

>>> KNOCKANEAN N.S.

# HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER



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



## >>> Cross country running



We went cross-country running on the 28th of September in Lees Road. Pupils from 1st to 6th class were involved. We went on a bus and left the school at 9.45. After we arrived we warmed up by the forest and on the track. The first race then began. It began to get very wet but the races continued thankfully. We got numerous individual medals and four team medals.



There were teams from all over East Clare there and a lot of kids running in each race. After the races, we all got hot chocolate and got back on the bus. We were delighted to bring some medals back to the school, and we were very proud of everyone who took part. The next stage will be racing against schools from all over Clare on November 14th. We are looking forward to the next stage!



By Isabelle Mangan, Michael Barry, Milo Leahy and Anna Smith





## >>> Personal belongings

Please make sure to put your children's names on items such as coats, tops, lunch boxes etc. This makes it much easier for us to return the lost item and it greatly increases the chances of you getting them back!



## >>> Halloween food

Please be aware of the whole school ban on food containing nuts / traces of nuts particularly at this time of year coming up to Halloween.



## >>> Parent teacher meetings

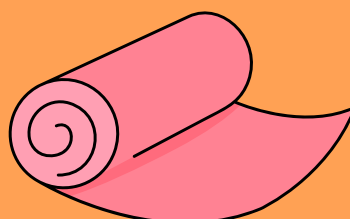
These will take place on the week starting January 29th 2024. Parents will be able to book times directly themselves through Aladdin Connect. More information closer to the time.

## >>> Building

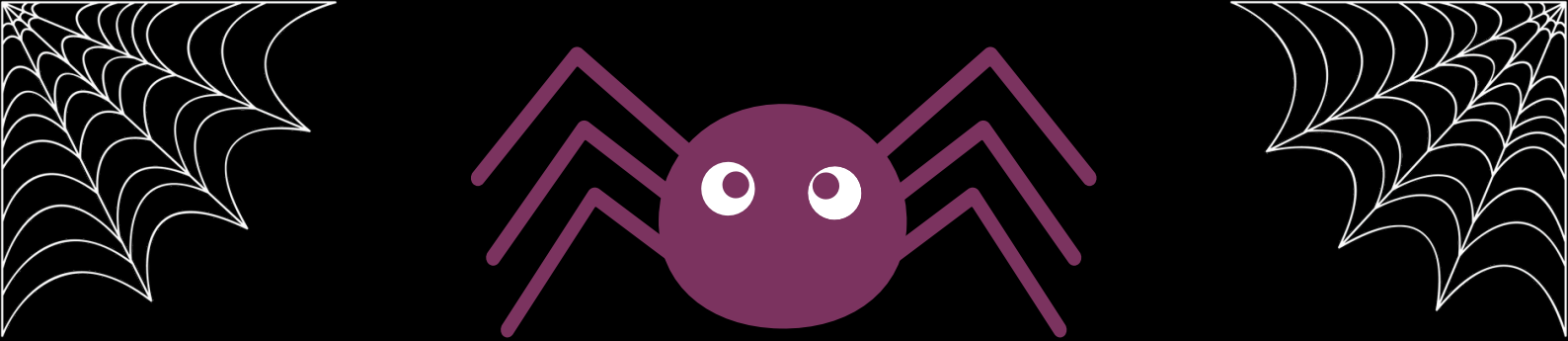
We have been informed by the OPW that the date for us moving to Gurteen is September 2024. The modular building will be ready for the end of August 2024.

## >>> Swimming and Pilates

All classes from 1st – 6th will be going swimming through this school year. 6th class have completed their swimming lessons and 5th class start on the 6th of November until December 11th. Details of the other classes will issue after Christmas. All classes are or will also be engaging in an 8 week online Pilates programme this year.

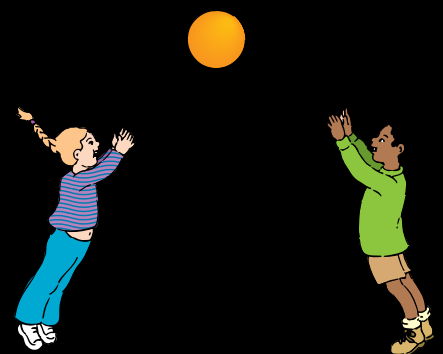
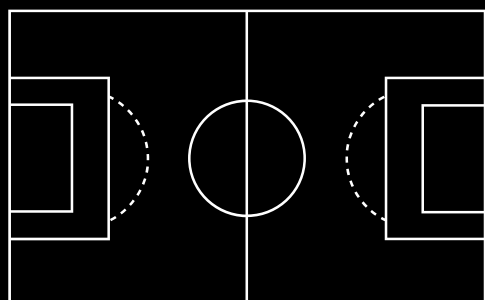






## »» Active Schools Committee

The following are the members of our Active Schools Committee for the coming year: 6th (Joe): Oscar Deegan, 6th (Colm): Isabelle Mangan, 5th: Zoe Speak, 4th (Conor): Luke Callinan, 4th (Cillian): Kayla Hanrahan, 3rd: Jessica O Driscoll, 2nd (Amy): Louis Ryan, 2nd (Shona): Mia Connellan. The committee will be involved in multiple activities during the year, including Wake Up Shake Up which occurs every Monday morning for all classes.



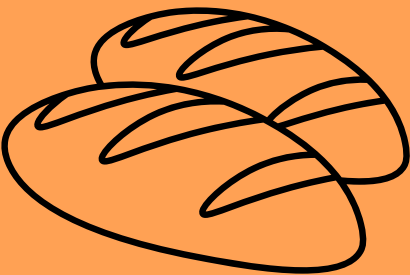


# >>> International Dishes in 6th class

Mr. O'Reilly encouraged the pupils in his class to bring in food from their native countries. Firstly, Abdul, who was born in Pakistan, brought in traditional foods called Chai and Paratha. These are traditional Pakistani breakfast dishes. Chai is a tea that is traditionally from South East Asia. It is a sugary sweet tea that has a lot of milk in it. The tea leaves are grown in Thailand and China.



Paratha is an oily bread from Pakistan that is toasted in oil and served plain. However, you can eat it with eggs, omelettes or cheese if you wish. Abdul brought in enough for everyone in the class to try. The majority of pupils thought that the chai was very sweet and that the paratha tasted plain. They found that the omelette was bit spicy. Mr. O'Reilly thought that the chai was very sweet, but he enjoyed it. Abdul and his mother made these dishes at home together. Later on in the month, Abdul brought in Shawarma which is an Arabic fast food from the Middle East. The word Shawarma means 'spinning'. It tastes like a sandwich that is wrapped in a tortilla, and it is very spicy. Mr. O'Reilly thought that it had just the right amount of spice. Finally, Abdul brought a chicken tikka pizza. The class thought that it was really tasty and very cheesy.



Aurora, who is originally from Kosovo in South Eastern Europe, also brought in some food from her native country. Kosovo is a country that is part of the Balkans. There are over eight countries in this region. Aurora brought Byrek in for the class to try. This is a dish that is like a pastry. You can eat it plain, or you can fill it with spinach, cheese or mince meat. The class got to try some and they thought it was tasty, and very salty.

Mr. O'Reilly thought that it was delicious, and more of a savoury than a sweet dish. 6th class pupils really enjoyed trying dishes from different countries.



By Abdul Samad Khan and Aurora Haziri



# >>> Space Webinar in 6th class



On Friday the 6th of October we attended a zoom call with Aisling Shannon from the European Space Agency. She firstly told us some facts about herself, including that she was born in Athlone. Aisling then told us an interesting story about one of the teachers that she had when she was in school. This teacher told her that, in his opinion, girls could not work in a space agency, and they could not become engineers. She remembered feeling very upset while hearing this, and it sparked a sense of determination in her. Aisling said that one thing about her is that if someone tells her not to do something, she will find a way to do it. This story led to an interesting discussion in the class after the zoom call about occupations.

Aisling then revealed that she is currently working in the Netherlands as an electrical engineer. She works with rockets mainly, and has attempted to launch several of them into space. She told us a story about launching a rocket called the Vegas. She had planned to launch the rocket in Russia, but the war affected this, so she launched it from South America instead. Unfortunately, it was not a success, but she said that she learned a lot from the experience. She then told us about an asteroid hitting a solar panel on the last rocket that she launched. The asteroid was 3cm wide but it created a 1m hole in the solar panel, which was surprising.



She also told us about a mini rocket that shoots a laser which can measure the clouds and the weather. She even showed us a model of the rocket which was very interesting to see. Aisling then said that rockets can cost up to 250 billion and that a lot of work goes into designing and building them. She finished the zoom call by encouraging us to think about a career related to engineering or space. We really enjoyed listening to her story and the many interesting facts about her career.

By Abdul Samad Khan, Aurora Haziri, Ayda Ryan, Daire Cullinan, Orrin Woods and Leona Dixon.





# »» Active Storytime in the Infant Classes

On Friday the 6th of October, Lizzy from Clare Sports Partnership came to the school to work with the infant classes. She came to engage the classes in Active Storytime, which is an interactive story-telling experience during which pupils are brought on a journey with various characters. Firstly, she met with the Junior Infants. Lizzy told us a story about a dog going to the zoo. We acted as many animals, monkeys, snakes, penguins, birds, flamingos and crocodiles. All of the animals were having a lot of fun at the zoo. We really enjoyed it. Our favourite animals to act out were the snakes and the flamingos. At the end of the story all of the animals went on the train home. Then, Lizzy met with the Senior Infants. She told us a story about animals on a train, they were heading to the zoo. We pretended to be crocodiles, snakes, giraffes and elephants. Buddy was the dog that went with all the animals on the train. We pretended to have lunch with Buddy. Our favourite animals to act out were the snakes because we got to slither on the ground. At the end of the story, we all lined up in a huge train and went around the room. It was so funny. Acting out the stories was really fun and we would love to do it again.

By Ruby Hill, Aidan Cullinan, Aideen Skerritt, Jane Frehill and Bobby Garvey





## »» Green Schools Committee

The following are the members of our Green Schools committee for the coming school year: Oran Malone and Maisie O' Connor (1st), Aaron Hassett and Naoise Murphy (2nd), Hector O Halloran (3rd), Alyson Casey and Beibhinn Curran (4th), Mary Slattery (5th), Caoimhe Mockler and Emily Germaine Green (6th).







## »» Student Council

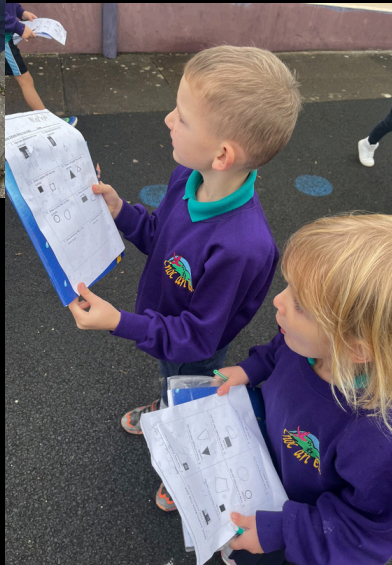
The following are the members of our Student Council for the coming school year: They will meet every month to discuss their wonderful ideas on school life! 2nd class (Amy): Remi Hill, 2nd class (Shona): Elsie McInerney, 3rd class: Óisín O Malley, 4th class (Conor): Seán Hassett, 4th class (Cillian): Maia O'Brien, 5th class: Aoife Kirrane, 6th class (Joe): Ayda Ryan and advisor Jessica Hassett, 6th class (Colm): Ella Johnston and Salma O'Doherty and advisor Declan Keane.





# »» Maths week

Maths week took place in primary schools across the country during the week of the 14th-22nd of October. Classes in our school engaged in interactive indoor and outdoor maths activities during this week, including completing maths trails, maths eyes activities, hands-on STEAM projects and maths challenges, to mention a few! Pupils really enjoyed recognising elements of maths in the school environment and exploring many mathematical topics in fun and engaging ways.





## >>> Boys Football



The boys' football team have been training since the start of the new school year in September. Our coaches are Mr. Curran, Colm and Cillian. There are around 30 boys from 5th and 6th class on the team. We train once a week after school on Mondays or Tuesdays. At the start of the new school year, we played two challenge matches against Barefield and the Gaelscoil. We overcame the Gaelscoil, but unfortunately lost against Barefield. Following this, we played against Kilkishen in O'Callaghan's Mills and we won this match. We were delighted after this game. After this match we headed to Gurteen to play against St. Senan's N.S. from Kilrush. We won this game also. We then played Tulla and emerged with a victory. We will be playing one more match before the semi-final. We are delighted to be through to the semi-final which will be played in November.

By Daire Cullinan and Orrin Woods

## >>> Girls Football

The girls' football team have been training since the start of September. Our coaches are Mr. O'Reilly, Michelle Hassett and Louise. We train once a week after school, mostly on Thursdays or Fridays. There are around 37 girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class playing football. Our first game of the new school year was against Ballyea. We played this match in Gurteen. We were delighted as we won this game by four points and it was a great start for the team. However, it was a tough match, and they put up a good battle. We then played against Barefield and narrowly lost this match. Following this, we played Quin and emerged victorious. We are now through to the semi final, and hopefully the final after that, which will be in November. We have a strong team and we hope to progress to the end.



By Ayda Ryan and Leona Dixon



## »» Football Blitz

On Tuesday the 17th of October, 3rd and 4th classes went to a football blitz in Gurteen. We went on a bus and left the school at around 10 o'clock. The other schools there were Quin, C.B.S and Barefield. We brought our gear with us- gumshields, boots, gloves and spare clothes. When we got there, the girls and boys went into lines and we were put into teams of eight with pupils from the other schools. We then began our first match. We all got a chance to play three matches. The teachers were the referees. It was very wet and we all got soaked, but we had a lot of fun. After the matches we had our lunch in the main stand. Then about twenty minutes later we got back on the bus and headed back to school. We arrived at school at around quarter to one, and we stood against the radiators for a few minutes to warm up! We had a great day and would love to go to another blitz again soon.

By Michael Quinn, Sam Smith, Mia Hedigan and Niamh O'Reilly.







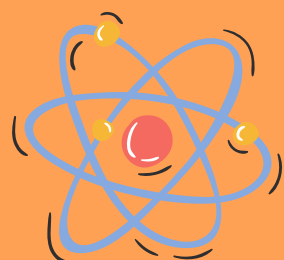
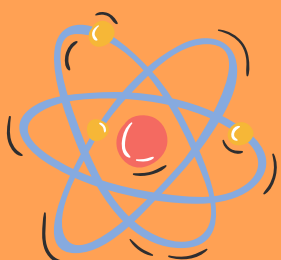
# »» Intel Mini Scientist

This competition is an initiative which allows students from 4th, 5th and 6th classes to develop science related projects which are then exhibited at school level. We are having this exhibition on Thursday October 26th between 11.15 a.m. and 1.30 pm, where members of the school community can drop in and view all of the projects. The pupils have put a huge amount of time and effort into these and are looking forward to showing them off! This display will take place in 4th, 5th and 6th classrooms so feel free to have a browse.

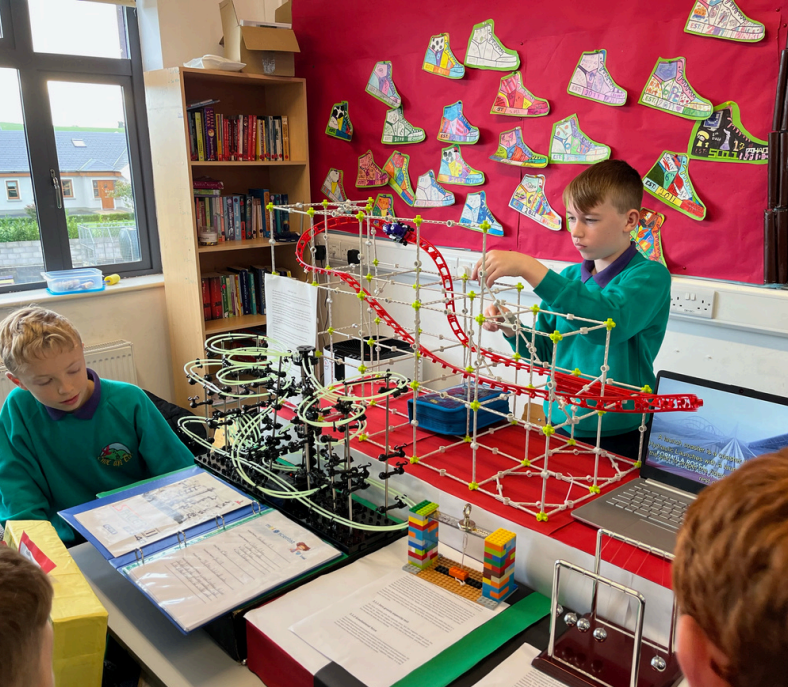
We worked in groups of 2, 3, or 4 for the Intel mini scientist projects. We started working on our projects at the start of the new school year and we had 8 weeks to do it. We got to pick our groups and our topics, which we liked. Some of the topics that we chose were elephant toothpaste, volcanoes, tornadoes, how to make a lightbulb and how to make glow stars, to mention a few. Firstly, we chose our topics and our titles. We then got a folder to put all of the information about the project in. Some of this information was the introduction, the facts, how you did it, what website you found it on, etc. We got some time to do it at school but we did a lot of it at home as well.

One of the topics that we chose to focus on were nuclear power plants. We learned that these plants cost billions to run and it is better to use than coal or gas. Another topic we chose was growing bacteria in petri dishes. We swabbed everyday items and then rubbed this swab on a petri dish. We discovered that not all the bacteria can be killed by anti-bacterial wipes, but more is killed by anti-bacterial spray. We also chose space as a topic. We built a solar system and showed how climate change is happening. We used styrofoam balls and barbed wire to make the solar system. We will be setting up our projects in the school for the staff, pupils and some parents to see. We really enjoyed it. It is a lot of hard work , but the process is really enjoyable.

By Zoe Speak, Sophie Giller and Mary Slattery.









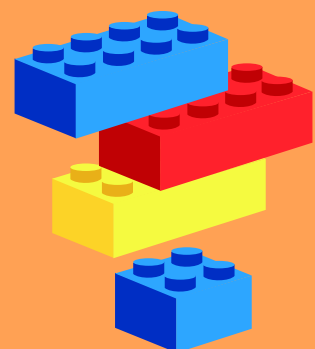
# >>> Lego Spike/Scratch Coding

1st class have been busy over the past 4 weeks using lego/robotics kits. They have buddied up with Colm's 6th class and during these lessons they have learned how coding skills are used in robotics and how to incorporate these skills in their own robots, machines and designs. These kits have given the pupils unlimited possibilities for hands on playful STEAM learning.

Every Friday 1st class work with 6th class for lego spike and scratch coding. The 6th class come into first class for about an hour. Pairs of first class pupils work with one or two sixth class pupils. During lego spike, we build a lego object like a ferris wheel that can spin or an airplane that can fly. You put the battery into the lego but first you need an iPad for it to work. You search the object on the iPad and you take a picture, and then it begins to move. Our favourite things to build were the golf course and the car.

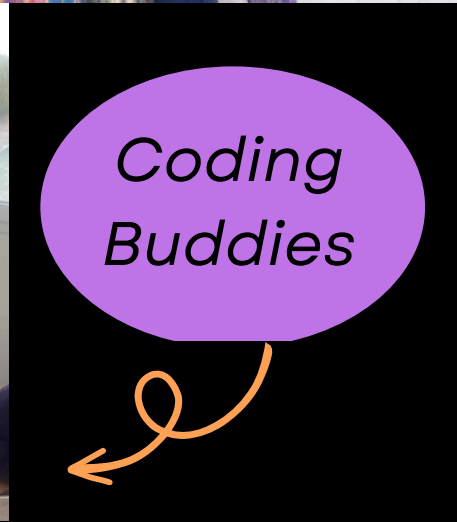
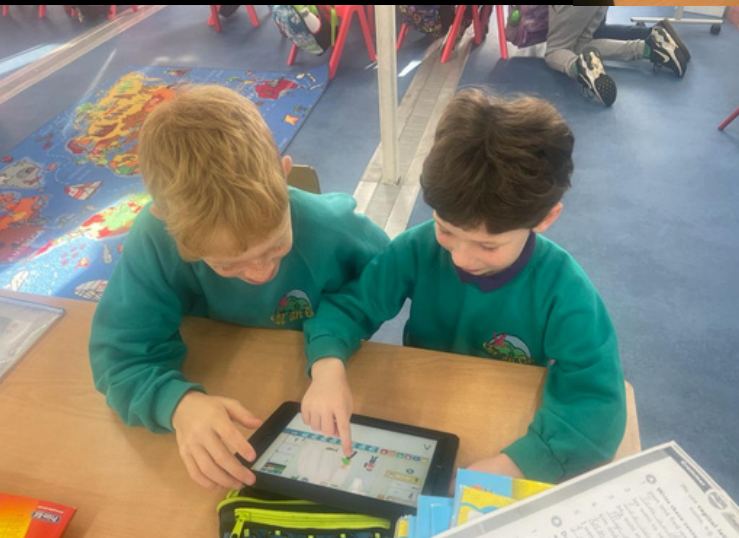
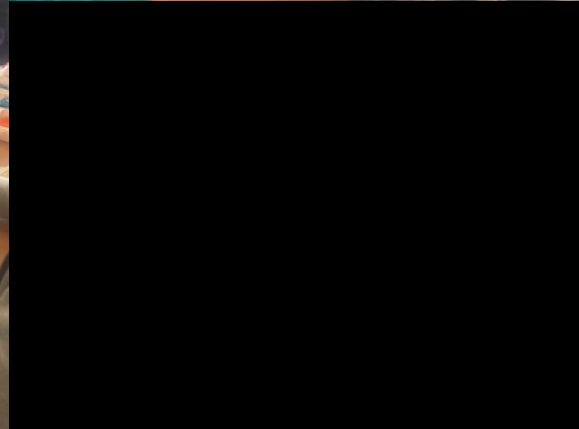
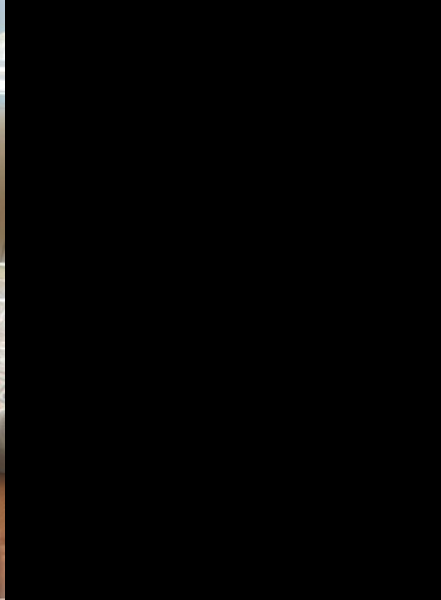
On the iPads we also do scratch. There is an orange cat on the Scratch app and you can put different backgrounds, people, animals and characters. You can make them move by putting arrows on the screen. You then press the green flag and everything starts to move. We really enjoyed making fish, sharks, aliens on the moon, unicorns and our families. You can also record your voice or write down words to make the characters speak. We like the lego spike because you get to build lego and use your hands. We like the scratch coding because you get to make backgrounds. Lego spike is the BEST!

By Páidí Fitzgerald, Grace Quinn, Amy McInerney, and Gearóid McMahon.



SCRATCH









Wishing you a very Happy  
Halloween,  
from all staff and pupils in  
Knockanean!