



Welcome to the Christmas
Edition of School News
December 2023



Christmas Picture Competition

Junior Infants:	1 st Olivia Browne	2 nd Emilia Bagnall	3 rd Evelyn Adrien
Senior Infants:	1 st Ameilia Murray	2 nd Ramona Sheridan	3 rd Nevaeh Egan/Barra Brogan
1 st Class:	1 st Simeon Wong	2 nd Myles O'Sullivan	3 rd Juliette Clarke/Jacob Saville
2 nd Class:	1 st Leah McCann	2 nd Mila Coombes	3 rd Emma Heffernan/Sienna Higgins
3 rd Class:	1 st Yvanna Wong	2 nd Naomi Saville	3 rd Chloe Rutledge
4 th Class:	1 st Kuzma Sydorenko	2 nd Matilda Casey	3 rd Hannah McQuade
5 th Class:	1 st Quade Calder	2 nd Charlie Nagle	3 rd Mark Carroll/Elena Hoffman
6 th Class:	1 st Orlaith Amituhu	2 nd Lauren Clarke/Lillie Rose Daly	3 rd Alexander Butcher



Our Christmas Story Tellers

Charlie and Quade have been busy working on a Christmas Story called 'The Grinch and The Naughty Boy'.

They were invited to read the story to Second Class. Second Class really enjoyed listening and they said it was amazing!



Wonder Lights - Third Class

Written by Marcella Jepson- Jones

On Wednesday the 13th of December, 3rd Class were invited to go to the Wonder Lights in Malahide Castle. We were told to meet at Avoca. When we arrived we gazed at the most fascinating things. There were food stalls and fire trucks that you could sit in but I won't tell anymore for the people that are going 😊. We were put into groups

and off we went to see the dazzling lights! It felt truly magical making our way through the forest of lights with its shimmering stars and shiny disco balls. I never wanted it to end but like every adventure it had to, so, I walked out with my friends but the fun hadn't quite ended yet. We were led into a room and in it was someone big and jolly - it was Santa Clause! We got a picture with him and he gave us a selection box. Afterwards, we went outside and got some hot chocolate and cookies baked by Rosie and her mum. They were delicious! It was the BEST night ever!!



December Anti-Bullying Topic

This month each class discussed what to do if you are being bullied or you see bullying behaviour.

3rd - 6th Class had an online safety talk for Barnados.

Assemblies

Ms. O'Brien and Senior Infants led a lovely assembly this month. They told us the story of Christmas and we practised our songs for the Carol Service.

Ms Anderson did a great job planning our Carol Service. It took place on Tuesday in St. Andrew's Church. It was a lovely service with great reading and singing and music.

SAPA

SAPA were so happy to host our first Christmas Movie Night at the end of November. The kids enjoyed festive movies The Grinch and Home Alone with their cosy jammies, fleecy blankets and treats. It was a lovely way to start the festive season.

We would like to invite all parents and families to the Christmas Coffee Morning on the last day of term and look forward to seeing you there

for a cup of tea, mince pie and catch up. We have a stunning Christmas cake made by St. Andrews very own Salome Aucamp that will be raffled and all money collected at the coffee morning will be donated directly to Barretstown charity.

SAPA would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday and all the very best for a peaceful and healthy new year ahead.



Around The Classes



It has been a fun-filled, festive month in **Junior Infants** as the children have been preparing for Christmas. They enjoyed a teddy bear day at the beginning of the month as a reward for filling their star jar with their acts of kindness and great teamwork. 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 zone they made Christmas cards and decorations and in the junk art zone they practiced wrapping presents. In maths they made Christmas shapes with Numicon, did some Christmas counting activities and learned all about the numbers 1 and 2. In Irish they were learning 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 festive December! They have enjoyed lots of Christmas themed activities. The children have made some beautiful pieces of artwork in Play and Learn. They enjoyed reading the story 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. Stickman came to their classroom stuck in some ice and they had to work together using tools to free him! The children also decorated Christmas trees and played in 'Santa's Workshop'. They have been singing lots of Christmas carols and practicing for their school assembly. Senior Infants told the story of the Nativity and did a super job! The children have continued with beautiful winter writing and have learned how to read and write words with the 'magic e'. The children deserve a well-earned rest over Christmas after all their hard work!





There has been much excitement in the run up to the Christmas holidays in **1st Class**, the children have been singing lots of Christmas songs as well as doing lots of winter themed work. The children loved finishing off their houses topic by making their wonderful junk model houses, most of them would stand up very well against the huff and puff of the Big Bad Wolf!



They made some lovely snowmen pictures and enjoyed making their entries for the Christmas Art Competition. In English they looked at letter writing, both formal and informal, and wrote some letters of their own, including to Santa!

During maths time they looked at positional language, learning their left and right and used their 2D shape knowledge to make lovely Christmas



pictures. 1st Class have also been doing a brilliant job learning the songs for the carol concert, and are looking forward to performing Away in a Manger as their class song. Well done for another brilliant month and the class hope you all have the most wonderful holidays with your families. See you all in 2024!



Well what can we say, the children have had a very busy December here in **2nd Class**. Santa was on strike and the class had no other option but to prove to him that children really are good, giving, kind and sharing. The class 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 Christi agus An Nollaig. They have made great strides in maths lessons focusing mainly on time and maths word problems. They read *The Rag Coat* by Lauren Mills, this inspired wonderful conversations in class about being kind to one another which 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". They have been so lucky to have another month with Oskar teaching us new football skills. 2nd Class wish you all a very happy, restful and healthy Christmas.



3rd Class have been working really hard for the month of December. They 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. The classroom elf "Gregory" has also been settling in to 3rd Class playing a few tricks on us all! With Christmas just around the corner, they have been immersed in all sorts of Christmas themed projects. In English, the children created "winter poems" with Ms. Anderson. In SPHE, they created "compliment wreaths" to mark Advent but also to take the time to say thanks and give a compliment to a friend. They have worked so hard this term and I really hope everyone in 3rd Class has a wonderful break. See you all in the New Year! Ms. Halligan



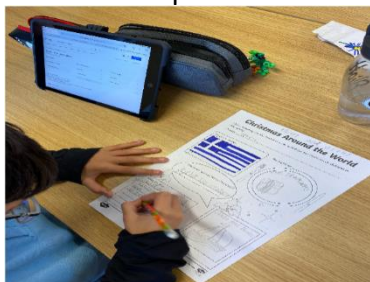
With Christmas just around the corner, they have been immersed in all sorts of Christmas themed projects. In English, the children created "winter poems" with Ms. Anderson. In SPHE, they created "compliment wreaths" to mark Advent but also to take the time to say thanks and give a compliment to a friend. They have worked so hard this term and I really hope everyone in 3rd Class has a wonderful break. See you all in the New Year! Ms. Halligan



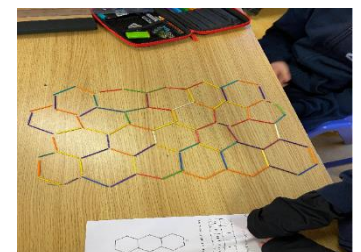
They have worked so hard this term and I really hope everyone in 3rd Class has a wonderful break. See you all in the New Year! Ms. Halligan



4th Class had a great December with a pretty packed schedule in the run up to Christmas. Their main focus this month was performing the Christmas Drama 'Scrooge' which the children did an amazing job of for their fellow students and parents to see. The children each put in an amazing effort to make sure they each knew their role on the day. The class would also like to thank Rebecca, the drama teacher for all her help in the preparation and organisation of the play. Across the other subjects, the children enjoyed learning about Christmas as Gaeilge as well as studying in SESE how different countries worldwide celebrate Christmas historically. They really enjoyed learning about the range of traditions and celebrations that other cultures have in the month of December. In PE, 4th Class finished off their first set of swimming lessons, where they have all made massive strides and are really proud of their progress. In music, the Christmas carol service was something the children loved to practise and perform in the Church. To finish the term in maths, they rounded up on some of the main skills learnt to date so far, as well as covering tessellations/shapes and introducing fractions. The children have worked really hard this term overall and are looking forward to a well-deserved break. 4th Class hopes everyone has a lovely Christmas and a safe holiday break.



The children each put in an amazing effort to make sure they each knew their role on the day. The class would also like to thank Rebecca, the drama teacher for all her help in the preparation and organisation of the play. Across the other subjects, the children enjoyed learning about Christmas as Gaeilge as well as studying in SESE how different countries worldwide celebrate Christmas historically. They really enjoyed learning about the range of traditions and celebrations that other cultures have in the month of December. In PE, 4th Class finished off their first set of swimming lessons, where they have all made massive strides and are really proud of their progress. In music, the Christmas carol service was something the children loved to practise and perform in the Church. To finish the term in maths, they rounded up on some of the main skills learnt to date so far, as well as covering tessellations/shapes and introducing fractions. The children have worked really hard this term overall and are looking forward to a well-deserved break. 4th Class hopes everyone has a lovely Christmas and a safe holiday break.



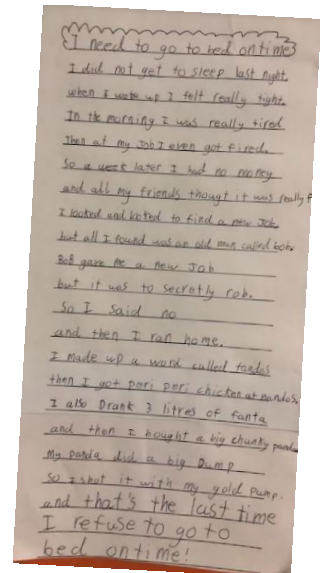
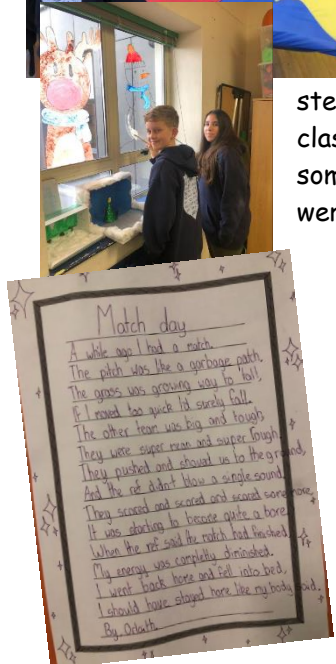
5th Class have had a lovely December in school. They visited Care Choice Care Home in Swords, where they sang songs and read stories and poems to the residents. 5th Class finished the topic of fractions in maths by making some lovely fractions art. They also completed their hot air balloons. The class wrote Christmas stories in groups that they will be reading to the junior classes. 5th Class have enjoyed decorating their classroom for Christmas, as well as opening their Secret Santa gifts.



6th Class have been very creative this month with art & literacy and music. They designed and painted a beautiful Christmas mural on the classroom window and produced an amazing array of Christmas pictures for the school competition. This month they had a talk from Sue from Barnardos on the topic of internet safety/cyberbullying. She highlighted the importance of having strong passwords and reminded the pupils that their digital footprint lasts forever. The pupils got a good idea of what not to share online and



steps to take if they experience cyber bullying. Ms. Hoffman & the class had great fun reliving their time in Junior Infants by playing some parachute games which they enjoyed even more than when they were 5! In history 6th Class explored the events of the WW1 Christmas Day truce when the British & German troops celebrated Christmas together, they enjoyed watching an old Christmas ad which recreated the events. They watched a selection of other Christmas ads to give the inspiration for some creative writing. The pupils wrote wonderful Christmas themed stories, a real mix of poignance, celebration and adventure! The class also wrote some witty poems inspired by the poem 'Today I had a rotten Day' By Ken Nesbitt. Have a read of a couple below! They class will be visiting Care Choice Care Home in Swords to bring some festive cheer to the residents by singing their favourite Christmas songs and reading some Christmas stories.



*It's the little things
that matter most!
Enjoy the Holidays.*

