



# School News April 2023



## Great Irish Bake

Thank you to everyone who donated, baked and bought cakes for the Great Irish Bake and Easter raffle. We made a fantastic amount of €520 for Children's Health Ireland.

## Crazy Head Day



## New iPads!

Our fourteen new iPads have arrived! We also purchased a large charging trolley which will hold 30 iPads. The trolley contains baskets holding 5 iPads for easy carriage to classrooms. On behalf of all the staff and pupils, I would like to thank SAPA for providing the funding for this much needed IT equipment.

**Helena Jeffrey**  
IT Coordinator



## Cross Country

St Andrew's participated in two cross-country events in April with some brilliant results recorded by pupils from 3rd - 6th! In the annual Dublin County Council cross-country meeting in St Anne's Park Katie O'Toole, Emily Grogan and Will McCann all brought home trophies for finishing in the top 3 in their respective races! Fionn Brogan also returned home with a medal for finishing in the top 10 of the 3rd class race! These were fantastic achievements especially with over 80 children competing per race!

We also sent a squad to compete in the final of the Fingal Athletics League at ALSAA. After two previous successful meetings in Newbridge Demense we continued our great running form with Katie O'Toole, Emily Grogan, Will McCann & Lily Bennett all recording top 4 finishes! This capped off a brilliant and very rewarding season of cross-country running for St Andrew's! Well done to everyone who took part in any of the races this year!

## GAA Match

Our Senior GAA team concluded the group stage of the Fingal Leagues with a top-of-the-table clash with Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín in Broomfield. The match was played at a frenetic pace with some fabulous play from both sides. GS Bhaile Brigín were on top for the majority of the 1st half but thanks to some resolute & brave defending by James Dunlop, Rory Smyth & goalkeeper Mackey Brennan we led by 1 at half-time. Unfortunately for us, our opponents kicked into another gear in the 2nd half and scored 3 quickfire goals to turn the tide of the game. We didn't give up however and showed great skill, composure and resilience to record 3 goals of our own, two of which came from Isabella Murphy & one from Emily Grogan who scored from an impossible angle! Although we finished the game with a 4-point loss we still qualified for the semi-final stage of the competition, a fantastic achievement for our senior squad! We are now only one game away from a final in Parnell Park! We'll do all we can to reach it!

We would like to congratulate **Will McCann** from 4th class. Over the Easter holidays, Will travelled to Portugal with his team Malahide United to compete in a football tournament. The tournament took place over the course of 5 days with Will and his team successfully winning matches against teams from Brazil, Portugal and Spain. The final match was against France which ended in penalties, however; Will and his team were victorious leading to them lifting the Ibercup! What an incredible achievement! Well done Will!

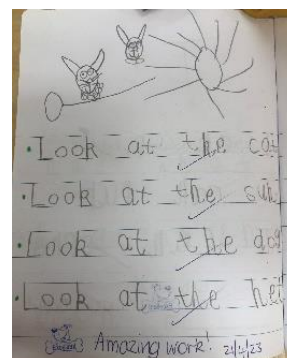


## Around The Classes

April was a short but productive month for **Junior Infants**. They have been very creative with fabric and fibre, working on group Dream Catchers which are displayed in the corridor. They also made beautiful rainy day umbrellas to celebrate "April showers bring May flowers". In science the children did a design and make activity when they made rockets from junk. They explored light and shadows, exploring materials which were transparent, translucent and opaque. They also made personal



silhouettes and guessed whose shadow belonged to who! Ms. Hoffman is so impressed with the wonderful work the class are doing in maths and literacy. They are adding up to 5 and challenging themselves up to 10. They are getting practice writing independently



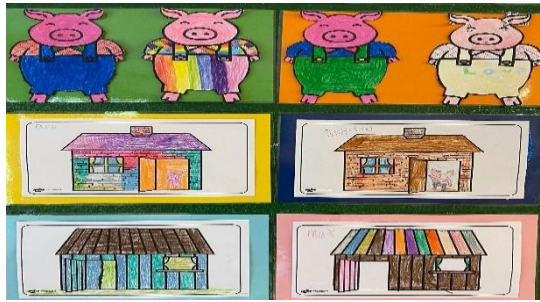
in their writing copies. Look at this example of some amazing writing!



**Senior Infants** have enjoyed being back in school in April after their Easter break. The children have been learning lots about the aquarium and under the sea creatures in Play and Learn. They read the story 'The Rainbow Fish' and created some lovely coral reefs for their own fish. Senior Infants were investigating different sea creatures in aquarium role play. They have been working with Ms. Jeffrey to make their own

under the sea dioramas from shoeboxes - they look amazing so far! They did some lovely writing all about sea creatures too. In maths, they read the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and used the giant's handprints to measure things around the classroom. Senior Infants put lots of work into their play 'The Gingerbread Man'. They performed the show for junior classes and their families and did an absolutely fantastic job. They all should be very proud of themselves.





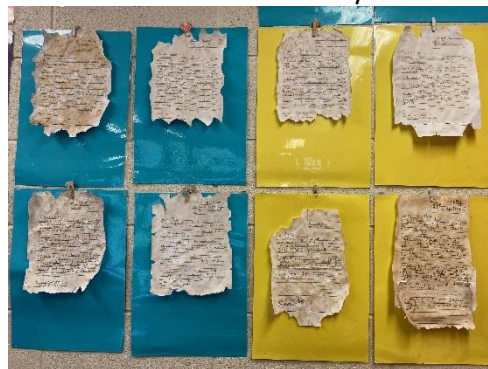
**1<sup>st</sup> Class** enjoyed the month of April celebrating Easter time and the warmer, brighter weather. It was a short school month with the Easter break at the start but as the students came back they started some new themes such as Teilifís in Gaeilge learning all about movies, shows and technology through Irish. In maths they looked at subtraction a little deeper and the

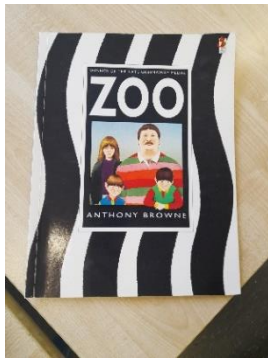


children enjoyed challenging themselves in small classroom counting competitions. In English, they continued with their English stations, looking at procedural writing, following the correct steps on how to make things such as a cup of tea or a jam sandwich. They also read *Fantastic Mr. Fox* as a whole class as they continue to tick off some of Roald's Dahl's classic books. In geography they looked at Christopher Columbus, studying his explorations and all about his voyages and ships. They also celebrated 'Earth Day' studying how they can love, care and appreciate their planet more. They explored this further in art by drawing their own earths in the shape of hearts. 1<sup>st</sup>Class led an assembly at the end of month for the whole school and did a really good job, with peer pressure being the focus of their assembly. They performed a drama and sang a song based on the important SPHE topic.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Class** hope you all had a lovely, restful Easter break. This month they started looking at myths and legends in English, and have really enjoyed learning the story of *Odysseus and the Cyclops*, where they have been writing some fantastic descriptions of the island the men arrive on, as well as thinking of their own escape plans for getting out of the cave of the Cyclops! They even had their own trial in the classroom, where the children were asked to act as the judge and jury, asking the characters questions and then deciding on whether the way *Odyseuss* treated the *Cyclops* was justified or not! As well as these *Greek* myths, they have also been learning some *Irish* legends such as *The Children of Lir*. In maths they have been revising over many of the topics they have covered so far, as well as looking more closely at finding fractions of shapes and amounts, telling the time to the quarter hour and answering time word problems. The children have been really excited to start their new *SESE* topic, all about space, and are now starting their own projects, researching and presenting information on one of the elements of the solar system.





Although it has been quite a short month in school, **3<sup>rd</sup>Class** have been doing some wonderful work in April. The children have been learning all about Claude Monet. They had a chance to look at some of his masterpieces and recreated our own "waterlily ponds" using a combination of semi-permanent markers and tinfoil. They all look fantastic! In English, they have started a new genre called "persuasive writing". They are currently writing letters to

Dublin Zoo to share their views and opinions about zoos. They have been brainstorming some of the potential concerns and benefits that zoos have in societies. It has been an interesting topic for discussion in their classroom. Keeping with their theme of "animals", they also listened to the "Carnival of Animals" composed by Saint Saens. This collection of music inspired the children to create their own music to represent an animal. Using percussion instruments, the children created some fantastic sounds to make their animals come to life. This week, they had a party to celebrate France. They had quizzes, watched a French film and also



had the chance to listen to some classic French hits including the famous "non, je ne regrette rien" by Edit Piaf. They constructed the Eiffel Tower together using only newspaper and sellotape. Everyone did such a wonderful job - there was such a variety of different ideas. Well done 3<sup>rd</sup> Class for another great month. Keep up the great work!



**4<sup>th</sup>Class** have had a short but busy April! This month, the class commenced their swimming lessons. The children have now completed four lessons, and everyone has made terrific progress each week. Well done everyone! In music, the class have begun learning about different scales. They learned about the notes of do, re, mi, so, and la within the pentatonic scale. The class then used these notes to beautifully sing the song 'Yellow Bird'. In geography, the class have been learning about different countries around the world. In the past two weeks they have discovered many new facts about India and Japan. Over the coming weeks, the class will be preparing their own projects on a country of their choosing which we can't wait to see! Finally, in art, the children have been practicing their drawing skills to create a piece of work called 'Funky Bunnies'. Each child drew a bunny and made use



of various lines to create texture before finally adding a pair of glasses to their drawings. The finished pieces look fantastic and are proudly displayed in the classroom.





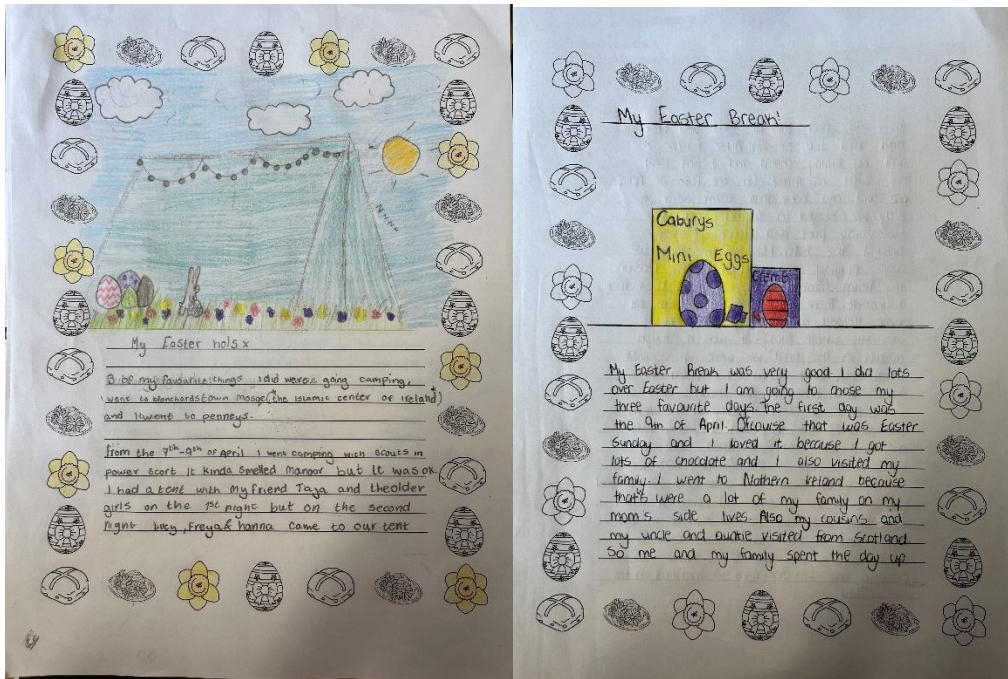
April has been a short but enjoyable month in **5<sup>th</sup>Class**. The class have enjoyed getting back to GAA and athletics this month. Some of the class have participated in cross country events as well. In English they have continued to read their novel, *Goodnight Mr. Tom*, and they are really getting into the characters and the World War II setting. For maths they have looked at rules and properties of numbers and the circle. They have all got a great grasp on using their compass, a new piece of their maths set. As Gaeilge they have learned all about

Sa Bhaile, with two really interesting stories, 'An Fiaclóir' and 'Teach Trí Thine'.

5<sup>th</sup>Class has made a start into a really interesting SESE unit on famine. They will learn about The Great Famine and the global response in history, famine in modern times in geography and looking after their bodies in science. Across the arts they've learned about an Irish musician called Inni-K and sung some of her lovely songs as Gaeilge. They have created some stunning papier-mâché masks in visual art as well. Roll on May, lots more fun things to learn and hopefully lots of sunshine!



**6<sup>th</sup>Class** have had a busy two weeks in April! In English they wrote some very interesting recounts about their Easter break & self-assessed them using checklists. They have also continued reading their class novel "The Guns of Easter" and have found it very interesting especially as it is set in and around O'Connell Street in Dublin, where they visited on their school tour to the GPO before Easter! In maths the class have focused on the topics of co-ordinates & directed numbers. They were able to locate particular points and identify their use in everyday life. They also learnt how there are numbers that have a value less than zero, although this was a tricky concept to understand, 6<sup>th</sup>Class have made great links to using thermometers and recording temperature to help! In Gaeilge they have put a great effort into learning how to structure sentences correctly. They have learnt a lot of new verbs and are making a great effort to identify those that are irregular! In SESE they have begun their next topic, the World Wars! They have identified the countries involved in both and have compared how both wars started! With the help of Mrs Ormsby, they have also been learning about the differences between primary & secondary school. They have focused on lockers, timetables, subjects and school routines! Hopefully this will help provide them with some essential skills they will need next year!



### April Anti Bullying Topic

This month we focussed on the topic of peer pressure. The classes talked about what peer pressure is. Sometimes peer pressure can be positive and sometimes it can be negative. We spoke about what to do if we feel negative peer pressure. We can say no and stand up for ourselves and we can ask for help.

### April Assembly

Mr. Blake and 1st Class led our assembly this month. They did a great job explaining about peer pressure and how to handle it.

