



Dear Parents and Guardians,

23rd June 2021

Hope this finds you all well. Good job we are a green school and using technology as this is so content-rich it would be prohibitively expensive to print!! Loads going on. Loads to tell you about.... Read on...I promise you'll be impressed....

.....
We will most likely have a similar set up for September but we will be in touch before 1st September. Thanks to Ms. Moynihan for collating this newsletter and to all the contributors.

Brendan Kelleher

.....
Time Capsule-History in the Making

Children and Staff throughout the school have been busy reminiscing and gathering evidence of significant memories based on the last two years of school. We hope to bury a Time Capsule next week, filled with plenty of photos, recordings, written accounts, pictures, evidence of living through Covid-19 at home and in school. It's envisaged that we will revisit and unearth this Time Capsule in twenty years' time! Mark the date 24th June 2041.

.....
Trespassing: Scoil Bhríde – along with many many schools and clubs have experienced issues with persons trespassing on the premises. Some, I confronted, even told me they had permission! This is incorrect. No person is allowed on the premises without permission and the facilities here are not for public use. Unfortunately, we have had to involve the Gardaí and the costs incurred of additional security. (It is worth noting that many jobs and charities require **Garda Vetting** in advance of placement/ employment and "soft" information can appear on disclosures. As it stands there is no provision for the removal of information from records so silly infractions can follow one around.)

Aladdin:

We are now well underway in rolling out Aladdin throughout the school. There has been great uptake by parents and we urge you to register and download the Aladdin Connect app if you have not already done so. You will have received an email with an access code on Tuesday. This may be in your Spam folder. If you did not receive it please contact the school.

The app will allow you to:

- Update your contact details for our school records
 - Receive communication from the school...newsletters, messages, reminders etc.
 - Give permissions for tours, school activities etc.
 - Receive future report cards
 - Reminders of the Return to School Covid Declaration form and submission of reasons for absences
 - Schedule a time for Parent-Teacher meetings
 - Make payments to the school (this will be available from September).
 - View the school calendar
-

Junior Infant News

The children in Junior Infants have had such a busy year!! We have worked so hard and have learned so much!! We are now reading books and writing sentences!! It has been an unusual but exciting school year. We had Sports for All Day this week and loved being outside the classroom for the whole day, it was so much fun! Ms. Wright's room had caterpillars arrive in their classroom at the start of last month and we watched them change from a caterpillar into a chrysalis and then into a butterfly!! It was so interesting to watch!! We also have a School Tour to *Caragh Pet Farm* to look forward to next Friday before we finish up the school year! We can't wait to be back for Senior Infants!!



Senior Infant News



Senior Infants had a great year this year. We learned a lot of exciting new things. We particularly enjoyed learning about lifecycles, animal habitats and in particular, about the frog. We are super scientists and we have just finished studying minibeasts and had a great time hunting for them! The highlights of our year were our Christmas play, sports day, the school tour, nature walks and art lessons. We are so excited

about our school tour to Pine Forest. We can't wait for an action packed day, filled with fun, adventure and crafts. We have to get up really early to get the bus! Our teachers think we are fantastic!



Sports Sack Race!



Clay Art by Caoimhe Braiden

First Class News



It was a very busy month for 1st class. We are learning all about Mister Sun! We have looked at how important the sun is and how it can melt some of our favourite treats, like ice cream.

We also looked at the life cycle of a butterfly and observed a real caterpillar turning into a butterfly. We made butterflies and other mini beasts in art and our classrooms are very colourful as they are displayed for everyone to see. We also had a very fun and competitive sports day that all of the 1st class teachers got involved in (and lost but tried their best).

We worked on group projects about the sun, the moon and habitats of which we are very proud.



Sports Day and Ice cream



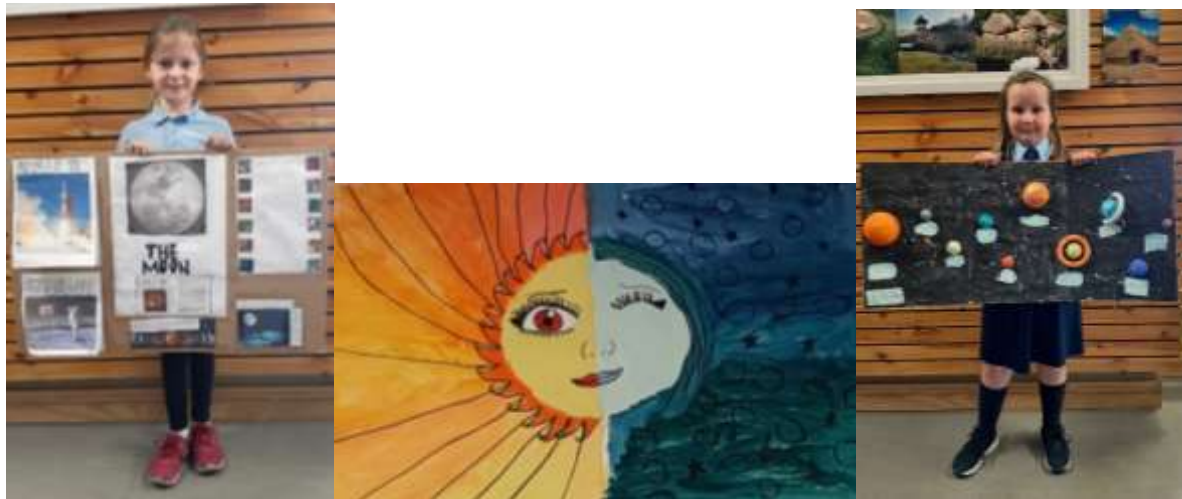


2nd Class News

We have had a great time in 2nd class this year. We have really enjoyed planting seeds and seeing our plants grow out in the school garden. We were delighted to make our First Reconciliation with Fr. O'Byrne in the school hall. We look forward to making our First Holy Communion in the coming months. We've really enjoyed learning about the world, since Easter we have learned lots about Africa. We are working hard on keeping our classrooms green, keeping our score on the door every day and looking after our bins. We are excited to move onto 3rd class in September!

3rd Class News

In third class, our last term has been quite a hectic one! We have all learned a lot about space, and completed some fun space themed art and experiments. Some of Mr. Moloney's class completed fantastic space themed projects during home learning. We also did a lot of work on the Olympics as they will be happening this year in Tokyo, Japan. We got the chance to Zoom Gráinne Walsh, an Irish boxer, who unfortunately cannot go to Tokyo due to being injured. She talked to us about her life, how she moved from playing for Shamrock Rovers to boxing, and we even got to ask her questions at the end. We also had a great day at Sports Day on Monday, June 14th. We had loads of fun trying out new sports like tag rugby and Olympic handball. We have really enjoyed 3rd class, and are looking forward to 4th class next year.



Sports for All Day

This year's Sports for All Day was a bit different than usual, but still as enjoyable as ever! While still following COVID guidelines and restrictions, all classes were given the opportunity to partake in a full day of sporting activities including obstacle courses, sack races, tag rugby, the high jump and much, much more! Every class thoroughly enjoyed their Sports Day, and would all like to say a special thanks to **Mr. Gallagher** who planned the activities, organised the resources, and ensured the smooth running of each of the nine individual sports days. Thanks also to sixth class and fifth class for setting up the equipment each morning.





Dare to Believe Olympic Visit

All classes from third to fifth participated in the Dare to Believe Olympic Values programme this year, in anticipation of the Tokyo Olympics happening this coming summer. This programme – funded by the International Olympic Committee – aims to inspire the young people of Ireland to “Dare to Believe” in themselves through an interactive curriculum that explores the Olympic Values using Team Ireland role models to bring the messages to life. Over the course of a number of weeks, classes learned about the history of the Olympic and Paralympics Games, the importance of maintaining a healthy body and mindset, and all about the joy in effort. After this, Irish boxer Gráinne Walsh Zoomed all the classes, and those classes who were isolating also got the chance to join the Zoom from home. Gráinne spoke about her start in sport playing with Shamrock Rovers, how meeting Katie Taylor inspired her to transition into boxing, her weekly training routine, and how she dealt with a recurring injury that ruled her out of participating in this year’s Olympics. Classes were then given the opportunity to ask Gráinne any questions about her personal life or sporting career. All the classes thoroughly enjoyed the programme and the Zoom with Gráinne.



4th class News

We had a very busy last term in 4th class and got to do lots of fun activities. We learned all about the Olympics taking place this Summer and we got to take part in a zoom session with an Olympic Athlete, Gráinne Walsh. Gráinne told us her life story and how she got involved in boxing. We were delighted that we got to ask her some questions also. In Geography we are learning all about the countries in the EU and their capital cities. We enjoyed researching about the different countries in the computer room. Ms. Flatley's class were lucky to have Ms. Lyons in their class and learned lots of interesting things and got a lovely surprise when they got an ice-cream party on her last day. We are really looking forward to our sports day happening very soon and are on the countdown to our Summer Holidays. We had a great year and are looking forward to 5th class.



Maria and Helen's Class News



In the Maria's and Helen's classes the children have been learning about minibeasts. We were lucky enough to have butterfly eggs and we watched all the stages of the lifecycle until finally we had 4 butterflies. We released the butterflies into the garden. In Maria's class we planted sunflower seeds and now our sunflower plants have gone home. In Helen's class they planted nasturtium seeds and these plants have gone home to flower.



5th Class News

We have been really busy working hard in 5th class over the past few months. We've been working particularly hard in maths, learning all about the circle and how to draw them neatly using a compass. We've also learned all about the 24-hour clock and have been practising our fractions, decimals and percentages, which we learned earlier in the year. We've done lots of nice artwork in recent weeks too. We've painted beautiful lighthouses and created colourful cherry blossom vases. Ms Moynihan's 5th class recently became entrepreneurs and created their own mini-companies.... watch this space!

On the 28th of May we enjoyed a wonderful virtual Zoom call with boxing champion Gráinne Walsh. As we had learned lots about the Olympics in class, we had lots of questions for Gráinne about her training. She gave us some great advice and we loved seeing all the photos she shared from when she was growing up.

Sports Day on the 11th of June was a day to remember. We participated in a variety of activities from basketball to obstacle courses and tag rugby to hurdles.

We cannot wait for our FUN DAY on the 24th of June. We have our fingers crossed for good weather!

We are sad that our time in 5th class is coming to an end but we are really looking forward to more fun times ahead in 6th class!



My Stall Project by Aoife Mulligan (Ms. Finnegan's 6th Class)

For my project I made a stall. A stall was used as a form of punishment during the 1600s -1700s. I made it out of wood. Firstly, I got the wood. Then, I cut the neck holes and arm holes with a drill. Next, I sanded the pieces of wood. Afterwards, we added the lock, chain and screws. After I made the frame, I moved on to the base. I chipped at the wood to make a slot and the wood was placed in the slot. I sanded the wood first.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

STEM initiatives are an integral part of Scoil Bhríde from Junior Infants to 6th Class. They provide an excellent way for children to experience different ways to try out science experiments, complete engineering projects, use technology and see maths in a fun way. We have had hugely successful Science and Maths Week as well as introducing Engineer and Space Weeks. We also had amazing responses from the children trying STEM at home during lockdown.

This tremendous effort has led to us being awarded DPSM Awards for STEM in our school for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. We look forward to continuing STEM in our school and seeing budding scientists, engineers and mathematicians emerge in the years to come.

Thank you to Ms Buckley and Mr Carty for all their hard work, encouragement and help.



The Amber Flag News



On Friday the 11th of June 2021, The Amber Flag Team all got Pizza to celebrate us getting The Amber Flag! We all went outside to the secret garden and ate our slice on the benches.

A few months ago before our Christmas Break (and before we went back into lockdown), we got our Amber Flag. Our team went outside to the front of the school and Mick raised it up! We got lots of photos of all the things we did this past year. The Amber Flag Team was a very fun

committee to be in and fun to take part in. Thank You for choosing us to be a part of The Amber Flag Team and the Pizza! We appreciate it!

Online Safety

Children across a range of class levels have reported issues which stem from and are related to children's online activity. As always, please be vigilant in monitoring what and who your child is exposed to online. This would be even more important during the summer months, when children will have extra free time which they may spend online. There are apps available that can be put on to children's devices which allow parents to monitor what children may be accessing online, while still allowing them some privacy and independence. Please see school website for online safety as well as webwise.ie for a host of resources.

Our Class of 2021 jumpers

Scoil Bhríde and the Parents' Association were kind enough to give everybody in sixth class a jumper. The jumper had everyone's name on it. Above everyone's name it says "Class of 2021" on the back. On the front it says "Class of 2021" as well. Some of the jumpers have strings coming from the hood but some don't.

We are allowed to wear the jumpers in the class as school uniform. They are made of cotton. They are also an amazing memory of sixth class we will all keep them forever.



My 6th class practical project

Twin towers By Hugh Kelly and Charlie Gavin.



The first thing we did was tape some cardboard together so they were in the shape of a rectangle.

We then painted the boxes grey and waited for it to dry.

Next, we painted vertical and horizontal lines on the boxes to make it look like windows.

Finally, we made half a plane out of cardboard and taped it to the box then put orange crepe paper around it to make it look like an explosion.

Our Dress By Chloe Dunne Sienna Dunn and Georgia Doyle (Ms Finnegan's 6th Class)

How we got inspiration:

We saw a video on pinterest of a junk couture dress made out of newspaper and we thought it looked really nice.

How we made it:

We made fans out of newspaper and glued them to a pair of stretchy shorts and kept going the whole way round. To make the top we folded newspaper into triangles and stuck them around the top to make it cover all around.

And then we were finished!



My Metal Owl

By Clara O' Regan (Ms. Finnegan's 6th Class)

How I Made It First I took the photo copier apart and took the motors from that. Next I cut up the shredder and took the top of snips, then I took 2 spanners and used them for the legs and for the overall design I took metal and grinded it all together.

Once you've done all of this start to put the pieces together (do not weld yet) it might take more than one try to get it to be the way you want! Once you've got it the way you want you then will start welding you can get an older person or a family member to help you with this part. Once you have welded it together you need to let it cool down for about 2-3 hours before touching it again. Once you have your owl mostly made you can go and take a shiner and buff it up so it will be shiny and make sure to put a mask on so you aren't inhaling toxins. Before you use your shiner you need to grind the edges so they aren't sharp and don't cut you. And then you're done!!



MY CABIN PROJECT

By Brandon Teeling (Ms Finnegan's 6th Class)

I BUILT THIS CABIN BECAUSE IT IS A UNIQUE BUILDING, I LOVE OLD CABINS IT WAS A FUN PROJECT TO DO.



Our Bag ☺ *By Mia Lahart and Daisy Lewis*

Materials Used:

Instructions:

- Pillowcase
- Hot Glue
- Glue Gun
- Crepe Paper
- Pearls
- Scissors



1. Cut your pillowcase in half.
2. Next, cut 24 strips of fabric and plait until you have 6 braids.
3. After that, glue 3 braids together to form a handle.

4. Glue both handles to the inside rim.
5. Select your Crepe Paper colours and fill a bowl with lukewarm water.
6. Leave your bag to soak the colour.
7. After around 15 minutes, remove the paper and let it air dry for 48hrs.
8. Finally, add your finishing touches!

Green-Schools

A huge congratulations to last year's Green Schools' committee on receiving the biodiversity flag. Well done to all involved! We have been very busy for the past few months carrying out litter and waste reviews around our school. We were amazed at the results of our bin survey. 60% of our waste was in the landfill where it was supposed to be but a massive 40% was in the landfill when it should have been in the recycling bin! We have a lot of work to do to improve on this over the next year. The best bin competition has been a great help in reminding us of the correct bins for our rubbish. A huge congratulations to Ms. O' Toole's class- the winners of the best bin competition 2021.

We also completed mini research projects on our local birds and hung-up bird boxes around the school. A big thank you to Mick for making the bird boxes for us. Finally, we are looking forward to taking part in the An Taisce National Clean up along with the Tidy Towns committee. It will be a great day and we love making a difference in our village. Enjoy the summer holidays,

Green-Schools Committee



ATS STEM Programme

Ms Holland's 6th class participated in the Assessment of Transversal Skills in STEM pilot programme involving eight EU countries with Kildare Education Centre this year. Our project focused on the pollution of the river Nile and exploring ways to sanitise the water. We designed and built shadufs out of recycled materials that would only collect plastic from the river. Alison O' Reilly from Xylem Water Solutions Ireland very kindly gave us a talk about the amount of plastic found in rivers and how long it takes to decompose. We also really enjoyed learning about coding and building robots using Lego Wedo. We had loads of fun taking part and we were delighted to purchase blu-bots for our school with the voucher that was awarded for participating.



Secret Garden

The 6th class pupils were very busy decorating our indoor secret garden. They did a fantastic job designing labels for the vegetables and plants growing in the garden. Holly Jo, Amber, Daisy, Clara, Lyla, Grace C, Gianna and Éabha L did an amazing job painting a mural on the windows. Check out the mural on a sunny day to figure out why it's called the secret garden!



6th class News

We had an Anxiety and Mental Wellbeing workshop this month. We learnt about how to handle our anxiety and about mental ill health. Thank you to EISHT and Caroline for proving this workshop. We also participated in our school sports day last week. There was a large variety of sports such as Tag rugby, soccer, an obstacle course and much much more! A big thank you to Mr Gallaher and his 6th class helpers for organising a wonderful week. As we were coming to the end of the school year, Ms Farry, Ms Finnegan and Ms Holland surprised us with a pizza party. It was delicious!!! We also had our school tour this month. We went to Spar and payed sports in the GAA pitch. Ms. Farry's class won the tug of war competition. It was a great day. Scoil Bhríde and the Parents' Association very kindly gave all the pupils in sixth class a leavers hoodie. We were all allowed to wear the jumpers as part of our school uniform. They are an amazing memory of sixth class and we will keep them forever. We would like to thank our 6th class teachers and all the staff for giving us a wonderful eight years here in Scoil Bhríde. We are very sad to be leaving but looking forward to moving onto secondary school and new beginnings. Go raibh míle míle maith agaibh to all in Scoil Bhríde.



Much obliged to the Scoil Bhríde *Board of Management* who have supported, encouraged and financed initiatives at all levels. They have been a calm and steady-as-she-goes group of volunteers ably chaired by Mrs. Fiona Pakenham. People never realise all the work that goes on the back ground until they get involved and then they have a renewed appreciation of the level of volunteering in the education system.

Thanks and appreciation also extends to the Alison Twomey and the Parents' Association who have reached out at several key times this year when there was just white noise, hostility on (anti)-Social media and barrages of information, circulars and all that goes with a crisis being flung in all directions. Several parents still managed to help with the library and book fair also. Thanks so much.

A special shout out to Margaret Callery who is heading on career break to new adventures. Margaret has been here about 17 years and has supported many a child and class in a warm calm manner. Ms. O' Toole and Mr. Bourke are heading abroad (not together I think) and Mr. Moloney is heading west. Thanks to them for their diligent and excellent work and wishing all 4 the best of what the adventures present. Thanks to all the teaching and Special Needs Assistant staff as well as parents for supporting us all in supporting the children. Paula Stynes and Mick Behan kept their usual cheery selves on top of things throughout, in an apparent effortless way that would have overwhelmed many of us. Special thanks to Mr. Pat Gallagher, Ms. Rachel Tuohy and the Learning Support team for tireless running around looking after all 'our' children. Well done to all the troopers aged 5 to 13 in the school that wore smiles and grins and got stuck into the work, sport and fun during the year. The woe that is Covid-19 has shown us what children can do.

Best wishes to all our great 6th class pupils. Go forth and do yourselves and us all proud!

Brendan Kelleher, Staff and Board of Management June 2021