



# *Our Lady's Abbey*

## *October Newsletter 2021*



### **5th Active Schools Flag for OLA**

We are very proud to announce that we have been awarded with our 5th Active Schools Flag!! Keeping active is an integral part of life at Our Lady's Abbey and the Active Schools Accreditation Committee were hugely impressed with the various initiatives in place to encourage the girls to keep moving. We have been engaging in the Active Schools process for a whopping 15 years and in recognition of this and because of our long-term commitment to physical activity, they have also given us an amazing portable outdoor speaker!! Thanks to Múinteoir Trisha and indeed all the teachers and pupils of all the Active Schools Committees for all their hard work in keeping us fit and healthy.

### **Discover Primary Science and Maths Award (DSPM)**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is going from strength to strength at Our Lady's Abbey and we were thrilled to hear that we have been awarded with our 6th DSPM Award for STEM Excellence. Well done to Múinteoir Caoimhe for putting our application together and to all our teachers for their efforts in delivering a comprehensive and engaging STEM programme.

### **Poetry Town Awards 2021**

Congratulations to Maria Fitzgerald in 3rd class, who won a prize in the Poetry Town Schools Competition for her beautiful poem "Adare Flowers".

#### **Adare Flowers**

Flowers in the garden,  
Dancing in the breeze,  
Making people happy,  
Doing as they please.

Peruvian lilies, sunflowers too,  
Daisies and cat-mint which bees like to chew.  
Tulips and daffodils keeping spirits high,  
Waiting for you and me to enjoy.

Adare flowers,  
Cheerful and fun,  
Flowers are pretty,  
But need lots of sun!

By: Maria Fitzgerald

### **Halloween Hooley**

Our Halloween Hooley took place on the last day before the mid-term break! We had a fabulous day of fun and ghostly games. In the afternoon, the whole school took part in an outdoor disco with musical statues with plenty of prizes on offer. Lots of girls were lucky enough to take home some of our home grown pumpkins. We raised €409 in aid of the Adare St. Patrick's Day parade, so many thanks to everyone who donated. Check out some of the photos of the day in this newsletter.







### Poetry Workshop

As part of "Poetry Town", 5th and 6th classes enjoyed a fabulous Poetry Workshop in Draíocht Art Gallery in October with famous Irish poet Gabriel Fitzmaurice. Gabriel spoke with the girls about the process of writing poetry, what life as a poet is like, how lucrative poetry writing is (or is not!!) and he also read many of his poems to us all. Huge thanks to Andrew from Draíocht for organising such a lovely afternoon of poetry.



### Zoom Writer's Workshop

5th class enjoyed a very interesting and informative Zoom Workshop with Limerick writer Helena Close. This was organised by Limerick County Library and Helena chatted with the girls about her experience as a writer. She spoke about the writing process and how she comes up with ideas, the books she has written and had a very entertaining Q&A session to conclude.





### Junior Infants

It has been an outstanding few weeks for Junior Infants. We got to take our shared reading folders home for the first time. Our first set of books are wonderful stories that people at home can read to us. We have completed our first Seesaw activities too, sharing our favourite stories and completing letter activities.

Our magic number counting and higher/lower game with dice are wonderful ways to practice number. Viewing the world with our 'Maths Eyes' made maths in the environment easy to spot during our Maths trail.

Our Doctor's Surgery has now opened in our Role Play corner complete with waiting room, reception and examination room. We are examining, diagnosing and even prescribing at the moment and we try to keep our wait times as short as possible!

In English, we have started learning about the sounds made by letters. Now we spend our time hunting for t and a everywhere we find writing. We have even managed to beat Múinteoir Emer three times in our sounds challenge!

We have really settled into school now and we are ever so excited to see what November brings.





### Senior Infants & First Class

Artistic pumpkins, Halloween themed play stations, Maths games and building lava lamps are a selection of the activities undertaken by the girls of Senior Infants and First Class recently.

The girls have been busy keeping an eye on the outside environment when it comes to creating their own pumpkins. The themes of Autumn and Halloween have been central to the month, with the girls getting very creative with their writing and Halloween themed Aistear stations. Our Maths trail was the highlight of Maths Week for the cailíní and Gaelge songs have been keeping the spirits high in the classroom.



## Second & Third Class

This month we were working on procedural writing, incorporating our IT skills in Microsoft Word. We wrote about how to make hot chocolate as Gaeilge.

We really enjoyed playing our “bump game” to practice our English and Irish spellings.

We have learned how to play tag rugby and develop our throwing skills in PE.

We completed some lovely dolls using various fabrics in Art and some created Halloween silhouettes.

For Maths week, we played lots of games, wrote an acrostic poem about Maths week and explored number, shapes in our environment and learned all about tessellation. We went on a Maths trail in the car park, where we looked at the various years of the cars and their counties.

In Science, we had great fun with our ‘Magic Milk experiment’ with the explosion of colour and we enjoyed watching our poor pumpkin having a reaction to eating too many sweets !!







### Third & Fourth Class

We had a very enjoyable month of October in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class. Here is a little look at some of the things we did.

In Art, we explored the colour wheel and had great fun mixing primary colours to create secondary and tertiary colours. We created beautiful silhouettes that are now proudly hanging in our classroom. We also created some spooky Halloween sunsets.

In SESE, we have been working hard as local historians and have learned so much about our fantastic village. We identified how Adare has changed over time, as well as going on a local history trail around the village to explore the Dovecot, the fountain, our school, the Trinitarian Abbey, the washing pool, the thatched cottages and the tobacco factory. We created our own books about Adare using the Book Creator app on our iPads. In Science, we continued our exploration of Living Things. We examined our own fingerprints using balloons and identified our fingerprint type.

In English, we have been busy drafting, editing and publishing our procedural writing piece 'A Witch's Brew' on Microsoft Word. We have now finished Literacy Lift-Off, so a big thank you to all our múinteoirí for their help.

The last week of October was Maths Week and we had great fun getting our maths eyes on and exploring maths in our local environment. We went on a maths trail around the village and collected data which we turned into bar-charts and block graphs.

We had a fantastic day celebrating our Halloween Hooley. We played lots of games in the classroom including Blind Man's Buff, Ping-Pong, Ring-toss and X's and O's. We finished the day with a spooky Halloween disco.





### Fifth Class

We are experts in Soils after our investigations recently in 5th class! We collected a variety of soil samples from different areas of our locality and carried out in an depth analysis on them. We studied what we could see, hear and feel when we put the soil under various conditions. Classification of the soils was next and we carried out ribbon tests and identified the different layers of soil in order to see which type of soil we had. Finally, we conducted permeability tests on the soils to compare how well each soil sample drained the water. It was a mucky classroom by the end of all the investigations!!

In Literacy, we are loving our class novel and enjoying the links we are making to Space Exploration and the Challenger disaster. We have linked what we have learned in Procedural Writing in English and applied it to Scríbhneoireacht Ghnásúil (Procedural Writing) in Irish. So, we made a variety of delicious smoothies together and wrote up the recipes in Irish. It was very difficult tasting all the yummy smoothies but we are a dedicated class!! We finished and printed our Biodiversity Book Creator books and they are looking fantastic in our SALF folders.

Maths Week is always a great week and this year we played Mathopoly, which tested our Math skills! We solved a Maths Mystery together and completed a Maths trail around the school. In Art, we completed our studies on the colour wheel by creating colour wheel collages and colour wheel eyes. We cut and ripped up lots of old magazines for our collages and all our masterpieces are on display in our classroom and looking magnificent!

Our swimming lessons are going very well and it is just fabulous to be back in the pool again. We are working hard towards our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) levels. We are almost finished this round of Yard Leagues with Tag Rugby, Elastics, Volleyball Tennis and Street Handball and are looking forward to helping our teachers decide what we should play next!



## Sixth Class

Go mbeannaí Dia daoibh. Tá súil againn go bhfuil sibh i mbarr na sláinte. Táimid ar mhuintir na muice i rang a sé. We have been learning all about Mé Féin in Gaeilge this month and finished the month off by writing about ourselves, our family, friends, hobbies and school in Irish. In Literacy, we finished reading our novel "There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom", which got a unanimous thumbs up from everyone. We studied "The Witches' Spell" from Macbeth in poetry. Once finished, we had some fantastic group performances of the poem in class, one which even incorporated a rap! During Poetry Week, we headed off to the beautiful Draíocht Art Gallery for a poetry workshop with Gabriel Fitzmaurice, which was a real treat. Gabriel told us all about his life as a poet and read a selection of his poetry, which we thoroughly enjoyed. A special thanks to Andrew in Draíocht for organising this.

Maths Week was filled with problem solving and Maths games including Mathopoly. In SESE, we became geologists learning to identify various rock types, including igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. We also learned about the internal structure of the Earth and made our own clay models of our planet, complete with core, mantle, crust and continents. We are delighted to be back playing the tinwhistle and learned "Toora Looora" and the lovely Irish lullaby "Bog Braon" this month.

Everyone in the class entered the Rathkeale and District Credit Union art competition. The theme this year was "Imagine" and the beautiful artwork created by 6<sup>th</sup> class for the competition reflected the fantastic creativity and imagination in the class. We also continued to examine paint and colour by creating cityscape silhouettes. In SPHE, we started the month by writing our own class charter. This outlined the way in which we will look after each other in our final year in Our Lady's Abbey.

We ended October by celebrating Halloween. We had a fantastic pumpkin carving day, with pumpkins from our school garden. A huge thanks to Joe, as we had a bumper crop this year. We also concocted new witches' spells in procedural writing, including "How to Turn Your Siblings into Slugs" and "How to Create an Astonishing Apocalypse!" Our Halloween Fun Day, was as always a huge hit, especially the outdoor disco, where 6<sup>th</sup> class lead the way in the Conga! Slán go fóill.

