



## Welcome to the Christmas Edition of School News December 2024

### Christmas Picture Competition

Congratulations to everyone on their brilliant artwork in the Christmas Art Competition. The winners this year are:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b>Junior Infants</b>	Orla Tuffy	Hava Belaga	Mason Nolan McKeaney
<b>Senior Infants</b>	Ailbhe Cashman	William Linehan	William Wilson Farrah Murphy
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	Kieran Koetzner	Coen O'Halloran	Amelia Murray
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	Simeon Wong	Logan Keegan	Cameron Cope
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Class</b>	Sienna Higgins	Mila Coombes	Sam Bennett
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Marcella Jepson-Jones	Yvanna Wong	Paige Murphy Chloe Ruttledge
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Arthur Sheridan	Isabelle Lamont Lily Bennett	Hannah McQuade
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Class</b>	Rachael Clarke	Emily Toner	Conor Hudson





## St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you all for donating so generously to our St Vincent De Paul hampers project. This year we gave toy and sport vouchers to the families to buy presents and gifts along with Christmas pyjamas and the food donations. The hampers were delivered last Sunday evening and the families were very grateful and delighted to receive them.





# Wonder Lights

Written by Sienna Higgins, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

We had the best time at the Wonder Lights. It was so magical too! We really enjoyed it! We even saw Santa and his elves and we got selection boxes! We went there in groups with a parent. We went on a rainbow bridge and rainbow lake. At the end of the trail, we got free cookies, drinks and lights. It was such a fun day out with the class and we are so excited for Christmas! Thank you Ms. McElhinney for choosing our class to attend the Wonder Lights - we loved it!!!





## Christmas Jumper Day



## SAPA

Earlier this month the Sapa team were delighted to welcome around 150 children to our Christmas movie night. As well as being a great social event for our children, we raised €650 which will go towards worthy projects at our school.

It was also great to see the many parents who managed to join us today for our Charity Coffee Morning event. Thank you so much to the many people who baked goodies for us, there were some wonderful treats on offer! Any donations received will be forwarded to Childline's Christmas Jumper Day appeal.

Finally, as 2024 draws to a close, we'd like to wish all of the children and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

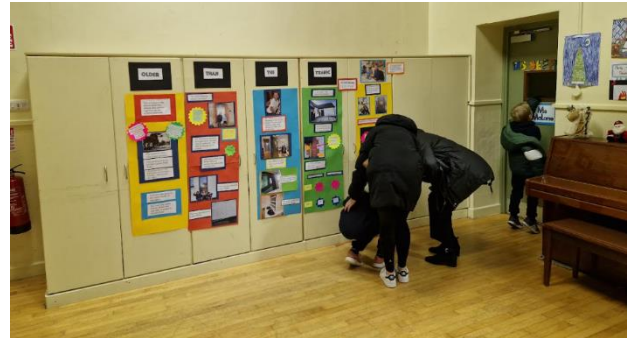




## History Projects Display

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December we held a display of our history projects which the classes created to celebrate 200 years of St. Andrew's National School. Along with the projects, old roll books, school books, scripts from plays held over the years and even the corporal punishment book were on display.

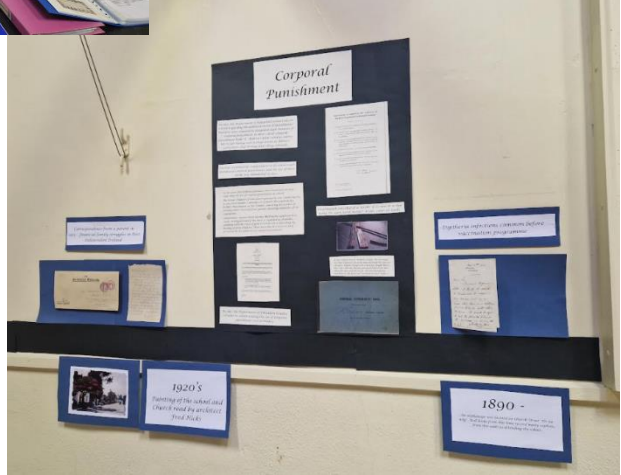
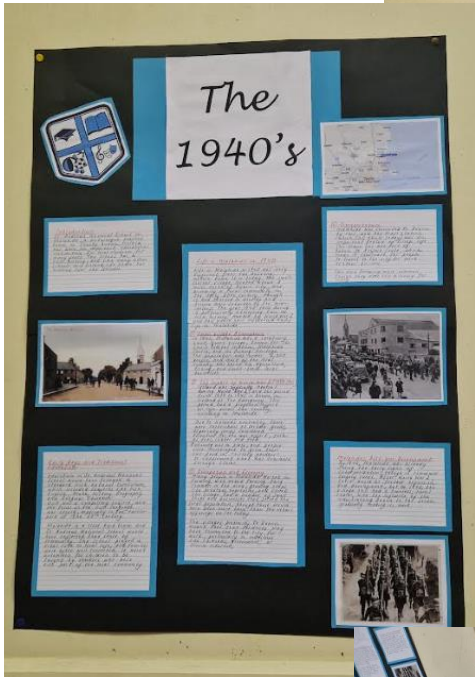
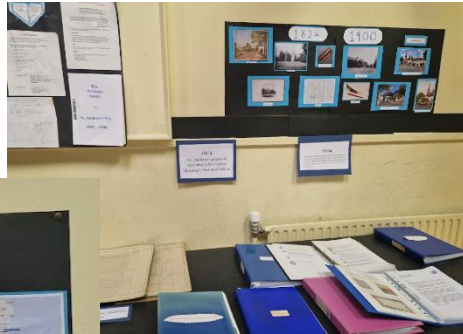
A lovely evening was had by all who attended, with mulled wine and Christmas treats along with many journeys down memory lane!







The desk that David Evans carved his initials into while he was in 6<sup>th</sup> class in St. Andrew's National School.





## Around the Classes

It has been a fun-filled, festive month in **Junior Infants** as the children have been preparing for Christmas. In play and learn the theme was 'Santa's Workshop'. The children were very creative as they designed and made toys in the construction zone. They had great fun in the role play and small world zones as they took on the role of Santa and the elves, making and delivering toys for Christmas. In the creative zones they made snow globes and elves and in the junk art zone they practised wrapping presents. In maths they made Christmas shapes with Numicon, did lots of Christmas counting activities and collected data about their favourite Christmas movies and songs. In Irish they learned about 'caitheamh aimsire' and 'An Nollaig' and in English they are continuing to learn their Jolly Phonics sounds. They have been singing lots of Christmas songs and enjoying all the festive cheer in class. I hope everyone in Junior Infants has a wonderful Christmas and enjoys the well-deserved break.



**Senior Infants** have had a great December. They have done lots of lovely things this month. The children have been learning lots about winter and Christmas and the class have done some lovely writing about both. In maths, they have been learning about 3D shapes and data. They learned about Antarctica and the animals that live there. The children started to work on bird feeders with Ms. Jeffery and Ms. Malone to feed birds in the garden in winter time. The children worked in Santa's workshop in play and learn, learning to wrap presents and building Santa's sleigh. In science, the children learned about magnets and got to experiment with magnetic materials. They also made some lovely snowmen to decorate the classroom for Christmas. The boys and girls have been practising lots of singing, learning some Christmas songs in English and as Gaeilge! The children made beautiful yule logs with Mouse from OWLS. They also did some Christmas animations on the iPads, drawing their own character and bringing it to life! I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and everyone gets a great rest after all their hard work so far this year!







**1<sup>st</sup> Class** have loved getting into the spirit of Christmas and winter this month! They have enjoyed doing some art activities, like making candles to display on the windows, as well as cutting patterns into paper to make snowflakes. Inspired by the children, the class read the story of Paddington and the children did some brilliant writing based around this, including writing a list of what Paddington packed in his suitcase, as well as writing letters to Aunt Lucy in Peru.

The children's writing has improved so much, I was amazed at the work they produced! In maths they looked at patterns, as well as place value with numbers up to 50. As Gaeilge they looked at the topics of 'An Aimsir' before starting 'An Nollaig'. As well as all this learning in the classroom 1<sup>st</sup> class were lucky enough to get to go to The Ark to watch a production of Roddy Doyle's *The Giggler Treatment*. The children had a fantastic time, and they behaved beautifully, they were a real credit to you all! I hope you all have a brilliant Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



The children have had a very busy December here in **2<sup>nd</sup> Class**. The Stars came out for Christmas and boy, oh boy did they shine! The children hope you enjoyed watching the play just as much as they enjoyed rehearsing for it. Gaeilge classes have been wonderfully festive this month learning and exploring vocabulary of 'Breith Chríost agus An Nollaig'. The children have made great strides in

maths lessons focusing mainly on time and maths word problems. The class read *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski, this inspired wonderful conversations in class about being kind to one another. This lended itself well to their anti-bullying topic for this month which was all about "what do you do if you're being bullied/If you see someone else being bullied". 2<sup>nd</sup> class had a blast on their visit to The Ark Theatre to see *The Giggler Treatment*. Everyone in 2<sup>nd</sup> class would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas.



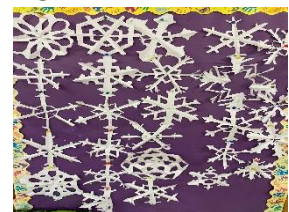


**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** have been working really hard for the month of December. The class have been doing lots of Christmas art activities to decorate their classroom. Their "snowflake art" turned out beautifully. With just a few cuts and folds of paper, the children created some fantastic and unique snowflakes. In science, the children began to put their engineering ideas into practice and built their designs using an array of different materials. All of the groups did so well and put a lot of work into the planning, designing and building of their projects. In English, they read "Snowman at Night" by Carolyn Bueher and created their very own winter stories based on the book. In SPHE, they created "gratitude wreaths" to mark Advent but also to take the time to recognise all of the nice things they have in their lives. The children have worked so hard this term and I really hope everyone in 3<sup>rd</sup> class has a wonderful break. They have been a pleasure to teach and I can't wait to see them all again in the New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**4<sup>th</sup> Class** had a wonderful and festive December with lots of exciting tasks being completed. Firstly, in maths, they studied graphs and tables, creating surveys on their favourite sports, subjects, Christmas foods and movies. In Gaeilge they studied all things connected to Mí na Nollag, reading nativity stories and poems whilst learning all about the bia and bronntanais that they'll be feasting on and receiving on lá Nollag. In SESE, the study of Christmas was on their minds looking at how Christmas is celebrated around the world in different cultures. They also did a

study on all there is to know about reindeers. In art this month, they created beautiful individual entries for the Christmas art competition as well as making snowflakes and gingerbread characters. In PE, the children enjoyed some free play stations, playing games such as football, 4 square and dodgeball. The anti-bullying topic this month for SPHE was the study of 'what to do if you're being bullied' which was discussed and learnt in class and at home. The children showed a great level of maturity and understanding when discussing such an important topic. In music, they performed lovely Christmas songs alongside the other classes in the church. To finish off, the main focus of December for 4<sup>th</sup> class was the drama performance for the Christmas play 'Scrooge' which the children performed for the classes and parents with everyone taking part excellently. It was great to see the play come together so well and all children taking great pride in showcasing their amazing talents on stage. 4<sup>th</sup> class would like to wish everyone a lovely and safe Christmas break and a happy new year!







**5<sup>th</sup> Class** got into the spirit of Christmas over the last couple of weeks. The children decorated our trees, put up lights and even painted the windows. The children completed lots of very hard work learning all about fractions in maths. They also started their own stories which will be published and displayed in the classroom in the new year. The class drew fantastic Christmas gnomes and made some clay ones too to go with their pictures. To celebrate 200 years of St. Andrew's, past principal Trevor Richmond came to visit the class and spoke them about the history of the



school. We also examined all the old roll books. The oldest one we found was from 1877!! Finally, the children drew beautiful Christmas pictures for the annual competition.



December was filled with Christmas creativity in **6<sup>th</sup> Class!** The class did a beautiful job decorating their classroom and painting the windows for Christmas. They completed impressive pictures for the annual Christmas picture competition and made beautiful pastel Christmas lights pictures. For their last reading buddies of the year, 6<sup>th</sup> class buddied up with 1<sup>st</sup> class to complete art projects. They're looking forward to a changeover to 'Games Buddies' in the new year! The block of literacy stations finished and they all completed super Christmas stories through their module on narrative writing. In maths they explored the strand of shape and space. They explored

rotational symmetry, translations and reflections. They revised 2D shapes including triangles and quadrilaterals and had fun with tangram puzzles.

In Gaeilge they read the story of Cailín na Lasain (The little Matchgirl) and other Christmas stories and wrote their own piece about siopadóireacht na Nollaig. In PE 6<sup>th</sup> class practised skills, throwing and catching tennis balls and played dodgeball and learned a game Ms. Hoffman used to play when she was young called 'Weasel'. The boys and girls exchanged their secret Santa gifts and there were smiles all round with all the thoughtful gifts. At the end of term, we say Goodbye and Good Luck to Ella Bardens and her family who are emigrating to Singapore for a few years. We will miss Ella's cheerful, friendly presence in the class. We'll keep in touch and post her the all-important graduation yearbook at the end of the year!





## Assemblies

We had our Christmas Service on Wednesday where the children told The Christmas Story through readings and songs.

## December Anti-Bullying Topic

Our December Anti-Bullying topic was about what to do if you see bullying or if you are being bullied. The role of the bystander was discussed among the children.

