



Christmas Newsletter 2025





Science Week



During science week we got to do lots of experiments in each class. We did a walking water experiment where the paper changed colour from red to blue to yellow. We also made elephant toothpaste and it exploded out of a bottle! One other experiment that we really liked was when we added food colouring to milk and it put loads of colours in the milk. It was so cool to see the colours in the milk even though it spilled everywhere on the table!

Lots of classes also looked at the skittles experiment where we added warm water to skittles on a plate and all of the colours came off of the skittles. Science week was really fun and it was so cool getting to do all of the experiments!

By Leah Molloy and Caitlin Shannon.



Girls Football Final



On Thursday the 20th of November our girls football team played in the Cumann na mBunscol Division 1 Football Final against the Gaelscoil. Pupils from third to sixth class travelled to Cusack Park to support them on the day. The team left at 12pm with Michelle and Louise, our coaches. When we arrived we watched the start of another match and then went to the dressing rooms. We put on our new jerseys and then headed out onto the pitch. We did some drills and warm ups out on the pitch to get us ready. We then returned to the dressing room and had a pep talk. After this we headed out onto the field for the big game which started at 1.15.

In the first half we scored two points and it was quite a battle. Then at half time we went back into the dressing rooms and talked about our performance so far. The second half then got underway and we scored a couple of good points to begin. Then halfway through the second half Mia scored a goal and that put us well in front. In the final few minutes we kept playing strong and when the final whistle blew we erupted with joy! The final score was 1.10 to 0 points. We then celebrated on the pitch and went to the stand to collect our shield. We also celebrated in school the following day. We went to the local shop and the whole school came outside and formed a guard of honour for us. Overall it was an amazing experience and we are so proud of our team!

By Beibhinn Curran and Saoirse Barry.





Student Council Christmas Crafts

The student council were very busy in the weeks leading up to Christmas organising a Christmas craft activity for each class in the school. We first came together to decide which craft each class could do. Some of the ideas were reindeers, bells, Christmas trees, pinecones and stars. We put all of the materials that each class would need into packs and then two or three student council members helped each class to make the decorations.

They were then able to hang them on our school Christmas tree. We used a lot of natural materials like pinecones, cinnamon sticks, lotus flowers and bark. The finished Christmas tree looked amazing and it was really fun getting to help the classes make the decorations.

By Ruby Hill.



Green Schools

Committee Projects

The Green Schools Committee worked on a number of projects in the first term. First we worked with each class in the school to plant daffodil bulbs in paper cups that we collected at home. We have also been doing bin inspections in each classroom to make sure that everyone has their bins clean and their rubbish in the right places. We also worked with TY students from St. Flannan's to learn about different parts of our climate. Two or three TY students worked with each class and taught them something about our planet.

They also helped us when we were planting 300 daffodil bulbs outside on the school grounds which we can't wait to see growing next spring!

Finally we have been collecting donations for hyacinth flowers for the nursing homes to give to all of the residents that the choir and music club were visiting for Christmas.

By Cian Carrigy and Lily Kirrane.





Cross Country Running



On the 18th of November about twenty pupils from the school went to Lees Road for the Clare Schools Cross Country competition. There were different age groups: under 8s, under 10s and over 10s. We arrived at Lees road at around ten o'clock and we walked around the course to get prepared. Then the first races got underway. A number of our pupils won medals in their races- the top twelve pupils in each race got a medal. The over 10 boys and over 10 girls teams both got silver medals and the under 8 boys team won a gold medal.

The weather was overcast on the day and we were there until about two o'clock. While we were waiting for the team results we played a game of soccer on the astro turf which was lots of fun. Shona, Eimear, Louise and Colm came with us on the day.

By Lillie Ryan, Michael Quinn and Jacob Quinn.



Maths Eyes Competition



The Maths Eyes entries continued to arrive this term, and many classes even created some fabulous examples of maths eyes in our environment in school. Second class created a mandala from a variety of natural materials including shells, leaves, feathers, pinecones and more. Lots of elements of maths were included in this mandala, including pattern, sorting materials, counting materials, and more.





Carol Singing

The music club and choir travelled to three nursing homes in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays to sing and play music. We went to Clarecastle, Carrigoran and Cuan an Chláir. About forty pupils visited the nursing homes. We went with Amy, Tina, Conor, Louise and Mr. Curran. Some of the songs that we sang were 'A Thousand Years', 'A Christmas Melody', 'Go Lassie Go', 'Red is the Rose', 'Clare my heart my home' and more. The music club also played some tunes including 'Absent Friends', 'The Road Home' and 'Your Imagination'.

We set up in a corner of each nursing home with all of our instruments and the residents sat around us. They seemed to really enjoy our performances and a few of them even joined in and danced while we were performing! It was a lovely experience to visit them and to bring them some Christmas cheer.

By Naoise Murphy and Tatiana Larsen.



Intergenerational



Letter Writing



Every pupil in the school wrote Christmas cards and letters to residents in nursing homes around Ennis in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. Before we wrote our letters we brainstormed some ideas of what we could include in our letters. We were given the name of a resident to write to and then we began to write our letters. Some of the things that we wrote about were our hobbies, our interests, and where we lived.

We also asked them some questions about themselves like where they were from, what hobbies they had, if they had siblings or family, and more. We decorated our cards and our envelopes with glitter, Christmas trees and snowmen. When the letters were finished we gathered them up and got them ready to send to the nursing homes. It was a lovely activity to do and hopefully they enjoyed getting our Christmas letters.

By Dara O'Connor and Ruadhán O'Loughlin.





Infants Christmas Show Trip



On Friday the 5th of December the three infant classes went to Danlann an Chláir in Colaiste Muire to watch a show called 'I want a hippopotamus for Christmas'. We went on a bus and left in the morning at around half ten. When we got there we found our seats. There were other schools there on the day. Then the show began. The show was about a little girl called Polly and her parrot Beakeo. They were writing their santa lists and they wanted a hippopotamus and bird seed. In the show we saw Santa and the elves come, and the naughty elves tried to put coal in their stockings!

Then Wee Willy Winky came and saved the day and fixed their stockings. At the end of the show Polly got her hippopotamus and Beakeo got his bird seed. It was a really good show and we sang a lot of songs also like 'I want a hippopotamus for Christmas', 'Jingle Bells' and 'Head Shoulders Knees and Toes'.

By Cara Mangan and Clodagh Moloney.



Sixth Class Ice Skating

On the 26th of November both sixth classes went ice skating in Limerick. We travelled on a bus and arrived in Limerick at around eleven in the morning. When we got there we went into Arthur's Quay shopping centre and had some food. Then we made our way over to the ice rink and we got our skates. Some of us had been ice skating before so we knew what to do. There were a few schools on the ice rink with us. We spent about an hour in total on the ice rink. There were seals to use which were a lot of fun. We even pushed Shona and Conor around on some!

The teachers came onto the ice rink as well. It was a little tricky at the start but then we got the hang of it. After our time ice skating we went back to the shopping centre and went to Euro Giant for some treats. We had a nice day out and we would recommend ice skating to anyone who wants to try it out!

By Alison Dixon and Eabha Farrelly.





Agree to Agree- Creating a new norm

Resources on Social Media, Gaming, Family Media Use Plans, Two Factor Authentication and Safe Searching have been added to our school website so please feel free to check them out.

Please see message below from the Clare Education Centre on the Agree to Agree Christmas Pause #A2AChristmasPause.

Agree to Agree Christmas Pause

Reflect and Reconnect

Why Not a Total Detox?

Because life doesn't stop when we switch off.

Our phones help us stay connected, organised, and informed — and that's okay. This isn't about cutting tech out — it's about finding balance and using it with intention.

Small Changes, Big Difference

Try one or two of these ideas:

- Turn off notifications from non-essential apps.
- Create a "device-free" zone during meals or gift unwrapping.
- Replace one scroll session with a real-world chat or walk.
- Reflect together: What feels better when we step back a little?

A mindful Christmas starts with a pause.

Take a breath, put the phone down — even for a moment — and be present with those who matter most.

#A2AChristmasPause –
Make space for what really matters



Agree to Agree Christmas Pause

Reflect and Reconnect

This festive season, give your attention the gift it deserves.

Take a pause from the constant scroll, the endless alerts, and the digital noise.

What is a "Christmas Pause"?

It's a simple invitation for families to:

- Reflect** on how much time we spend on our devices.
- Notice** which apps or games draw us in the most.
- Choose** a few to pause or limit — even for a few days.

The Christmas Pause is flexible—no fixed schedule, no pressure. Pick times that work best for your family: meals, movie nights, gift-giving, or a special outing.

#A2AChristmasPause –
Make space for what really matters





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 5th.

Yours sincerely,