

# School News

January 2025



## SAPA

A belated Happy New Year from everyone in the Sapa team!

It was great to see so many parents at our *Charity Coffee Morning* event just before the break for the Christmas holidays. We managed to raise an amazing €785 which was donated to Childline's Christmas Jumper Day appeal. Thank you so much for your generosity!

A few dates for your diary are as follows.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February - a Valentine's Day cake sale in the school. Thanks in advance to parents of Senior Infants and 3<sup>rd</sup> class children for providing cakes and the many people who have already volunteered to help out on the day.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February - our annual quiz night at Malahide Cricket Club (adults only) with more details to come in February. We are hoping that as many parents as possible can join us for a fun evening of entertainment.

## Website

The school website has been undergoing redevelopment and will be going live shortly. Watch this space!!



# Fun Friday





## Around the Classes

**Junior Infants** have had a rocketing start to 2025. They have been learning all about the theme 'space' this month. In play and learn, they learned about astronauts, space shuttles, the space station and the planets. They made rockets with magnetic tiles and with toilet rolls and they acted out a rocket launch in small world. They set up a space station in the classroom and conducted experiments in the role play zone. They made their own playdough and had great fun playing with the toy astronauts in it. They read the poem 'If I met an

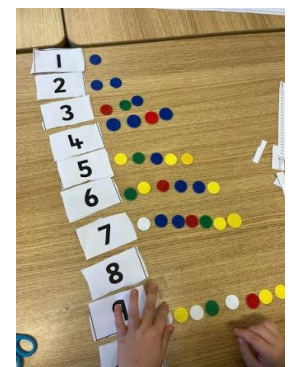


alien' by Kenn Nesbitt and made their own clay aliens, which were both terrifying and adorable! They then moved on to the theme of 'space travel agents' where they sold holidays to different planets. In the discovery zone they explored the difference between night and day and used light to create their own shadows. They even enjoyed a game of light tag! In maths, they explored length and the story of the numbers 3 and 4. In English, they have continued to learn their Jolly Phonics sounds, learned lots of space related songs and rhymes and read lots of space stories. In Irish, they learned all about 'an aimsir' and are loving doing their daily calendar and weather through Irish.



**Senior Infants** have had a great January. The children have completed lots of lovely work and have enjoyed lots of great activities. In play and learn, the children have been learning about 'the zoo' and 'under the sea'. They made homes for the wild animals in construction, they made binoculars to explore with Ms. Dodds in junk art, painted beautiful silhouette paintings and did some water and sand play! The class also started to learn all about the country of Africa, reading the story 'Handa's Surprise' and learning about how chocolate is made! The children learned all about the number 8 and spatial awareness in maths and enjoyed some lovely hands-on activities. In English, Senior Infants have continued to work hard on their reading and writing and have learned some new diagraphs and tricky words. Senior Infants enjoyed 'Fun Friday' and

made a great effort with their cosy clothes. We also enjoyed a visit from Mouse from OWLS who taught us how to identify different types of birds in the school yard. The children have enjoyed Ms. Dodds teaching them lots of lovely lessons this month and thank her for all her hard work in Senior Infants. We are looking forward to a great February!



**1<sup>st</sup> Class** got back to work with a bang after the Christmas holidays by turning their attention to their hopes and aspirations for the New Year.



They made some lovely stars to go in the windows on which they wrote something they would like to achieve or experience this year. They then turned their attention to their new topic of 'play'. They read a story called 'The Old Toy Room' and the class thought about the toys people may have played with in the past, and then compared old and new toys, thinking about changes in the materials they are made from and what they do. The class then began looking at the story 'I Love You Blue Kangaroo' and thinking about the character of Blue Kangaroo and how they felt at different parts of the story. They then used some adjectives to describe them. In maths, the class looked at the place value of numbers up to 49, skip counting, subtraction and spatial awareness, thinking in particular about giving directions using their left and right!



As Gaeilge, they have looked at the topic of 'bia', thinking about food they might eat for bricfeasta, as well as asking and answering the question 'Cad atá i do bhosca lón?' This month saw the children swap from 'Reading Buddies' to 'Game buddies' where they started playing some games with their buddies from 6<sup>th</sup> class. The children have really enjoyed this change and have been doing really well with following the instructions of the games, turn taking and their oral language skills! Well done for all the hard work this month!



**2<sup>nd</sup> Class** have jumped into the New Year full of enthusiasm and excitement. They have spent their first month back focusing on 3D shapes, identifying as many as they could around the school and studying each one in detail. The class have made a huge amount of progress with telling the time and great work has been achieved in station sessions with the support of Ms. Ryan and Ms. O'Brien. 2<sup>nd</sup> class are reading 'Flat Stanley' by Jeff Brown in English and are having a lot of fun imagining what it would be like to be as flat as Stanley and all the places they would go. In geography, 2<sup>nd</sup> class are exploring Canada's Northern Territory and even created the most vibrant Ted Harrison-inspired art work. In keeping with the winter theme this month 2<sup>nd</sup> class have begun researching and studying the history of The Titanic. We read a book called 'If you were a kid aboard the Titanic' by Josh Gregory. This prompted interesting discussions about the different classes aboard The Titanic. The children wrote fantastic diary entries from the perspective of a child survivor and the results were super. In groups the class are researching interesting facts about The Titanic by using i-pads and kiddle. 2<sup>nd</sup> class had such fun learning Afro-dance in music focusing on movement, rhythm and pulse. The class are currently working on their big Germany project. Mainly researching traditions and famous people from Germany. The Gaeilge topics for this month are 'Caitheamh Aimsire agus An Gheimhreadh'. 2<sup>nd</sup> class are really looking forward to welcoming the month of February and all that lies in store.





**3<sup>rd</sup> Class** have had a very productive first month of the new year which has impressed Mr. Jones! In English, they planned and wrote recounts about their Christmas holidays, learnt about the expository genre of writing through the creation of reports on electrical appliances and have even written their very own tongue twisters! In maths, the class have really enjoyed stations. Along with Ms. Malone, Ms. Jeffrey and Ms. Ryan they have explored the concepts of money, weight and length. It has been a month of very practical 'real-life' maths! In Gaeilge, they have learnt all about 'Caitheamh Aimsire'. The class have taken part in conversations about those that they like and dislike as well as learning how the Irish sentence structure is different to the English one! They have played lots of language games and made a fantastic effort to use their cúpla focail i rith an lae! In SESE, they have been focusing on the concept of electricity! They have researched where we get our electricity from, learnt about famous inventors and their electrical inventions and even learnt how to create their very own simple circuits using batteries, wires, buzzers and lamps! Mr. Jones has loved seeing the enthusiasm and enjoyment shown by 3<sup>rd</sup> class! Finally, in PE, they have been practising and strengthening their throwing and catching skills through a variety of team and relay-based games! Well done 3<sup>rd</sup> Class on a super January!



**4<sup>th</sup> Class** have had a busy start to the new year with lots going on in the classroom. In Gaeilge, they have been studying 'An Aimsir' whilst also ticking off 'Caitheamh Aimsir' where the students have written and learned all about their favourite hobbies. 4<sup>th</sup> class have put a major focus on their use of informal Gaeilge in the classroom as well, and the students have responded excellently to the increase in Gaeilge in the seomra ranga. In English, they've studied some lovely comprehension pieces of extracts of famous authors such as C.S Lewis and Dick King Smith. They've also enjoyed a month of creating some amazing free writing stories in their descriptive/creative writing time. In maths, they've kickstarted the new year by studying and completing concepts based on division and decimals and will look to study money and coins next. In SESE, Ancient Egypt has been the focus this month, studying all about how the Egyptian civilisation came to fruition and the history surrounding mummies and the pharaohs way of life. They discovered amazing facts of how the pyramids were made whilst also studying the geography of why the River Nile was so important to the success and power of the Egyptian civilisation. Their art lessons centered around Egypt as well with the class creating lovely 3D drawings of the Great Pyramids of Giza. They also created figurine Pharaohs to hang up across the classroom as well as designing new headwear colours and designs for famous Pharaoh Tutankhamun. In SPHE, the focus of the month was on 'respect' and how to best respect those around you whether that be in the classroom, at home, or out in society. They also completed great work highlighting important character strengths that are needed in different difficult scenarios that they might encounter in class, at home or on the yard for example.



**5<sup>th</sup> Class** started the month by having a 2024 table quiz. It was great fun and very competitive! In S.P.H.E. the children talked about the things in life that they are grateful for. They made gratitude mugs displaying all the things that are most important to them. In English, the children read the poem 'The Moon' and explored the use of imagery in the poem. They then depicted the images of the poem in a comic strip style illustration. 5<sup>th</sup> class used the poem to inspire their own poems about different aspects of nature. The children used both imagery and metaphor in their own compositions and illustrated their work too. In Gaeilge, the children worked on the theme of 'Bia'. They practised their words and phrases by playing a food related game of snakes and ladders. The class took inspiration from the cold snap a few weeks ago to create their "Catching Snowflakes" works of art. Everyone in 5<sup>th</sup> class would also like to congratulate Robert and Isabella Moldovan, who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the Ulster Irish Dancing Championships.



It's a great start to the new year for **6<sup>th</sup> Class**. They have begun reading the class novel 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' which explores themes of family, friendship and the plight of refugees. They read the poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling and listened to 'Sunscreen' by Baz Luhrmann and reflected on the messages and advice in each for their own personal writing. In maths they're focusing on percentages, comparing percentages, fractions & decimals, finding percentages of numbers and increasing/decreasing numbers by percentages. They've started a block of maths stations and will be exploring various topics through games and groupwork. In SESE, they've begun exploring the topic of war and through history the topic of The 1916 Rising. P.E has been great fun, progressing in their swimming lessons and playing 'Rounders' and 'Bench ball'. Reading buddies

with 1<sup>st</sup> class has become 'Games Buddies' this term and the pupils are having great fun playing board games and card games together. They've been really creative in art, producing beautiful winter bears, practising weaving drama llamas and making tinfoil art sculptures and pictures. They also led a wonderful assembly on the theme of 'Respect' giving the cast of Matilda a run for their money with their amazing rendition of 'The School Rules Song'! A visit from a teacher from Malahide Community School spurred them on to refine their Irish réamhfocail and practise Irish translations to prepare for the upcoming entrance exams. It's great to see the class maturing and become reflective learners and make continued progress across the curriculum!



## Assemblies

Ms. Hoffman and 6<sup>th</sup> class led January's assembly and they spoke about the importance of respect. They discussed:

- Showing respect for our belongings
- Showing respect for our school
- Showing respect for the people in our school.

6<sup>th</sup> class finished up the assembly with a super performance of 'The School Rules Song',

## January Anti-Bullying Topic

Our January Anti-Bullying topic was why does bullying happen, what makes someone bully and the children discussed this in their classes.

