



Our Lady's Abbey

February Newsletter 2022



Friendship Day

We had a super day on Valentine's Day! Our Health Promoting Committee had lots of lovely activities planned for us. We celebrated the day by wearing our own red and pink clothes and bringing red fruit and vegetables in our lunch boxes. Every girl got a "secret friend" at the start of the day, who they had to be particularly kind to and then we all guessed who our friend was at the end of the day. All classes used their creative skills to design a class heart for our new Friendship display and the results were magnificent! They will make a beautiful display and we look forward to seeing them all exhibited together.

School Parking

As Adare Heritage Centre is fully open for business again, management of the centre has asked that parents avoid parking outside the back entrance of the Heritage Centre, as it causes an obstruction for tourists. In addition, double parking prevents buses being able to safely drive around and access the back entrance to the centre. There are plenty of parking spaces in the car park and parents are asked to park at the bottom of the car park in the allocated spaces. Please also advise anyone collecting children that they should only in allocated spaces. Please drive with extreme caution when pupils are entering and exiting the school. Parking is forbidden directly outside the school gate beside the graveyard, as these spaces are reserved for graveyard users. You will be asked to move your car going forward, if it is causing obstruction. Many thanks as always for your cooperation.

Credit Union Art Competition National Prize

Huge well done to Clodagh O' Halloran, who won a national prize in her age category in the Credit Union Art Competition. Clodagh is a fabulous artist and the prize was thoroughly deserved. Maith thú Clodagh.

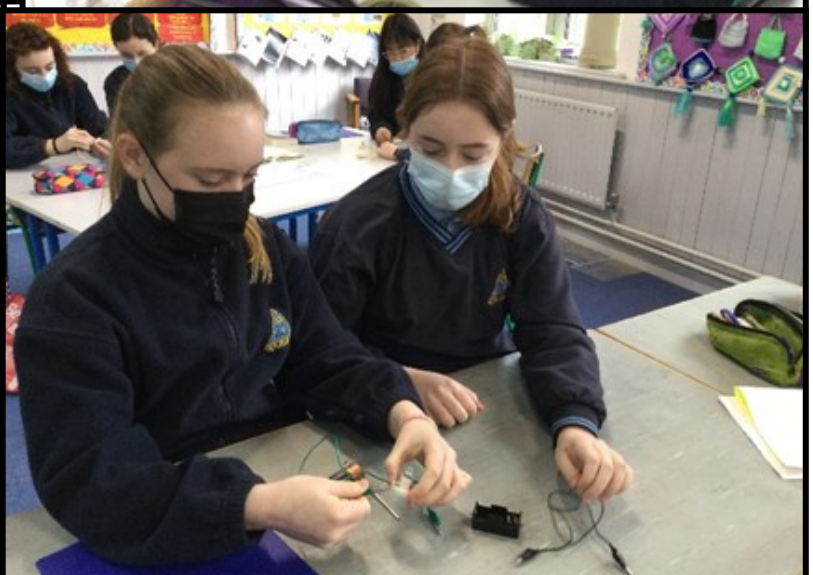
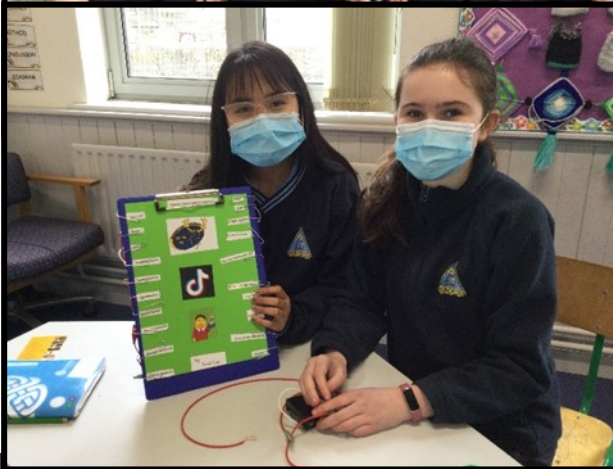
School Uniform

A reminder to all that the proper school uniform should be worn to school. The school uniform is worn on Mondays and Tuesdays. The school tracksuit is worn on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This includes the school tracksuit top and tracksuit bottoms (**not leggings**). In the event of good weather, the proper school bermuda shorts may be worn on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your daughter has appropriate footwear for P.E. lessons. Converse runners or runners of this type and Ugg boots are not suitable for P.E. as they do not have a suitable grip. **Please ensure all parts of your child's uniform are clearly labelled.**



Midterm Break

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable midterm and we look forward to seeing everybody back to school on February 28th.











Junior Infants

After Christmas, the first big change for Junior Infants was taking home our new homework folders! Packed with reading books, phonics and a little writing too, having homework makes us feel so grown up!

We have been working on our new games in Maths using dice and number lines. We love the Race to Ten and Twenty but our favourite game is "Snakes and Ladders". In English, we have been learning lots of high frequency words and using Wordwall to practice them on the interactive whiteboard. We get to play the games at home on Seesaw too. We are developing new orienteering skills in our Outdoor and Adventure strand in P.E.

We are setting up our "Building Site" at the moment. Each group has a turn playing in role with our wooden blocks and tools, small world play in the sand pit, constructing houses in Junk art and building houses with Duplo Lego. Our class is packed with budding block layers, engineers, architects, carpenters and plumbers.

The wristbands that we got for taking part in Internet Safety Day were so cool! We loved them, but our favourite day was Friendship Day. We adored the secret friend challenge, bringing lots of red fruit for lunch, our class art project and making our friendship cards. It was a wonderful day!

The changing seasons have played a big part in our classroom work and we are keeping a watchful eye out for any new signs of Spring in the world around us! We are looking forward to having even more fun and excitement with more outdoor activities now that Spring is here.





Senior Infants & First Class

St. Brigid once said, “The trees, the flowers, they blossom, they make the birds sing”. The girls of Senior Infants and First Class have been blossoming since their return to school and they have all been singing off the same hymn sheet. The girls have been busy creating clay pots and tiles while continuing to improve their tin whistle playing. The girls got a great insight into internet safety and went home with fabulous internet safety wristbands. The girls have loved being able to treat their patients in the vets and also, serve up delicious meals in the café through Aistear. Weight, tens and units and counting stick games have been the girls’ highlights in the Maths department. “Sinne Fianna Fail” has become our class track of the month and the girls are giving it socks when leading their national anthem. The highlight of the term came on Friendship Day when the girls got to wear their own clothes, create a class love heart and spread their kindness with a “secret friend”. All in all, a fabulous month, with the girls continuing to blossom every day.





Second & Third Class

Since Christmas, in Art we have been focusing on the strand of Clay and have made some lovely clay puppies and heart candle holders, which we enjoyed painting. We made tigers for Chinese New Year. We made Valentine's cards with crepe paper. We designed our own heart for our classroom for Valentine's Day which we really enjoyed.

In History, we learned about Games and Pastimes in the past and the story of St Brigid. In Science, we were focusing on the strand of Forces and we made spirally snakes and investigated how heat rises. We also discovered which ball is the bounciest using different surfaces. In Maths, we did lots of work on Time and Fractions. In P.E we had great fun orienteering around the school. In Gaeilge, we are doing lots of work on our briathra (verbs) and making lots of sentences. In Literacy, we were busy creating our own story called the 'Acrobat Pups'.



Third & Fourth Class

January and February have flown by here in 3rd and 4th class. Here are some of the highlights:

Wordle has found its way into the 3rd and 4th class classroom. We have had mixed success with it, but it is a great way to get us thinking! From Tarantulas to Springboks, we finished our animal reports and learned so much from researching all about them. We have started our class novel, *Under the Hawthorn Tree* and we are loving it so far!

Outdoor and Adventure was our P.E focus over the past two months. We started off by exploring all along the very picturesque riverbank. In orienteering, we learned how to orientate maps correctly and things got a little competitive when we did an orienteering course around our school grounds. Catching was our fundamental movement skill for January and February. We had great fun practicing the skill through games like BOMB!, Piggy in the Middle, Catch it if You Can, The Secret Robber and Dodgeball! Every day, we get out and get active around our school walkway.

In art, we busied ourselves creating clay models. We created beautiful gnomes, turtle pinch-pots and daffodils to celebrate the arrival of Spring. In drama, we have been busy participating in Reader's Theatre. We have been split into small groups and can't wait to present our plays to the rest of the class.

In SESE, we dived into Energy and Forces. First off, we explored heat and where heat comes from. We learned all about geothermal heat and Iceland's hot springs. In February we focused on electricity. We investigated where our electricity comes from, how it is generated and how switches work as part of a circuit.

There was huge excitement in the build up to Friendship Day on the 14th of February. The day began with a walk and chat around our school's active walkway. The girls got to work trying to be extra kind to their secret friend. Amazingly, by the end of the day everyone had ascertained who their secret friend was. We also created a beautiful group heart for our friendship display. Watch out on Twitter for the finished product coming soon! We finished off the day by doing mindfulness colouring. Thank you to the Health Promoting Committee for organising such a memorable day.





Fifth Class

We have earned our mid-term break in 5th class after all our hard work in the last few weeks!! In Literacy, we began the term with Readers' Theatre and we're enjoying working on our fluency and expression using our scripts. Narrative writing is the genre we are focusing on at the moment and we have worked hard at developing different characters. We have begun setting descriptions and are examining all the different types of adjectives that can be used to develop our writing. In Irish, we are also reading Léithoireacht Amharclainne (Readers' Theatre) and we are using An Garbhán (The Gruffalo) as our script. We are looking forward to performing this for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Friendship Day on Valentine's Day was a highlight for us. We had a fabulous day celebrating each other and our friendships. We wore our own red and pink clothes on the day and brought in red and pink fruit and vegetables in our lunch boxes. We started the day by getting a "secret friend" who we had to make a special effort to be kind to. At the end of the day, we guessed who our "secret friend" for the day was. The artistic challenge for the day was to design a class heart that reflected the theme of friendship and we are thrilled with how ours turned out. We took inspiration from the beautifully illustrated book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" and used buttons, crepe paper and cotton balls to complete the heart.

Clay was the medium we chose for Art for the last few weeks and we made clay hearts, clay handprint bowls and clay monsters. We learned many skills including rolling clay, modelling clay and scoring clay. The monsters, in particular, turned out spectacularly well....if we do say so ourselves! We also looked at Zentangle patterns and made Zentangle hairstyles on our own faces!

In SESE, Energy and Forces has been the strand we have been studying and particularly electricity and circuits. We learned about the different parts of a circuit and we constructed simple circuits using motors, lightbulbs and buzzers. Using this knowledge, we made real working lighthouses and rainbow spinners. We were very lucky also that the STEM Department of Mary Immaculate College sent us Scribblebot kits to make using circuits, so we had great fun designing, testing, making and decorating these.

Finally, Safer Internet Day was another successful day for us as it allowed us to have important conversations around our use of digital devices. We had an Internet Safety seminar via Zoom with Zeeko and we made an online class code!



Sixth Class

It's hard to believe we have reached our mid-term break. Rang a Sé have had a busy two months and are well ready for their briseadh leath téarma. This term, we started preparing for our Confirmation. We have been learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they bear fruit in people's lives. To help us prepare for our big day, we headed off to De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Co. Laois for a fantastic retreat on February the 7th. The theme of our retreat was "Shine Your Best Self" and we enjoyed a lovely day of reflection, prayer and meditation. It has been a while since we have journeyed on a bus trip together, so we thoroughly enjoyed the day, including the stop off for food and a chat on the way home.

As well as working on ourselves spiritually, we have been keeping fit by working on the strand of Dance in P.E. So far, we have perfected the "Walls of Limerick" and "Staicín Eorna" and we hope to dance these at our Céilí Mór in Seachtain na Gaeilge. Our FMS for this term has been side – stepping and we have been playing many games to practice this skill, including "Side Stepping Musical Chairs", "Side Step Across the Sea" and "Go Get the Beanbag". Thanks to the Active Schools Committee, yard leagues are up and running again and we are enjoying skipping and playing "Bomb" daily.

World War One has been our strand of study in History and in Literacy we have been engaging with a Readers' Theatre script entitled "The Christmas Truce". This tells the story of the famous Christmas ceasefire in World War One and we have enjoyed developing our fluency and expression while performing this. We are also focusing on Narrative Writing in Literacy. Currently we are examining how to describe a setting effectively and how the use of metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia and visual and auditory imagery help to do this.

Sa Ghaeilge, we have also learned that there are similes in Irish too. We each created our own comic full of Irish similes on the app "Comic Life" on our I-pads. We have also been learning about the weather – an aimsir and finished the term with group performances of the weather forecast in Irish. Bhí siad thar barr!!

We have been experimenting with the medium of clay in Art this term and have created some truly unique sun tiles and fish pinch pot bowls. We have also been designing "Women in Construction" posters for the school competition being organised by the builders of our new classroom. In February, we learned that Clodagh in our class had won the National Prize in her age category in the Credit Union Art Competition. Clodagh is a highly gifted artist and one to watch out for in the future. Comhghairdeas Clodagh. Táimid an-bhródúil asat.

Our design and make projects in Science have centred around magnetism and electricity. We had a hugely competitive grand prix in the classroom with the magnetic cars we designed and created. More recently, we also put what we have learned about electrical circuits to use, by designing electric quizzes together.

A big thank you to our Health Promoting Committee for organising our Friendship Day, which was great fun. The egg carton boxes we have collecting for the past month were put to good use on the hearts designed by 6th class and the day gave us all a chance to reflect on what makes a good friend.

Safety and Protection have been to the fore in SPHE, with every class engaging in the "Stay Safe" lessons this term. To tie in with this, we celebrated Safer Internet Day on February 8th. Our webinar with "Zeeko" highlighted the area of Cyberbullying and helped to increase our awareness about our digital footprint and the importance of using the internet responsibly. I'm sure you'll agree, it's been a jam packed term. Bíodh briseadh leath téarma iontach agaibh agus feicimid go luath sibh!!

