



Christmas Newsletter 2024/2025



Carol Singing



The music club and choir visited three nursing homes in Clare in late December for carol singing. We visited Clarecastle Daycare Centre, Cuan an Chláir and Carrigoran. When we arrived at the nursing homes we were greeted by the residents and we set up our instruments. Some of the songs that we performed were 'Red is the Rose', 'City of Chicago', 'Smile', 'Man in the Mirror', 'Snowman' and 'Fairytale of New York'. We spent about an hour and a half at each nursing home.

At one of the nursing homes one of the residents joined in with our musicians and played the spoons! Tina also gave the microphone to some of them to sing along. We practised a lot in early December to make sure that we knew all of the songs. It was lovely to visit the nursing homes and we felt really good after singing the songs. To celebrate we got sweets for all of our hard work and they were delicious!

By Gearóid McMahon, Katelyn Davern and April Duggan.

Intergenerational Letter Writing



Each class in the school wrote Christmas cards to nursing home residents in three nursing homes in Ennis. We were all matched with a resident in a nursing home, and we got to write a card and design some art to send to them. We decorated our cards with sequins, colours, tissue paper, paint and many more things. Inside the cards, we wished them a Happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Some of us also drew a picture of ourselves so that the nursing home residents would know who we are! We also designed envelopes and wrote the person's name on the front. We then put the cards in the envelopes ready to be delivered to the nursing homes! It was a great activity to do and we hope that they enjoy receiving the cards at Christmas.

By Faye Kennedy and Éanna Corry.



Clare Cross Country Running Final



On Tuesday the 19th of November, around twenty pupils from the school went to Lees Road to compete in the Clare cross country running final. We left on a bus at quarter to ten and arrived at Lees Road shortly after that. Shona and Cillian came with us on the day and some parents also came to watch. The first pupils that ran were the under 8s and they ran really well. Then the under 10s ran their race and Lillie came 8th in the girls race and Jacob came 7th in the boys race. They were really tough races and we were running against about 100 people!

Finally, the over 10 races began and our pupils ran brilliantly. Michael came 12th and Seán came 11th. Any pupil who placed in a race got a medal and we were all delighted! Some of our teams also won a team medal, the under 10 girls and the over 10 boys won team medals on the day. The weather was quite overcast on the day but luckily it didn't rain too much. We then made our way back to school after the races and Shona kindly gave us cookies to celebrate our victories! Overall we had a great day out and we are looking forward to next year's races already!

By Jacob Quinn and Lillie Ryan.



Girls Football

On the Wednesday after the Halloween midterm, the girls football team played their semi-final match against the Gaelscoil in Clarecastle. We had a training session each week leading up to the match. We left for the match on a bus at quarter to ten in the morning. When we arrived we warmed up and put on our jerseys for the match. We had a pep talk in the dressing room before the game from some of our coaches to get us in the zone! We then began playing the match. Amy was our captain on the day.

The first half of the game was quite challenging and unfortunately we did not score. Then we went into the dressing room for half time and we made game plan. We headed out for the second half after this. We played a lot better in the second half and scored a few points. Then in the final moments of the game, the Gaelscoil scored a goal and unfortunately the rest of the game didn't go our way. We were disappointed not to make it to the final but we were so proud of our team and all of the effort that they put in. We celebrated our great performance by going to the shop afterwards and buying some sweets!

By Saoirse Barry and Caoimhe McMahon.

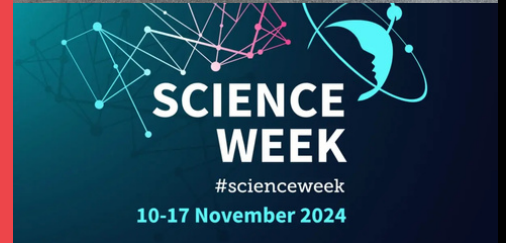


Science Week

During the week of the 11th to the 14th of November we celebrated Science week at school. We completed a lot of activities in each class to do with Science and exploration. In third class we watched a webinar about an astronaut who was in space. We also made pop rockets together, which are small containers that you fill with water and you drop a fizzing tablet into them to make them pop!

In the middle of the week Simon Hill, who is a science teacher and a parent in the school, came to first, second and third classes to show them some cool science experiments. He firstly showed us an experiment with fire, and he lit a flame that would not go out. He then used a plasma bulb to show us electricity currents. Finally, he showed us how to make elephant toothpaste. He used a lot of materials and they turned into foam that erupted out of a tube. We enjoyed participating in lots of activities for Science week and our favourite day was when Simon came in to show us all the fascinating experiments!

By Tony Shannon and Elsie McInerney.



Student Council



This term the student council came up with a number of ideas for our school. We talked about goals that we could achieve for the first term, and decided on a few that we could achieve together.

To spread some Christmas Kindness in the lead up to Christmas, we created a “Christmas Kindness” advent calendar for each class in the school, with ten simple acts of kindness for each class to achieve for ten days in December. We also came up with the idea for the student council members to wear student council arm bands while outside during yard time, so that all pupils know who is part of the student council and who they might be able to go to if they have a problem on yard or if they are looking for somebody to play with. We also added to our noticeboard and have even more ideas for term 2!



The Student Council

Green Schools Committee



The following pupils are the Green Schools Committee members for the 2024/2025 school year:

Sixth Class: David Sheridan and Lily McMahon

Fifth Classes: Caoimhe Ryan and Abdul Khan

Fourth Class: Artem Rud

Third Classes: Samko Hosko and Breege Fitzgerald

Second Class: Katie Hanrahan and Darragh Carolan.

We will meet with Amy regularly to discuss our ideas and help keep the school a clean and green space! This term we organised a 'Clothes Swap', where pupils brought in clothes that they were no longer wearing. These pupils then received the chance to swap these clothes in order to promote sustainable living. It was a great success and many wonderful pieces of clothes have now found new homes.



Infants Christmas Show Trip



On Friday the 13th of December, junior and senior infants went to Danlann an Chláir to see the performance of 'Santa Claus and the Three Little Pigs'. We left in the morning at around half nine. We had to get two buses to fit us all! Sarah, Doireann, Michelle, Orla and Róisín came with us on the day. When we got there we lined up and went into the theatre. We were sitting in the middle of the theatre and we had a great view! The show then began and the three little pigs came out. They were dressed up in Christmas clothes. The story was about how the three little pigs had to leave home. They built their new houses out of straw, sticks and bricks. Then the big bad wolf came and tried to blow them all down! He was able to blow down the straw and the sticks, but he was not able to blow down the bricks.

All the pigs hid from the wolf in the brick house and they heard noise on the roof. They thought it was the wolf, but it turned out to be Santa Claus! The presents he gave them were three Peppa Pig teddies. It was a really funny and crazy show and our favourite parts were when the pigs trapped the wolf in a big green net and when the Daddy pig pulled the boy pig's ear! After the show we got back on the bus and got back to school just before lunch time.

By Shane Morley, Freya Slattery and Aisling Erskine.

Whole School Singing

Every class in the school went to Amy's room on a number of Fridays throughout November and December to participate in a whole-school singing activity. Amy met with the junior classes in the school and the senior classes in the school for twenty minutes each. On the first day we learned the 'Snowman' song by Sia. Amy played the piano and we all sang. It is a lovely song about a snowman who came to life and is talking to his wife Mrs. Snowman. It was really fun to sing together and the words were easy to learn.

The next Friday that we met with Amy we learned a new Christmas song called 'Like it's Christmas' by the Jonas Brothers. This was a very happy song and it was about getting ready for Christmas. We also practised singing songs that we know like 'It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas' and the 'Snowman' song that we had already learned. Overall we really enjoyed singing with the whole school and our favourite part was getting to learn the 'Snowman' song and singing it together.

By Aideen Skeritt and Delia O'Shea.



Sixth Class Musical Trip

On Wednesday the 27th of November, sixth class went on a trip to Coláiste Muire to see their performance of the 9 to 5 musical. Shona, Fiona, Ewelina and Crea accompanied us on the day. We arrived just before eleven and the show got underway at eleven sharp. There were many other primary schools also there on the day to watch the musical. The musical was about three women who were being mistreated and it was set in the 1900s. Their boss was very strict and the women were fed up of him. The women then began to try to prank the boss, and the boss played some tricks back on them also.

As the musical went on, we saw how the women then got into an argument with the boss and kidnapped him as a result of this. Towards the end of the musical, the head boss of the women was very proud of them and the lead woman in the musical became the boss of another company due to all of her hard work. We really enjoyed the musical and the students were excellent actors. The musical was about two hours long and after it we got back on the bus and made our way back to school.

By Frankie Cadam, Jack O'Driscoll and Dylan McInerney.





Maths Eyes Winners



The winners of the "Maths Eyes" competition which took place before the Halloween break were announced this term. We all gathered around Tina's classroom to hear who the lucky winners were. Tina congratulated everyone who took part and explained how it was so hard to pick winners as there were so many wonderful entries. Well done to the following winners:

Junior Infants- Finley Brown

Junior Infants/Senior Infants- Aideen Skerritt

Senior Infants- Shane Morley

First Classes- Ellie Kerr and Seán O'Dwyer

Second Class- Gearóid McMahon

Third Classes- Mia Connellan, Finn O'Dwyer
and Aoibhín O'Brien

Fourth Class- Katelyn Cullinan

Fifth Classes- Caoimhe McMahon and Ellie
O'Brien

Sixth Class- Jack O'Driscoll and Abi O'Donnell.



Sixth Class Ice Skating



On Tuesday the 3rd of December, sixth class went to Limerick on Ice for a day of ice-skating. We left school at twenty to ten with Shona, Fiona, Louise and Ewelina. We arrived at around half eleven and when we got there we went into Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre. We had a snack before skating and then we walked over to the ice-skating rink across the road. We were fitted for skates and then made our way onto the ice.

Some of us had been ice-skating before so we had some experience but for most of us it was our first time! We were very lucky as we had the whole rink to ourselves! There were a few seals to use which helped the nervous people. Overall it was lots of fun and some people fell so many times that they lost count! Shona and Louise also gave the ice-skating a go and they were really good. We spent about an hour on the ice rink and then we headed back to Arthur's Quay and went to the newsagents to stock up on a few sweets. We then made our way back to school and on the way back we went to Shannon playground. We spent a little while there and then arrived back to school just before home time. We had a great day out and would definitely recommend ice skating to everyone!

By Róise Byrnes O'Donoghue, Michaela Harte and Zoe Speak.



Samhain agus Mí na Nollag



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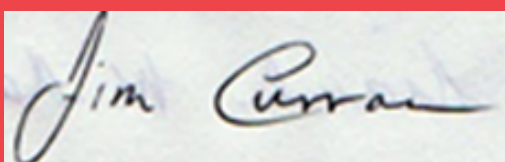
Merry
Christmas

This newsletter is a look back at some of the events of the past term as seen by the pupils. More photos of these events can be seen on our website.

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

Have a wonderful Christmas everybody and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on January 6th.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Curran