



St. John's SNS Newsletter

December 2017

It's been another action packed half term in our school. There is a festive feeling that is infectious as classes focus on Christmas themes across many areas of the curriculum. Classroom walls and corridors are adorned with festive art, writing and projects. There is music and drama from dawn to dusk as classes prepare for Christmas performances.

Congratulations to the choir who represented the school at the Parish Carol service on December 17th under the very capable Marguerite. Marguerite organised a raffle in the school with handmade gifts (her own work) to raise money for the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa-an amazing €200 was raised. The school Carol service, which was celebrated on Monday 18th December, was a fantastic whole school celebration about the real meaning of Christmas and we were so pleased to have so many family members with us. We sincerely thank all the students and staff for their hard work in making this such a memorable and excellent occasion, which is in no small part due to Mrs Riley's hard work and organisation.

There's no doubt that the 'Space to Shine' talent competition run by the student council under the direction of Ms Fleming and Ms Hurley was an amazing success- read more on page 2.

Thanks to Mrs Riley and her class for preparing wonderful prayer services at assemblies in November and December. In November they prepared a notice board for photographs, prayers and poems about those we have lost while in December we had a prayer service which explained the meaning of the Advent wreath. Children from across the school also read prayers they had written about those they lost in November and acrostic poems of Advent in December.

To date our 6th class pupils have celebrated 2 Confirmation preparatory masses with Godparents invited to the most recent mass. They teamed up with the Co. Wicklow Partnership Community Food Initiative to create a fun family food and activity event with lots of useful tips on healthy eating and fun foods for families- read more in the HSCL section.

Congratulations to each and every child for all the credits they have deservedly earned since September. The winning credit house for this term is house 6. As this issue goes to print they are looking forward to seeing 'Ferdinand' in the local cinema.

At this stage every parent/ guardian should have met for a Parent Teacher Meeting with their child's class teacher. These meetings afford us the opportunity to discuss how we can best meet each child's true potential and we are grateful for your input into this, as the primary educators of your children.

Thank you for your continued support to our hardworking PA- you'll read in their article how busy they've been this term. We hope as many parents as possible attend or support the St. Stephen's Night Spectacular and wish to express our gratitude to all who have sold and bought tickets to date.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and look forward to a fruitful New Year.

Ms. Loughlin

Student Council and the 'Space to Shine' Competition.

The Student Council did Trojan work this term organising a fundraising initiative for 'Space to Play' in the form of a Talent Show "Space to Shine". They organised and held auditions for any pupil that wanted to take part. The talent within the school is unquestionable, in particular a huge singing ability. The finals took place Christmas week with prizes for winners and runners up, along with the prestige of taking a place on the St. John's Wall of Fame. The space to shine talent show saw fantastic talent on display.



In the senior end:

1st Place: Louis Byrne came in first place with an energetic and entertaining magic show.

2nd Place: Darcy Kiernan deservedly took second place for her version of the song 'Baby mine'

3rd Place: Lukas Godkin came in third for an excellent rap of 'Glorious'.

The junior end of the school final of the talent show was a terrific display of varied talents.

1st Place: Layla Dempsey and Darragh Furlong with a superbly coordinated display of gymnastics set to the music of the popular Fight Song

2nd Place: Kealan Kavanagh with his guitar solo singing The Lumineers "Hey Ho".

3rd Place: In joint third were Joseph Farrell showing hurling skills and Kelsey Doyle and Isla McEvoy

Dominic Moloney came highly recommended for his singing solo of his own composition.



The Council are organising a dress up day for World Book day next term. Children will pick a famous book character and dress up accordingly in another fundraising initiative for Space to Play. Thank you to all the members of student council for their ideas and hard work this term.

'Space to Play' fundraising committee

St. John's SNS are proud to report that John McCann (Dad of Sarah in 3rd class) has completed the ultimate test of endurance to raise funds for Space to Play.

On the 1st of December he ran 100 miles (161k) along the Wicklow Way from St. Columba's College in Rathfarnham to Shielstown (near Aughrim) and back. The event started at 2pm on Friday the 1st and finished on Saturday night 2nd December. That was approximately 30 hours of non-stop moving. What John achieved is the equivalent to FOUR marathons back to back, and in doing so, at latest count he has raised €1520 for our fund.

We would like to extend huge congratulations to Anna Kenny who wowed the crowds with a fabulous performance at 'Stars in their Eyes'. In doing so, she raised much needed funds for our Space to Place campaign.... Well done Anna, you're a star!! The fundraising committee will soon be launching a very exciting major event which will take place in the New Year- watch this 'Space'. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Green School Committee

The Green School Committee and all of the children have done colossal work in decorating our Christmas tree. Our decoration theme this year is 'Recycle and Reuse'. The children made some



wonderful decorations from recycled materials. They did an amazing job!! Well done everyone.

The Winners of the competition are:

- 1st Sophie Clerkin (4th Ms Keane)
- 2nd Uliana Voronina (5th Ms Wolohan)
- 3rd Leah Kavanagh (6th Ms Riley)
- 4th Eibhlinn Lawlor (5th Ms Hurley)
- 5th Ryan Nolan Lee (3rd Ms Kavanagh)
- 6th Brandan Nolan Lee (3rd Ms Sheehan)

Exceptional Effort Winners:

- Aisling Flusk (5th Ms Fleming)
- Emma Bardon (6th Ms Riley)
- Shona Nugent (6th Ms Riley)
- Erin Bardon (6th Ms Riley)

Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Thank you to everyone for taking part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. Each box is a chance to share some hope and joy to children who so badly need to feel special and loved. We collected a fantastic total of 182 shoe boxes and they have gone by truck on a journey to children in Malawi, in East Africa. Currently over 200,000 shoe boxes have been collected from Ireland and when the very last load has left Ireland, the final

figure will be revealed on TV3's Ireland AM show on December 20th so tune in! Wishing you all a Happy Christmas! **Ms. Coburn**



Parents' Association

Another term over and a big thank you to everyone who sent in cakes for our Halloween cake sale. Thanks also to everyone for supporting the Christmas cards and calendars fundraiser.

As you are aware we are currently trying to raise funds for our school and a new G.P. Hall so here are some dates for your diary of upcoming fundraisers.

The Arklow Bay Hotel are having a band night on St. Stephen's Night - €10 a ticket. All proceeds will be shared between our school and St. Joseph's school, Templerrainey and your support would be greatly appreciated. It will be a fantastic night with great music and prizes. We will be starting our Silver Space Draw in January and will also be having a Movie night in Árus Lorcáin on the 19th of January - more details to follow.

Friday, 22nd December will be a non-uniform day. It is a festive day and they can wear a Santa hat or a Christmas jumper if they wish. The funds raised from this non-uniform day will be halved with Jack Byrne, a 3rd class pupil in our school. Jack's involvement in Special Olympics Bocce has led to him being chosen for All Ireland's representing the Eastern Region in Dublin in June 2018. This money will help towards Jack's participation in the event. We are very proud of Jack and ask that you send in your usual €2 for non-uniform or more if you can for such a worthwhile cause.

Now we'd like to thank you, the parents and guardians - and children - for your continued support and we would like to wish all families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Home School Liaison

It has been a busy term with Parent Courses, our Sewing Course and CAD (Community Awareness of Drugs) Course ran for 6 weeks and were both very successful and have now finished. There was such good feedback from parents who completed the sewing course we have achieved funding to continue it in February. Our Project Maths course for 6th class parents and Computers course will continue to run in January on the same days at the same time. We also hope to run a fitness programme in January to run at the same time as our Operation Transformation event in the school. We will have more details about this course in January. We have started Maths for Fun in some classes and thanks to the following parents who have helped out- Angela, Leanne, Sarah, Juanita, Michelle, Deirdre and Caroline. We hope to run a programme with 4th classes in January and February. More information on this will go home after Christmas on this. Congratulations to all 6th class children who worked so hard on displays and lessons on healthy food and healthy living and then presented their work at our food event on the 23rd of November. This event was very successful

and it was great to see such a buzz of activity in the main hall! Along with the 6th class displays we had information stands on Tobacco cessation, a HSE Dietitian, HSE Oral health care, MABS and Wicklow Co. Co. Environmental Waste. Many parents from different classes came in on the day to enjoy some food samples and learn about many aspects of healthy food and healthy living. Thanks to all who supported. Here are some photos of the event!



Hawthorn Room: Ms. Cox

We have been working very hard this term, 2017 has been a great year for us. We have enjoyed doing some cool science experiments. We made our very own lava lamps they looked amazing! We also had fun doing a skittle experiment with water and watching the colour explosion! We have made some very interesting projects including one about JK Rowling, one of our favourite authors. We also wrote a procedural writing piece on how to win the Triwizard tournament. It was very detailed and an excellent read. We enjoyed learning about the Arctic, and the animals that live and survive in such a cold environment. The children cannot wait for the Christmas holidays, we have made some beautiful Christmas art including snow globes, Christmas wreaths and clay ornaments. We are very much in the Christmas spirit! We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in 2018.



Oak Room: Ms. Cummins

We have enjoyed completing our role plays on the theme of 'Mistakes'. Ms Cummins tells us that we are great little actors! In the month of November, we remembered all of our Grannies and Grandads that have passed away. We made our own class prayer to remember and pray for them. We have been busy preparing during this festive season, preparing our Christmas songs, art displays and above all our class Christmas play. We would like to wish you a season of gladness, a season of cheer, and to top it all off - a wonderful year!



Ms. Sheehan's 3rd Class



The last few months have been a very busy time for the children in Ms. Sheehan's third class. The class were learning all about monasteries and they constructed their own round towers. The class also learned about Christopher Columbus and they created paintings of his three ships sailing out to discover the new world. The class had great fun

reconstructing the teeth in a mouth template. They had learned about all the different type of teeth and they had to stick them all in the right place! It was very interesting where some of the teeth were placed. The class were so busy preparing for their Christmas play over the last few weeks. They all worked very hard learning their lines and the different songs in the play. You were all brilliant and the hard work paid off. Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Kavanagh's 3rd Class



3rd We have had a jam-packed term since Halloween! In science we learned all about teeth and the eye, we began multiplication and division in Maths and extended our knowledge of 3-d shapes. In History we learned all about Monasteries and even made our own chalices and round towers in art. We are now preparing for our favourite time of year. We are busy practicing for our class play 'Stable Manners'. We are looking forward to performing it for all of you. The class have worked extremely hard and are looking forward to a well-deserved break. Finally I would like to wish all the boys and girls a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Jameson's 3rd Class

It has been a very busy time this last term. We have continued to enjoy reading in our Literacy Lift Off sessions. We have recently begun visiting the school library every second Friday, and we look forward to reading lots of books each time. In Maths, we have worked hard at our multiplication and division. We learned about Early Christian Ireland in S.E.S.E and we also worked on locating the different counties of Ireland on a map. We also familiarised ourselves with the different car registrations in Ireland. We are busy practising for our Class Play 'Silent Night', and we are doing a great job with our singing. We wrote letters to Santa and then we visited Santa's Postbox in order to send them on to the man in red himself. We even got to see where our own post was placed. What a fun filled term! Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir!



Merry Christmas



Ms. Doyle's 4th Class



We have been very busy in Ms. Doyle's 4th class this term. We created many beautiful pieces of art that are displayed outside our class room. These include marbled art work and Christmas snowmen from a bird's eye view. We also created lovely snowmen out of clay which we decorated in our own unique ways. We learned the genre of report writing. We all compiled reports using information gathered from the surfaces, we then published our finished reports in our publishing copies. We were very lucky to have a coach come in to teach

us how to play rugby. Many of us had not played it before. We all really enjoyed playing rugby in school and improving and learning new skills. We spent the last few weeks of school working on our Christmas play 'Straw and Order'. We have worked so hard practicing our lines and learning the lyrics of the new songs. We hope everybody who came to see it enjoyed it!

Ms. Keane's 4th Class



As the newsletter goes to print we are very busy practicing our play "Countdown to Christmas". We look forward to entertaining you on Thursday before we break for our Christmas holiday. We've completed lots during the past two months. We have finished our novels and look forward to starting a brand new novel after Christmas. We have been learning all about rivers with particular emphasis on

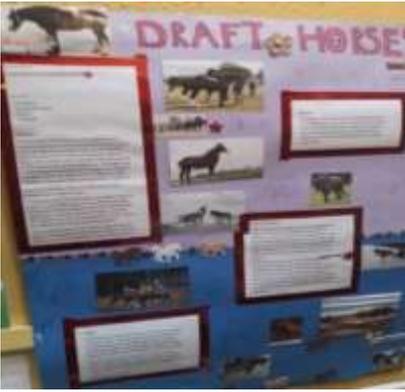
The Avoca River. We wrote our own poems entitled "The Months of The Year" and bound them together to make a special book which is now in our library for us all to read. We made lovely Christmas decorations from recyclable materials. We are looking forward to our Christmas break and fresh start again in January. Wishing you all a happy Christmas.

Ms. Lane's 4th Class



This has been a great term in 4th Class. We had a visit from the NWSPCA in November and they taught us lots about animal welfare and how to properly care for our dogs and cats. We did lots of research on our favourite breeds and did wonderful projects on them alongside some great pet collages. We have been busy rehearsing and making props for our Christmas play. We have been learning all about Advent and Christmas traditions all around the world. We are looking forward to starting our reading groups in January where we will be reading some exciting books. Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas and looking forward to seeing everyone refreshed in January.

Ms. Rees' 4th Class



It's hard to believe that Christmas is upon us already! We've been busy as usual, and this has been a very productive term. Guided reading in our classroom has been very successful. A big thank you goes to Ms Doyle and Ms Carter for all their work with the class. Hopefully those children who had put the books away in favour of other pastimes might be inclined to read a little more now? I certainly hope so! Genius Hour has become a way of life almost in our classroom at this stage! As a result, the children have become more independent, more responsible and more

interested in learning. It's just lovely to watch this unfold as the year progresses. All that's left now is for us to wish you all a happy Christmas and new year. Enjoy the holidays everyone. See you in 2018!



Mrs. Wolohan's 5th Class



My class is having lots of fun preparing for Christmas. We have drawn some brilliant reindeer which we displayed outside our classroom. We're in the middle of making some Christmas decorations for our Christmas trees at home. These will be made out of left over wool. We're lucky to have wool to spare from woven colourful mats we made some weeks ago. The whole class has opened up their imaginations and created wonderful recycled decorations for our school Christmas tree. It looks beautiful. We are busy preparing a Christmas play which we look forward to performing for other classes and our parents. We've thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing together. We

have really enjoyed agility classes this term, in which we played many games like dodge ball. We are eagerly waiting for the Carol Service in the church. We wish you all a Merry Christmas! (By Kasandra Kozar)

Ms. Hurley's 5th Class

This term we have been very lucky as we have had lots of fun activities. We were over in the CBS for three science lessons in the science labs and we also had a tour with Mr Somers looking at the locker areas of the school. We had a great time doing the experiments which covered parts of chemistry, biology and physics. We discovered how fireworks get their colours using Bunsen burners to burn different chemicals. We learned about acids, bases and forces. On the last day, we dissected a sheep's heart, lung and kidneys. We really enjoyed the experiments. We were also very lucky to have two external coaching sessions this term with Adrian for GAA and Jenny and Graham for agility. We learned lots of new skills in GAA and there was a huge improvement in our skill levels after the five training sessions. During agility lessons, we practised all different types of movements such as hopping and running and then practised these movements in different games such as dodge ball. We enjoyed 4 weeks of maths for fun and we are sad that it is over. We have really enjoyed getting the chance to improve our maths skills through different fun games and we would really like to thank Ms O' Regan and the parents for coming in to help. We hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas.



Ms. Campbell's 5th Class



We have been super busy this term. We are enjoying practising for our Christmas show and we thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas Carol Service in the church. We have made it through the most difficult part of long division and we have a good concept of it now. Our class have created beautiful art; Renaissance paintings, Volcano cartoons and Christmas decorations. Every day we are taking out an act of kindness to do and a present from our Advent Calendar. Congratulations to Connie and Eva Duffy who got to the finals of the 'Space to Shine' competition. Happy Christmas to all.



Ms. Fleming's 5th Class



Fifth class have had a great year so far! There have been lots of exciting things happening! We have enjoyed both Agility training and also GAA skills training. Lots of the class are keen to join AGB in the New Year. We learnt about Pompeii and crafted our own volcanoes in the class which we hope to explode before Christmas. We loved Maths for fun and want to thank Ms. O' Regan and all the parents who have volunteered to come into the classroom in order to make it possible. We have learnt the Cup Song as Gaeilge and are perfecting our actions for the song at the moment. We are looking forward to a new term and completing lots of science experiments and taking part in Operation transformation and other exciting surprises 2018 may hold.



6th Class

6th class have been very busy this term! We had tag rugby coaching from Barney and had a chance to show off our skills in Arklow Rugby club, a great day was had! We are also enjoying our trips to Arklow library which gives us a chance to borrow some really interesting books. We hosted a healthy eating event in the hall where we showcased all we had learned about cooking healthy recipes, the food pyramid and leading a healthy lifestyle. The event was a great success! We are busy taking part in the 'Write A Book' project and we are looking forward to creating our own short stories. We also took part in the 'Hour of Code' which showed us all about computer programming. We are all looking forward to the Christmas Break.



Ms. Doyle, Mr. Neenan and Mrs. Riley would like to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018!

Sport

The school took part in a participation blitz in Ballinacill Centre of Excellence in November, organised by Wicklow GAA. Mr. Neenan attended a meeting of South Wicklow Cumann na mBunscol where structures for the foreseeable future were discussed. Coaching continues:

GAA from AGB, Rugby from Leinster GAA, Soccer from FAI, Agility from KWETB. Operation Transformation is ready to begin in January. We need as many volunteers as possible to make this a success. Let Mr Neenan know if you're available to support us with this.

Reminders

Arriving in school

- The school will be open to receive pupils from 8.55am (this does not require your child to be in the school from 8.55am. Ideally we ask that your child be dropped/ arrive at 9.00am). school finished at 2.45pm **Accordingly, while the school grounds will be open to the pupils, the school cannot accept responsibility for children arriving before the official opening of the school or remaining in the school grounds after school**
- Only children attending Breakfast Club can arrive from 8.30am
- Classes will commence at 9.05am
- No pupil should arrive later than 9.05am

We ask that every pupil cooperates with these times for Health and Safety reasons.

Coming to the school during the school day

- Should you need to drop a forgotten item/ form or if you are collecting or returning your child for appointments please do so through the secretary's office. **Parents/ guardians cannot call to the classrooms as this is disruptive to teaching and learning. Please use the front door of the school for all visits**
- The staff carpark is for staff only

Invitations

- Party/ event invitations are not allowed to be given in school

Cycling to school

- Please ensure your child wears a helmet at all times when cycling to and from school. **No scooters allowed**

Parking

- Parents/ guardians are reminded to park responsibly when they are dropping and collecting their children to and from school

Phone calls

- Please only call for messages to be given to your child in emergencies as the phone needs to be free for school business

Footwear

- As the children are permitted to run during break times it is essential that they wear supportive footwear at all time. Light canvas runners and light 'slip on', very flat shoes are not suitable

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas Holidays Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January 2017

inclusive (last day Friday 22nd December)

School Re opens Monday 8th January 2018

Mid-Term Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February 2018

Closure 21st February 2018 Whole- school professional development for the new Primary Language Curriculum (closure sanctioned by DES)

Public Holiday Monday 19th March 2018

Easter Holidays Monday 26th March to Friday 6th April 2018 inclusive (last day Friday 23rd March)



Twelve Days of Christmas

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6

F	R	E	N	C	H	H	E	N	S	W	A	N	S	V
E	S	G	K	M	G	S	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	G
S	D	O	A	H	D	N	G	P	M	G	C	Q	M	J
E	R	L	B	N	I	D	I	Q	P	I	P	E	R	S
E	O	D	F	P	I	P	N	Y	I	M	X	C	B	G
G	L	E	L	R	I	K	D	W	A	D	N	H	U	N
N	D	N	T	N	M	A	I	D	S	L	N	R	E	I
G	P	R	G	M	I	L	K	I	N	G	D	I	H	M
Y	A	I	F	U	Z	T	W	O	M	L	O	S	M	M
P	E	N	T	Q	G	N	I	P	A	E	L	T	E	U
J	V	G	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	D	M	N	R
I	L	S	D	R	I	B	G	N	I	L	L	A	C	D
U	E	T	U	R	T	L	E	D	O	V	E	S	Y	P
U	W	B	N	O	O	S	Q	Y	T	X	P	C	F	S
N	T	V	O	M	U	Y	E	E	R	T	R	A	E	P

10

12

2

4

3



11

CALLING BIRDS
CHRISTMAS
DAYS
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH HENS
GEESE

GOLDEN RINGS
LAYING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS
MILKING
PARTRIDGE

PEAR TREE
PIPERS
PIPING
SWANS
SWIMMING
TURTLE DOVES
TWELVE

8

9

7

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St. John's S.N.S would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year!