

School News

September 2024



Welcome back everyone. **A very special welcome to our new Junior Infants Class and all our new families.**



SAPA

Welcome back everyone! We hope everyone is settling in well to the new school year and a special welcome to our new Junior Infants' families.

SAPA kicked off the new school year with a bang with our Family Fun Run on Sunday 15th September. We were delighted to have 220 participants on the day. There was some excellent running on display and the bbq afterwards was a great success. Huge thank you to our Fun Run committee Jenny, Paul, Andrew and Niamh for all their hard work over the summer putting this event together and thanks also to all the parents who offered their time to volunteer on the day to help make it a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.



The annual Gibneys Wine Fair was held in the village on 18th September raising money for all the local schools. Thank you so much to everyone who bought event tickets and raffle tickets for the fair. We received €835 which will go towards worthy St Andrew's school projects (news to follow on these in the coming months!). Out of 7 raffle prizes available, we had 2 winning tickets at our school and both winners have now been notified. Thanks again!

The next SAPA event will be our much loved annual Halloween Disco! Put Friday 25th October in your diaries and get those spooky costumes ready!!

Around the Classes



Junior Infants have had a fantastic first month of school, making new friends and settling into St. Andrew's NS. In play and learn, they looked at the themes of school, home and the doctor's surgery. They had a great time exploring different roles, building, creating and painting. They have been learning all about Mé Féin in Irish and have learned lots of new words, phrases and songs. They love using their new Irish phrases throughout the day in school! They enjoyed looking at their individual features in the mirror and painting beautiful self-portraits. They explored all the similarities and differences they have



between each other and had great fun celebrating their uniqueness! They have been playing some new games in PE and also enjoying Daly Exercise. They have completed lots of fine motor activities to get their hands ready for all the writing they will be doing. Junior Infants have been working very hard, having lots of fun and settling really well into school life!



Senior Infants have had a super start to September! They have settled into school really well and have had lots of fun. In play and learn this month, the themes were the post office and the school. The class learned how to write an address on an envelope and picked someone from their family to post a letter to! They had to write neatly and of course, buy a stamp in the post office! Each day, a group got to walk to the post office in the village and send their letters in the real post box. There was great excitement when they all arrived a few days later!



The children also made lovely 'Jolly Postman' post people in arts and crafts and worked in the post office themselves in role play. The class have been enjoying lots of maths action activities and have been learning some new tricky words and all about the vowels! The class were very lucky to start nature studies with Mouse from 'Owls' this month and have enjoyed visits from Daly Exercise too! The class read the story 'Be Who You Are' by Todd Parr for our September anti-bullying lesson. The children learned that differences make us unique and then made beautiful self-portraits showing lots of unique traits! Senior Infants are looking forward to a great October.



1st Class have settled in so well and have already shown a great new level of independence. It has been a busy month, starting off with some great investigations into our senses. The children loved the opportunity to go on a senses walk around the school as well as trying to guess what was in the feely bags and smell pots - lots of the children were very good at identifying the smell of coffee!! In English, the class looked at the traditional tales of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" to inspire some writing, particular highlights were hot seating some of the characters from Little Red Riding Hood, as well as acting out the story of Goldilocks. There are many budding actors in the class! In maths, they have been focusing on numbers, partitioning out numbers, as well as using tens frames and number lines to help us with our adding. The children have enjoyed some new games to help them practise their skills. Mé Féin has been the topic in Gaeilge, with lots of beautiful singing of some new songs. Well done 1st class on all of your hard work this month!



What a great start to the year with **2nd Class**. The class have been having a blast getting to know each other and getting to know their beautiful new room. They feel very lucky to have an amazing library in their classroom filled with wonderful stories. 2nd class have immersed themselves fully into the challenges carried out in their maths lessons, revising and practising skills learnt last year and also learning lots of new skills too. They are working hard on cursive writing and are keen to use their creative-writing copybooks every Friday. There has been a focus on adjectives this month, to further develop storytelling skills and a notable highlight in the class has been reading 'The Giggler Treatment' by Roddy Doyle.



The class have been working hard on the 'Mé Féin' topic in Gaeilge lessons. This has integrated well into our SESE lessons where the class has been learning all about the body and keeping the body and mind healthy. In religion, they have been celebrating Harvest, singing songs such as 'Give me oil in my lamp' as well as creating beautiful art. The class also enjoyed hearing about the history of Florence Nightingale. Geography brought the class on a tour of the school, practising their directions and how to draw a map. 2nd class are so lucky to have students with families who come from lots



of different parts of the world, so the class explored the world map on the wall and learnt all about the continents and the differences between Ireland and other countries. The anti-bullying topic for this month focuses on how 'we are all unique' and 'the importance of not excluding one another'. This allowed the class to explore the 'Wrinkled Heart' activity which provided students with a powerful visual that shows the effects hurtful words or behaviours have on someone. The activity is a great reminder to be kind to others. Well done 2nd class on a great first month!

3rd Class have had a wonderful few weeks back at school. They have been



working very hard as a class in all subjects. They learnt all about Frida Kahlo who was a Mexican artist famous for her self-portraits. Using markers and coloured tissue paper, the children created their own "Frida Kahlo" masterpieces. 3rd class also hosted this month's assembly covering the topic of uniqueness and celebrating our differences. The class read the story "It's Okay to Be Different" by Todd Parr and



created their own self-portraits highlighting some of their interests and hobbies. In Gaeilge, they have been busy learning new phrases and vocabulary to describe themselves. The children have been singing the "Hokey Pokey" in Irish together. This has helped them to remember all the different parts of the body. In literacy, the children have been reading a



novel called "The Butterfly Lion". They also had the opportunity to take part in a "Book Tasting" to sample some of the books in the library and select a favourite to read during DEAR time. With October just around the corner, we have lots of fun things planned in preparation for Halloween. We will continue with our Daly Exercise and try out some more fun activities.



4th Class enjoyed a busy month in September, settling back into school and adjusting to a new classroom with Mr Blake. There were plenty of activities to start the new term and the children dived right in to take part. In Gaeilge, they revised the basics while also doing some songs and poems about An Fomhair. In English, the class worked hard on their comprehension strategies, cloze activities and started their reading and spellings. In maths, they revised some work studied in 3rd class while also doing place value and some addition work. In SESE, they studied hibernation and the changing of the seasons, with a particular emphasis on autumn. They also investigated the influence weather has on our climate and how different types of weather such as droughts, monsoons and landslides can affect the landscape. In PE, they jumped straight into their swimming lessons in the PSLC with all the students taking part really well. They've also had Daly Exercise sessions in the parish hall. In art, they drew squirrels to represent their important journey through hibernation. They also drew the 4 different seasons, showcasing how each season has their own unique colour palettes. For the month of September as well, their SPHE topic was discussing how 'we are all unique', embracing how we all have our own talents and interests but how we can all still fit in and be accepted by all those around us.



5th Class began the school year by embracing the ethos of teamwork. They discussed what a positive classroom should be like and devised a whole class agreement based on this discussion. As part of the Weaving Well-Being programme the children learned about the importance of having positive relationships and focused on how showing respect to ourselves and others helps to foster positive relationships. In history, the children learned about what life was like for people living in The Henrietta Street tenements of 1911. The class started the novel "The Little Bee Charmer of Henrietta Street" by Sarah Webb. In art, the class drew self-portraits and learned about the artwork of Paul Klee by recreating his famous Sun and Castle painting. The children also set goals for the year ahead. 5th class really enjoyed taking part in the cycling programme this month, and loved their trip to the library.



6th Class have settled back to school brilliantly and are enjoying being at the top end of the school! Ms Hoffman is delighted to be working with the class again and seeing how much they've progressed since Junior Infants! They have shown great maturity and responsibility working with the younger pupils through their reading buddy programme with 1st class and morning play with Junior Infants.

September has been a very active month. The class registered to take part in the 'Marathon Kids' programme, which is an 8 week running programme focusing on health & fitness. They are also complementing this with weekly swimming as well as exercise sessions with Daly Exercise. Ms Hoffman has enjoyed seeing the impressive artwork being produced in the class. They have worked on projects exploring line & colour and created vintage island maps and autumn paintings inspired by their fiction and poetry readings in English. They did lots of learning in SESE. In geography, they discussed ideas around migration & refugees and in history they learned about Roman planetary gods and the solar system in science. They also enjoyed a visit from STEAM academy showing off 'Prox' the robot dog. They finished the month by leading a church assembly celebrating being back to school & working hard and are certainly setting a great example with all their hard work and positivity!



Assemblies

We had three assemblies in September. Ms. McElhinney led the first assembly. She welcomed all the children back to school and talked about all the things we do every day in St. Andrew's such as being kind, showing respect, doing our best work and much more! Ms. McElhinney read a story about being kind and reminded everyone about our Bí Cineálta flag which we have for showing kindness in our school.

3rd class and Ms. Halligan led our 2nd assembly. They focussed on our anti-bullying topic of celebrating difference and including everyone.

Ms. Anderson led our 3rd assembly which focussed on inclusion and diversity.

We also had our Back to School service in St. Andrew's Church which 6th class led and focussed on celebrating being back at school. The children also brought food items to include in the Harvest collection for the Capuchin Centre.



September Anti-Bullying Topic

All classes focussed on our theme of 'We are all unique, we celebrate difference'. It is so important to recognise that although we are all different, we should treat everyone equally and include everyone. We should never leave anyone out, point at or laugh at anyone just because they seem different to us.

