



HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER 2024/2025



Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week in our school during the period of the 12th to the 20th of October. During this time we participated in a lot of fun maths activities in each class. For example, we worked with the IZAK-9 cubes. We split into groups to work with these cubes and we connected to a Zoom call with other schools to complete different challenges with them. On a few of the days we also watched Maths TV online and learned about a lot of things like shapes, dice, adding, subtracting, etc. Several classes also participated in maths trails, where they had to find maths outside of the school and recognise signs of maths based on clues given to them.

We also are hoping organise activities with other classes like solving rubix cubes, coding, etc. Finally, we had a whole school competition called 'Maths Eyes' where we had to find maths in the environment around us at home. We really enjoyed maths week and it was fun to try out many different activities!

By Ellie Forde and Ruadhán O'Loughlin.

Music Club and Choir



Every Tuesday we have music club and every Thursday we have choir practice with Amy, Louise, Tina and Conor. In music club we learn a lot of tunes. We play a lot of instruments like banjos, accordions, harps, fiddles, tin whistles, concertinas, flutes, piano, guitar and more! Sometimes we split into our groups of instruments and sometimes we play together. Some of the tunes we have learned this term are called 'Touch the Sky', 'Sí beag Sí mór' and 'Absent Friends'. We also do warm up activities where we clap out the beats of the notes.

In choir we have been learning a lot of songs also. We begin with funny warm ups like 'Mommy made me mash my m and ms and skittles' and other warm ups about animals. The songs that we have been learning are 'Smile', 'Good Day', 'Man in the Mirror', 'One Call Away' and more. There are about thirty five to forty people in the choir and about the same amount in the music club. We really enjoy attending choir and music club each week and our favourite activities include playing tunes and singing the funny warm ups!

By Páidí Fitzgerald, Fiadh Skerritt, Grace Ann Quinn and Ciara O'Reilly.

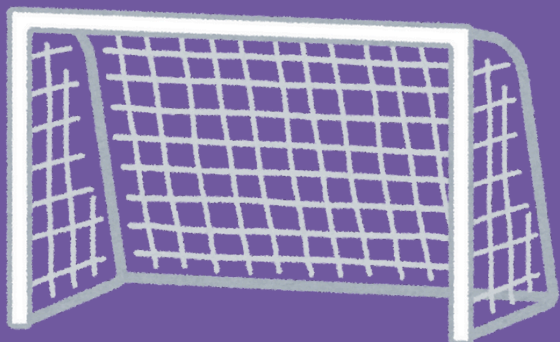
Boys Football

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The boys football panel is made up of boys from fourth, fifth and sixth classes. We train once a week with Colm and Cillian after school. Our first match this year was against Quin and this was a challenge match. We won this game by a few points and it was a reasonably easy game. Then we played against C.B.S. in Gurteen a few weeks later and this was the first group game. We also won this game by a few points.

Then we played Ennis National School on their astro turf. We unfortunately lost this match by a close margin. After this we played Barefield and we lost this game also. Unfortunately we will not be progressing to the next stage but we played a few great matches this year and we are proud of the team. There are about thirty-five boys on the panel and it was a great experience all round!

By Feidhlim Sullivan and Cillian Brennan.



Girls Football

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The girls football panel is made up of girls from fourth to sixth class. We train once a week with Michelle and Louise and we have played a number of games this term. Our first game was against Ballyea earlier in the term. We played this game in Gurteen and we won by a great margin! This gave our team a great boost. Our second game was against Barefield in Gurteen and we had a great match against them which we also won!

We then progressed to playing Quin in Gurteen and we also came out with a victory after this match. Then we had our final group match against Clarecastle and sadly we lost by only two points! This now means we are through to the semi-final against the Gaelscoil after midterm. There are around forty girls on the panel and we are really proud of our team and are looking forward to the semi-final.

By Mia Hedigan and Orla Brooks.

Cross Country Running



On Wednesday the 25th of September, around forty pupils from the school travelled to Lees Road for a day of cross country running. It was for schools in East Clare. We left on a bus at 10:10 with Shona, Colm, Cillian and Tina. When we arrived we went to our tent and put down our bags. We walked the track to prepare ourselves and warmed up. There were three categories, under 8, under 10 and over 10. The under 8 boys and girls ran first and they put in a great effort. Then the under 10 boys and girls ran and we won two medals in these races! After that the over 10 boys and girls ran and we won three medals in this category. The girls under 10 team also won a team medal. We were really happy to win the medals and it was great to win a team medal as well.



It was lashing rain for most of the day and everyone was drenched! We got cookies at the tent after the races to celebrate and when we came back to school Tina had made us hot chocolate to warm us up! Anyone who won a medal on the day gets to progress to the Clare county finals in November. Overall we had a fun day out despite the miserable conditions and hopefully it won't be as wet for the next stage of races!

By Michael Quinn, Seán Hassett and Lillie Ryan.



GAA Blitz

On Thursday the 17th of October, third and fourth classes went to Gurteen for a football blitz. There were also two other schools there on the day. We left on a bus at ten in the morning. When we arrived we changed into our football boots, and put on our gloves and gumshields. We then ran around the pitch to warm up. We were split into mixed teams of five or six to play a series of matches. We were also mixed with pupils from the other schools. There were twenty different teams in total.

After our warm up we started playing the matches. There were ten mini pitches organised and there were two teams at each. We played each match for around fifteen minutes and we all played three or four games in total. We had lunch in the middle of the day and took a break. It was a really fun day out and our favourite part was scoring lots of goals!

By Hannah Smyth.

Hurling Champions Visit



On Monday the 30th of September, Clare hurlers Cian Galvin and Davy Conroy came to the school to celebrate their victory in winning the All Ireland Hurling Championship this summer. They arrived at around 10 o'clock in the morning. We all gathered outside at the back of the school with our chairs. After a few minutes we saw them coming and we gave them a big cheer when they arrived! Mr. Curran introduced them and they started talking about their victory. People then started asking them questions about their lives as hurlers. Some of the questions were 'When did you start playing hurling?' or 'When did you play your first match?' One person also asked what hurley they used when they won the final! Cian used a Clancy hurley and Davy used a Torpey hurley.

We spent a few more minutes asking them questions and then Mr. Curran told us about a challenge that Cian used to try to achieve when he was a pupil in Knockanean N.S. The challenge was to try to hit the ball from left to right, against the wall of the school and to catch it again, and to see how many times he could do this in 30 seconds. When he was younger, his record was 17 times. Cian then tried to beat this challenge on the day and he got 25 so he beat his record! There was also another challenge where they had to hit the middle pole in the school shed. Both Davy and Cian tried this challenge as well on the day and were able to hit it once! After these challenges we lined up in our class groups and took photos with the Liam McCarthy cup. We also got the chance to hold the cup which was very heavy! After that we got signatures from Davy and Cian. Some people got their jerseys signed and some even got their shoes signed! It was great to get to see the hurlers in person and to hear about their busy lives and all the training that they have to do. We enjoyed the day and our favourite part was getting to lift the Liam McCarthy!

By Alex O'Donnell, Finn O'Dwyer and Dara O'Connor.



Student Council

A number of students from second to sixth class form the student council in our school. There is one representative from each class group, and three representatives from sixth class.

The following pupils are the student council members for the 2024-2025 academic year- 6th class: Dylan McNerney, Eve Davern and Annie O'Halloran, 5th class: Orla Brooks and Hugh Garvey, 4th class: Kieran Fitzpatrick, 3rd class: Aoibhín O'Brien and Elsie McNerney, 2nd class: Diarmuid O'Malley. We will meet with Sarah every month to discuss our ideas relating to school life! This term we have created a student council noticeboard and elected our chairperson: Eve Davern, and vice chairperson: Annie O'Halloran, along with our secretaries: Aoibhín O'Brien and Kieran Fitzpatrick.

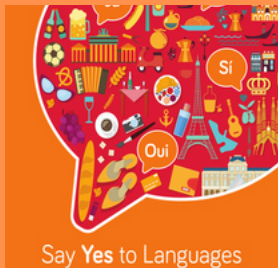
By The Student Council.

Say Yes to Languages

Beginning in September, every Monday a teacher called Rachel Frawley comes to fourth, fifth and sixth classes to teach French. This is part of the 'Say Yes to Languages' programme. Each lesson is around an hour long. We have learned many things this term; including French songs, the alphabet, and how to play games in French. It is mostly speaking activities that we do. Some of the phrases that we have learned include how to say our names, how to say the colours, types of weather and so on.

She works with the whole class and teaches using different powerpoints and activities each week. Each week she also chooses one or two people who have been really good during the lesson at speaking French and they get a sweet! One game that we have really enjoyed is called 'Le Monstre' which involves guessing the letters in a word before the monster gets you. We have worked with Rachel for about six weeks and we have really enjoyed learning some French which will definitely help us a lot in secondary school.

By Amy Mangan and Fionn Farrell.



Rugby Coach



A rugby coach called Ryan from Ennis Rugby Club has come to the school every Monday for the past term to work with second to sixth classes. We have learned a lot of rugby skills and played games like 'Ship, Sea, Shore' which is a game where you have to run to the correct side of the yard based on Ryan's instructions. We have also learned how to pass with the rugby ball and we tried out another game called 'No Man's Land', which is where two teams are split into zones and you have to kick the rugby ball into their area and knock people out if you call their number. We have also practised a lot of throwing and catching activities to develop our skills.

For a lot of us it was our first time playing rugby and it has shown us what a fun sport it is. We want to thank Ryan for introducing a lot of us to rugby and it has been really fun getting to try out a new sport!

By James Cosgrove and Aoife Kirrane.

European Sports Day



On Friday the 7th of October, the sixth class pupils organised a mini sports day for the junior classes in the school. This was organised to celebrate European Sports Day which took place in late September. At the start of the day the sixth class pupils came to collect us from our rooms. We then went outside to the back yard to begin our first activity at the first station. Some of the stations that we participated in on the day were bean bag toss, obstacle courses, dancing, ball throwing, kicking into the goals, potato and spoon races and more!

We stayed at each station for around ten minutes. The sixth class were very good at explaining each of the activities and they were all really fun. Our favourite activities on the day were the ball throwing and the obstacle course. The weather was really nice on the day and the sun shone down on us which was great! We had a wonderful day and thank you to the sixth class pupils for organising it for us.

By Sam Denieffe and Jane Frehill.



2 Green, 2 Orange,
2 White and
1 big pumpkin for
Halloween Night!



If i have 54 squares on one Rubik's cube
how many squares on two Rubik's cube



the red side has 16
pieces the other side
has three quarters of
it how many are on the
other side



10 Dog Teddies came out to
play. 2 went away how many
will stay?



THE SHOES GO UP IN 2 X 2
.... HOW MANY TOES ARE
FACING YOU ?



Maths Eyes Competition



Maths week took place in our school during the period of the 12th to the 20th of October. To celebrate this week, Tina organised a 'Maths Eyes' competition in the school. Pupils had to look around their homes and use their 'maths eyes' to find maths in the environment around them.

There were fantastic entries from all classes, with elements of maths being found everywhere from cattle sheds to GAA pitches. The Maths Eyes competition entries were displayed on a notice board in the school for all to see, and everyone really enjoyed participating in the competition!

Happy Out Forest School



Both 3rd classes will be involved in this programme this year. Over 6 weeks of the programme, the children will visit Lees Road on a weekly basis; they will spend a little over two hours beneath the trees engaging in activities designed to:

- Foster a connection with the natural world.
- Promote awareness of the woodland biodiversity on their doorstep.
- Support each child's natural ability in a non-classroom environment.
- Enhance physical and motor skills.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Establish a community where all feel safe and cared-for.



Bronze Age Talk

Declan O'Sullivan, who is the father of Cian O'Sullivan (first class pupil), came to both third classes in the school to talk about the Bronze Age. He knows a lot about the Bronze Age because his father was a blacksmith many years ago. He brought in many tools that a blacksmith uses. Some of them included hammers, daggers, knives, etc. He also showed us some pictures of his father working in the forge as a blacksmith. His father used to make a lot of horse shoes for ponies in the forge many years ago.

We have been learning about the Bronze Age in class, so it was really fascinating to see the tools and the pictures in person. We have also watched videos in class about the Bronze Age recently. We want to thank Declan for coming in with the tools and we really enjoyed getting the opportunity to hold the tools and to listen to his interesting stories.

By Dylan McNevin and Elsie McInerney.

🎃 The Beginning Months in Photos 🎃



🎃 The Beginning Months in Photos 🎃





I want to 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 since the beginning of this term.

Have a wonderful Halloween break and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on November 4th.

Yours sincerely,