



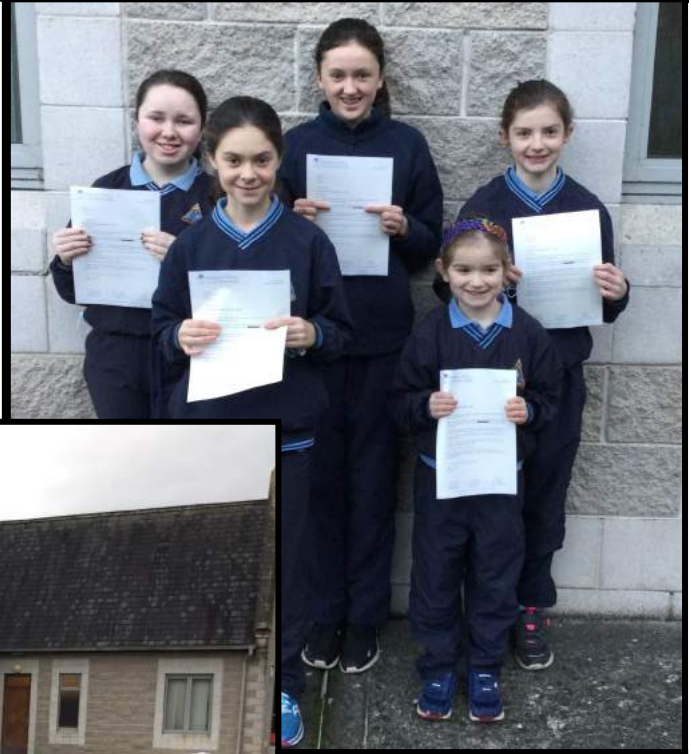
Our Lady's Abbey

December Newsletter 2021



School Building

We are delighted to announce that work has finally commenced on our new classroom. The floors have been poured and blockwork will begin in the New Year. Check out the picture below to view progress so far.



Credit Union Art Winners

Huge well done to these budding artists who were selected from a huge amount of entries as winners in the Credit Union Art Competition 2021. The creativity of all the entries from Our Lady's Abbey was noted, so well done to everyone who entered!

Lá na Nollag

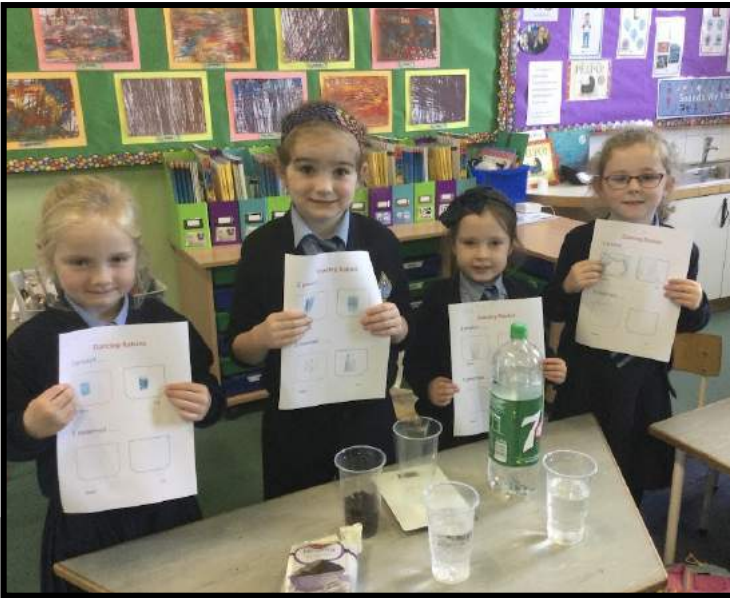
We celebrated Lá na Nollag, Christmas Day, at Our Lady's Abbey on Thursday, December 16th. Everyone dressed in their Christmas jumpers, dresses, hats and hairbands and celebrated a wonderful day of fun and games in our classrooms. We were all treated to a performance of the pantomime Red Riding Hood from The Helix Theatre and the day concluded with an outdoor disco organised by the Active Schools Committee. We raised €500 on the day for Focus Ireland, so a huge well done to everyone who contributed.











Junior Infants

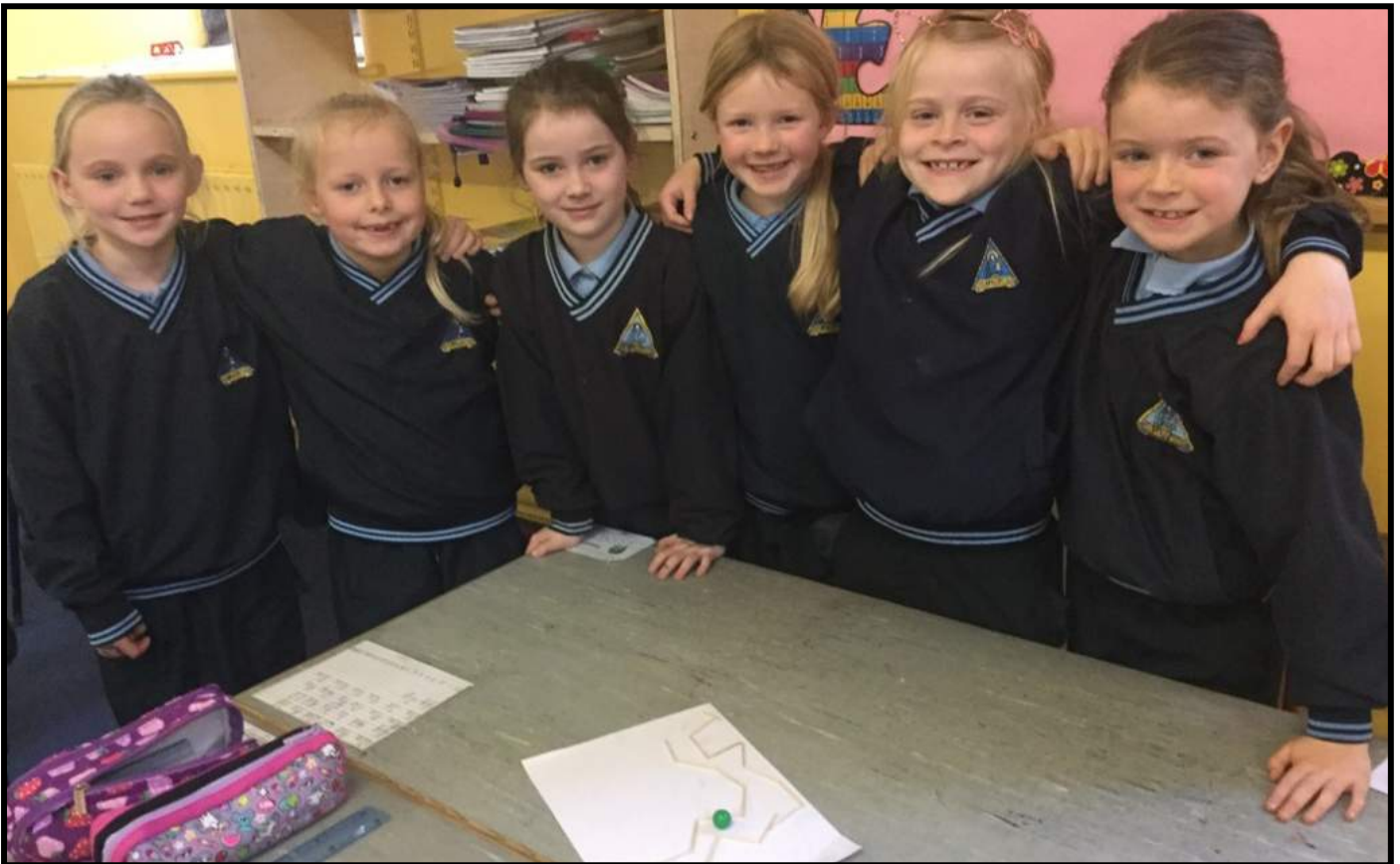
November and December were filled with learning and fun in the Junior Infant room!

In November, we opened two shops in the Role play corner. The first was a clothes shop. It was very entertaining to take turns at being customers, cashiers and shopkeepers. We especially enjoyed making the sound effects for our cash register. We stayed with the shopping theme but changed our shop to the food market for the end of November. In December, we decided to become Santa's little helpers and opened up our very own Santa's Workshop. We designed toys and Christmas decorations in the junk art corner and wrapped some of our creations too. Most of our lollipop stick elves in our small world area were very well behaved with only one or two naughty ones to deal with. Our play doh area was very busy with children creating candy canes, wreaths and decorations.

Science week was a highlight. Our amazing experiments included super hero magnetism, dancing raisins and a cola fountain. We took the opportunity to try some experiments at home too and recorded our results on Seesaw.

The Limetree theatre came to the classroom too. The wonderful production of "How to Catch a Star" by Oliver Jeffers was portrayed through puppetry and streamed straight to our interactive whiteboard. Everyone was enchanted by the beautiful story encouraging us to look up and follow our dreams. Our Christmas pantomime was a very different theatre experience but just as enjoyable. Filled with music and laughter, Red Riding Hood ensured we were truly in the Christmas spirit coming up to the holidays.





Senior Infants & First Class

The arrival of “Elfie” to our classroom made us all realise that Christmas is just around the corner and how quick this term has gone. The girls have been working so hard in Literacy Lift Off and they have loved their new books each night. Science week was a super success and the girls loved making their own class ramp for vehicles to move on. The girls have been busy taking orders in the restaurant and making presents in Santa’s workshop for Aistear. Dancing With the Stars could be calling for the girls of Our Lady’s Abbey, as “The Cuckoo Dance” has been a real hit with all the jivers in the room. Christmas fun day was a huge success and the girls had a ball watching the pantomime and getting to bop to their favourite festive tunes. All of Senior Infants and First class wish you all a very happy Christmas and an even better 2022.





Second & Third Class

This month Second and Third class were busy in Literacy learning about oral and written reports. The children presented a report on their favourite toy. We typed up reports on Adare and various animals.

In Maths we were focusing on money, symmetry, fractions, multiplication and division.

We did an array of experiments for Science week looking at various chemical reactions and testing the various strengths of paper.

In PE, we enjoyed doing the dance the Siege of Ennis. We really enjoyed designing our Be the 'I' in KIND in SPHE.

In Gaeilge we were learning about An Aimsir, Bia agus An Nollaig.

In Art we were creating winter scenes and designing snow globes as Christmas decorations.



Third & Fourth Class

November and December have seen the girls in 3rd and 4th work as engineers, poets and everything in between.

Our theme in SESE for the month of November was 'Ireland'. We explored how farming has changed overtime from the hunter-gatherers, Ireland's first farmers to the present day. We also learned all the counties of Ireland. Over the past month, we have been working in small groups researching all about a county in Ireland. Each group has created an excellent presentation on PowerPoint which we are looking forward to presenting to the class.

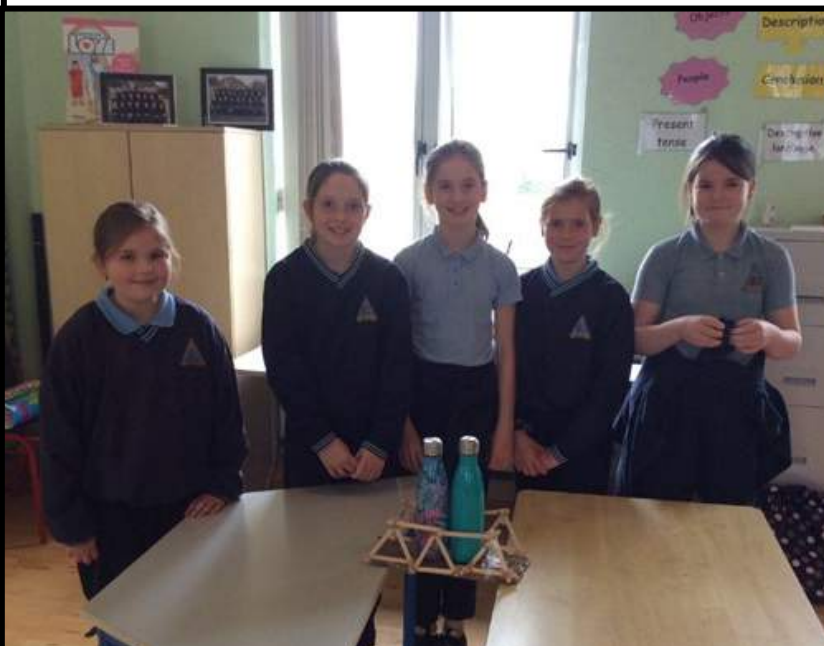
We thoroughly enjoyed designing bridges as part of our Science Week project. It was quite the challenge, but we rose to it! We learned just how useful triangles can be in buildings. One thing is for sure that there are lots of engineers and architects amongst us in 3rd and 4th.

We incorporated Science and Art to investigate the characteristics of different materials when wet and dry. We embraced the mess and had great fun creating Papier Mache hot-air balloons which are now proudly hanging in our classroom for everyone to enjoy!

In Irish this month, we were learning all things 'Bia'. We are excited to share that we have learned how to write a procedure as Gaeilge (Scr bhneoireacht Ghn s il). We wrote a procedure on how to make a sandwich and how to make a delightful hot chocolate!

We are so happy to be playing the tinwhistle and learned 'The Rattlin' Bog' as well as 'Jingle Bells' to help us get in the festive spirit.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all the girls in 3rd and 4th class!





Fifth Class

November began with Science Week and we enjoyed a week packed with investigations and experiments. We took part in an Epic Explorers Space Workshop with the Science Federation of Ireland. We are focusing on Living Things at the moment in Science, so we studied all about the Amoeba through our microscopes. We followed this with a wonderful experiment on DNA!! We worked in pairs to extract and examine the DNA of a banana. During the process of extraction, we used our iPads to document the experiment and wrote up our experiment using the pictures we had taken! We finished science week by learning all about acids and bases. We took lots of common household materials and predicted and tested each of them to see which were acids and which were bases. Following this, we tested each one to see what pH they were. What a super week!!

In Literacy, we have been studying the features of Report Writing and Oral Reports. We used News2Day to help us examine the features of good reports, read lots of different types of reports and have written our own reports. We worked hard to create our own PowerPoint presentations, practised presenting them in small groups and finally presented to our whole class. Our printed PowerPoints are looking very professional in our SALF folders now. We also finished reading our class novel, Planet Earth is Blue, which we rated 10 out of 10.

We discussed some of the most important parts of the story and we created storyboards using our computers and an incredible storyboard website.

We finished our swimming lessons in U.L and received huge praise from all our instructors along with our PAWS certificates. We also concluded our Cricket workshops from Munster Cricket, which we absolutely loved! Arsalan, our instructor was very impressed with the natural skill of lots of the girls!

In Art, the handprint peacocks and finger print sunsets we painted are proudly hanging in our classroom. We also constructed CD snowmen and wool nativity star decorations for Christmas. As a final treat, we celebrated Lá na Nollag by having festive Christmas Table Quiz which was very close in the end. The music round caught lots of us out! We brought in our blankets and teddies, cuddled up and popped fresh popcorn while watching the pantomime. It has been a wonderful first term for everyone in 5th class and we are looking forward to more fun and learning in 2022. Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go léir ó Rang 5!



Sixth Class

Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh! It's hard to believe the Christmas holidays are here. 6th class have been an-díograiseach in November and December. With weekly trips to UL for swimming lessons and also mid-week cricket classes with Arsalan from Limerick Cricket Club, we have been keeping fit and healthy. We also had a Food Dudes week in November to remind us to "try and eat a rainbow". In other words, we should try and eat as many types and colours of fruit and vegetables as possible daily.

In Literacy and SESE, we have been learning about North America. Having researched different North American States, including Massachusetts, Texas, Hawaii, Washington and New York, we used our report writing skills to compile comprehensive and interesting reports about them. Following this, in History, we learned about the Native Americans. Working in pairs, we gathered information about tribes such as the Sioux, the Cheyenne, the Inuit and the Mohawk. We presented our information on a Powerpoint presentation and shared this with the class, allowing us to practice and develop our oral reporting skills. Our poet in November was WB Yeats and we enjoyed learning his well-known poem "The Ballad of Father Gilligan."

Sa Ghaeilge, we started "scríbhneoireacht tuairisciúil" (report writing) by writing a report about where we live and we have been singing "An Chéad Nollaig", a beautiful Christmas song. To get into the Christmas spirit, we also been learning "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" on our tinwhistles. We decided to reuse and recycle when making our Christmas decorations this year. Check out the cool snowmen we made using old jigsaw pieces! We also made festive Santas using craft sticks. This term, we have experimented with print in our Art lessons, creating unique string and bubble wrap prints.

Science Week was hugely enjoyable. We attended an online webinar hosted by the SOPHia project in UL. This project aims to encourage more students, especially girls, to take up physics as a Leaving Certificate Subject. Did you know, there is a three to one ratio of male to female students taking physics at Leaving Certificate level in Ireland at present? We did lots of interesting experiments while on the webinar and also heard about physics in the world around us. Our design and make task for the week was to design a catapult and we had great fun testing our catapults for speed, power and tower afterwards. To tie in with our Food Dudes week, we also tested for the presence of starch using iodine. There is no doubt that we have many budding scientists in Rang a Sé, with all science classes engaged in with great enthusiasm!

Christmas truly arrived in our class with the celebration of Lá na Nollag in the school. We enjoyed a very competitive Christmas Table Quiz and the online pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood" with popcorn after. 6th class starred in our outdoor disco on the day, with an energetic performance of Ob La Di by the Beatles. In Religion, we have been learning about Advent, the Jesse tree and the Christmas Crib, so we took a trip to see our very own beautiful crib in Holy Trinity Abbey. A trip to the Heritage Centre for hot chocolate and marshmallows afterwards was a lovely way to end what has been a very busy term. Bíodh Nollaig mhór mhaith agaibh is gach sonas agus só don Athbhliain. Slán ó Rang a Sé.

