We arrived in Lahinch at around ten o'clock. When we arrived we went to Ben's Surf Clinic and the instructors told us how to put on the wet suits. A lot of us had not been surfing before. Once we had the wet suits on, we were split into groups and we put on different coloured t-shirts with our groups. We then each got a surfboard and carried them down onto the sand. They demonstrated some moves to us on the surfboards, like how to stand, paddle and control the surfboard. We then got the chance to try out surfing in the water and it was tricky at first, but we began to get the hang of it. The waves were steady, and not too strong. The weather was beautiful on the day and it was really sunny! We also played a few games like who could do the best moves on the surfboards. We spent about two hours in the water and it was so fun.

After that, we got changed and had a shower. We then had lunch on the benches near the beach. We also got the chance to go the shop to buy a few sweets and drinks. We then went to the playground and we had so much fun that we nearly broke the swing but luckily we didn't! There were also slides, ziplines and other fun things at the playground. We got on the bus after that and arrived back at school at around three o'clock. We had a great day out and our favourite part was learning how to stand up on the surfboards!

By Feidhlim Sullivan, Mia Hedigan and Donnacha Mockler.



>>> Fifth Class School Tour

On Thursday the 6th of June, fifth class went on their school tour to Derg Isle Adventure Centre. We left on the bus at 8.40am. It took about forty minutes on the bus. Firstly we went on a zipline. We had a race between the boys and the girls to see which group could all go on the zipline faster. The boys won by a few seconds! After this we did some activities in a barn, like the floor is lava, rock climbing and a new game for us called minefield.

The next activity was a boat race on the river, and the girls were in one boat and the boys in another. After a close race the boys won again! Our final activity of the day was pier jumping and we had several turns jumping into the water from different heights. As it got higher it got a bit more scary, but most of us jumped off of all of the piers. On the way back on the boat we had to lie down to keep warm as we were so cold from being wet. We then had our big lunch and the next activities of the day were kayaking and a splash attack in the kayaks. Our final activity was an obstacle course where we had to overcome ivy, tyres and many other things. It was a race and Daniel was the first boy home and Julia was the first girl back! We then got back on the bus and arrived back at school at around three o'clock. We had a great day and it was our favourite school tour so far!

By Daniel Kelleher, Sophie Giller and Ellie O'Keefe.



>>> Sixth Class School Tour

During the week of the 10th of June, both sixth classes went on their school tour to Inis Oirr. Each sixth class got to stay on the island for one night. Louise, Saoirse, Mary, Mr. Curran, Colm, Aileen, Souhila and Ewelina came with us on the tour. We met at the pier in Doolin at nine in the morning. We then got the boat over to the island. When we arrived we went to the hostel and took some pictures in front of the signs. We all were allocated to our rooms, and there were five or six of us in each room. We then got free time for around two hours on the island, and we visited the GAA pitch, the playground and the shop. We then went to the beach and the weather was class! We got dinner in our hostel later on in the day and some of the teachers made chicken curry. Then we went to the céili in the Gaeltacht on the island. We were invited to the céili that evening, and we learned some dances with lots of swinging, cheering and instructions in Irish. It was great fun! After the céili we walked to the shipwreck on the island. We set up a bonfire and made delicious smores. We then walked back to the hostel and played some board games until late at night.

The following day we woke up and had breakfast, which was a full fry cooked by the teachers. We made sure to put on a lot of suncream and then we had free time again for a few hours. We went on a bus called the Wonderly Wagon to see the lighthouse on the island and explored around there. We then went to the beach and there were so many jellyfish in the water! We got the boat back to the mainland at around five in the evening. We had the best time on the island and we'd love to go again some time!

By Eoin McInerney and Oscar Deegan.





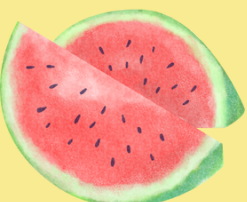
>>> Cumann na mBunscol Hurling

After Easter the boys hurling team had their first round of matches against Inagh N.S. in Inagh.

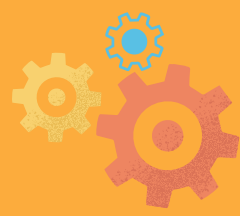
The boys hurling team is made up of boys from fourth, fifth and sixth classes. There were about forty boys on the panel. Colm and Conor trained us for the matches. We had a tough first match against Inagh, and unfortunately we lost that match by a point. On another day we played Ruan/Toonagh in Ruan and we won this match by three points. On the third day out we played Killaloe Boys N.S. in Tulla and we won this game by two points! This lead us to the semi-final in Gurteen and we played Inagh N.S. again. We played great on the day, and won this match by eighteen points! After this win, we qualified for the Division Two Hurling final in Cusack Park on Thursday the 13th of June.

On the day of the final we travelled to Cusack Park and left school at one o'clock. Pupils from third to sixth classes came to support us on the day. We warmed up when we got there and watched some other teams as there were lots of games on that day. In the dressing rooms we had our pep talk and we decided the team for the match. The final got underway at around two o'clock. It began with Killaloe scoring a few points and then Milo came back with a point for our team. It was a competitive match and at half time the score was three points to one. In the second half we responded with a point and then Killaloe came back with a point. In the last few minutes of the game we were scoring well, and in the final moments it was six points to five points. We tried our very best to level the game, but in the end it wasn't to be. The final score was six points to five points. We were disappointed, but we were happy with our performance overall as we scored a lot of our points from play. The captains on the day were Eoin McInerney and Michael Barry. After the game we got the bus back to the school and our parents collected us. We are proud of the team and all of our hard work which got us to the final.

By Jack O'Driscoll and Mark Reynolds.



>>> Science Blast

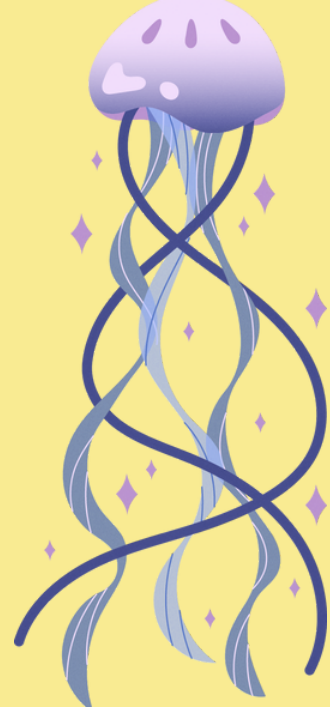


On Tuesday the 21st of May, third class travelled to the University of Limerick for the Science Blast event. We left on a bus early in the morning. The teachers that came with us on the day were Tina, Aileen and Emma. When we arrived we found our stand and began to set up our project. The name of our project was 'What is more efficient- an LED or a traditional lightbulb? and How does the electricity get to the light bulb?'. In our display we had a lot of posters, lighthouses, traffic lights, quizzes and a few experiments. Three of the circuits that we used had a potato, a lime and a lemon, and they were able to light up the diode! The different parts of each of the circuits included a copper coin, crocodile clips, batteries, zinc nails and the diodes.

A number of judges circled the room on the day and came to our stand to ask us questions. A few pupils also got the opportunity to be on TV and a presenter interviewed us about our project. We also had time to walk around the room and look at the other projects. There were some really cool ones, including one about which biscuit is the best to dunk in your tea and one about a Tesla too! We also got so many free things like rulers, stickers, badges and more. There were two entertainment shows in the middle of the day about Mark the science guy and strong women in science. We left the Science Blast event at around half past one and we stopped at the shop on the way back for a few sweets. We really enjoyed the day and our favourite parts included getting a plaque for our school and the entertainment shows.

By Darragh Cahir, Artem Rud, Croíadh Barry and Molly Fahy.





»» St. Flannan's Hurling Blitz

In April, a number of boys from the two sixth classes travelled to St. Flannan's secondary school for a day of hurling matches. Colm came with us on the day. We played four matches against Ennis National School, Ruan-Toonagh, Sixmilebridge and Barefield. There were a lot of schools from around Clare there to play. Our first match was against Ennis National School and we narrowly lost by a point. Then we went on to play Ruan-Toonagh, and we lost by four points.

After this we played Barefield and we won by a good margin. Finally, we played a match against Sixmilebridge and unfortunately we got hammered. We were gone for most of the day, and it was a nice day but it was a bit cold and there were a few showers. We got one break during the day to eat our lunch. We enjoyed the time out of school and it was nice to see the secondary school and all the big playing pitches that they have.

By Michael Barry and Milo Leahy.

»» 7 Aside Boys Football

At the start of April, the boys seven aside football team from the fifth and sixth classes travelled to Clarecastle astro pitch to play two games. Our opponents on the day were the Gaelscoil and Lissycasey. The first game was against the Gaelscoil. It was a very close match, but unfortunately we didn't come out with a victory.

We then took on Lissycasey and that match didn't go our way either. A lot of our players were preparing for a hurling match with Doora-Barefield later that day, so we feel that maybe we weren't playing our best on the day. Cillian and Colm accompanied us to the matches. Overall, we enjoyed the day and it was a good experience.

By Daire Cullinan and Tadhg Downes.

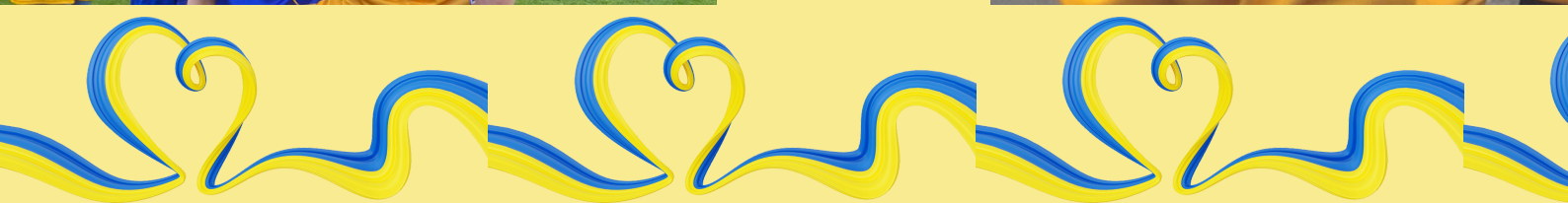
»» 7 Aside Girls Football

At the start of April, the girls seven aside football team went to Clarecastle for the day to play a number of matches. We played against Moveen, Kilnamona, Lissycasey and Ballyea on the day. Michelle and Cillian were the teachers that came with us. The first match was against Moveen and we came out with a victory. After this we played Kilnamona and we came out victorious again! Our third match was against Lissycasey and we won this match also.

Then we proceeded to the final against Ballyea and we narrowly lost this game by two points. Even though we won't be progressing to another round of matches, Jessica Hassett from sixth class was selected to play in Croke Park in July. She will play at half-time in the All Ireland Ladies' Football semi-final. There were two girls picked from each county, and it is an amazing achievement for Jessica, which she is really looking forward to.

By Jessica Hassett and Amy Fahy.





»» Clare Primary Games

Daire Cullinan, sixth class pupil, who represented the school in the primary game at half time in Dungarvan in the Munster Senior Football Championship between Clare and Waterford.

Isabelle Mangan, sixth class pupil, who represented the school in the primary game at half time in Cusack Park in the Munster Senior Football Championship Final between Clare and Kerry. Both are photographed with Knockanean teacher Cillian Rouine.

Milo Leahy, sixth class pupil, who played in the primary game at half time in the Munster Senior Hurling Final in Thurles between Clare and Limerick on June 9th.

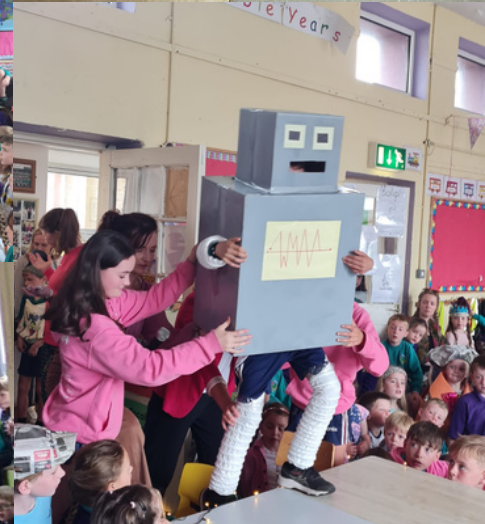
>>> Junk Kouture Fashion Show



During the last week of June, we prepared for the whole school Junk Kouture Fashion Show. Some of us prepared our pieces of recycled clothing at home, and some of us had time to design our pieces at school. To make our projects, we all took a look around home to see if we had any old clothes or recyclable materials that we could use to make outfits. We used things like old cereal boxes, parcels, bottle caps, fabric, newspaper, masking tape, cardboard and many more things. Overall, it took us a few days to make our outfits. We got our ideas for our outfits from the internet and also from our imaginations.

On the day of the fashion show, we all gathered in Conor's room and we set up a catwalk with tables and lights. We all squished into the room to watch the fashion show. The models all went to Amy's room and one by one each model got their chance to walk the catwalk! Tina played some music and each teacher introduced the models. It was a little bit nerve-wrecking when we were walking the catwalk, but everyone cheered and clapped for all the models which made it easier! There were a few judges who were teachers looking at the outfits also. There were so many cool outfits- everything from Spongebob to robots, to fancy hats and more! At the end of the fashion show, they announced some of the best dressed on the day. We also had a dance party for the sixth class pupils who will be leaving in a few days. The sixth class pupils stood on the catwalk and everyone sang with them. Archie also performed a dance and Alex walked the catwalk to his favourite Mamma Mia song! It was a really fun experience even though it took a long time to create some of our outfits. We loved walking the catwalk and we were so proud of ourselves for doing it!

By Breege Fitzgerald, Alfie Higgins and Owen Chandler.



>>> Doora-Barefield Parish Sports Day

On Thursday the 20th of June, both sixth classes went to Gurteen for the Doora-Barefield Parish Sports day. A number of schools were there on the day- Barefield N.S., Knockanean N.S. and Doora N.S. We arrived in Gurteen at around half nine in the morning. We were split up into groups with the pupils from the other schools based on which secondary school we are going to in September. The activities on the day were tug-of-war, penalty shoot-out, soccer matches, prison break, dodge ball and giant board games. We spent about twenty minutes at each station and there were teachers at each station.

We had lunch in the middle of the day and then went back to do the other activities. We got massive party bags at the end of the day that were very delicious! They had haribos, apples, capri-suns and glow sticks in them. We got back on the bus at the end of the day and arrived back at school just after lunch. It was an enjoyable day out and it was nice to meet the pupils from the other schools.



By Max Garvey and Orrin Woods.



>>> GAA Blitzes

During the last week of June, first class to sixth class went to Cúl camp training blitzes in Caherlohan. We left on the bus at half nine in the morning. When we got to Caherlohan, we went into the dressing rooms and we put on our helmets and our boots. We headed out to the pitch and the coaches split us up into groups of two or three. We started out by doing warm up drills. We did some sprinting, beanbag games and sliotar passing. We also learned some skills including passing the sliotar around cones.

We then ate our lunch and afterwards we put in our gumshields and headed out to do some football activities. We were split into teams with a mixture of pupils from different classes and we began to play some matches. Each match lasted about ten minutes. The matches were so fun and we won a lot of them! We then tried a different activity where we had to pass to everyone on our team before we were allowed to score. This made it more tricky to score, but the two coaches played with us which made it easier! We played a few more games and then we finished up for the day. We enjoyed playing football and hurling and our favourite part of the day was playing the football matches with the coaches!



By Tony Shannon and Dara O'Connor.





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 year. We wish 6th class all the best as they leave us and move on to secondary school and we thank them for their enormous contribution to the school over the last eight years. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on August 29th.

Finally on behalf of all here I want to wish Mary all the best as she leaves us today. Her hard work, professionalism, positive attitude, her caring nature and kind heart, to staff and pupils, will be desperately missed. Working alongside her has been quite simply an honour and a privilege. Mary, we sincerely wish you a long, happy, relaxing and a healthy retirement with the time and space to explore all those adventures that I no doubt know, you have in your head....

