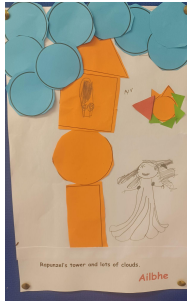


CHURCHTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL
ATHY
CO. KILDARE
Roll Number 07790U
☎ 0598632178
✉ churchathy@gmail.com
🐦 @churchtownathy

Newsletter, December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a very busy term here in Churchtown N.S. We hope you enjoy looking at the galleries of photos. We are also very active on Twitter so don't forget to follow us at the handle @churchtownathy. We are now open for enrolments for September 2022.



Junior/Senior Infants

The children have had so much fun engaging in the themes of doctor's surgery and post-office. They examined what we need to be healthy, the instruments used in a surgery and all the different areas in a hospital. They enjoyed designing and making cards and writing letters to each other. The culmination was a visit from a local nurse who explained all about her job and the local postman who was even asked if he ever delivered the wrong package! We embraced science week by making volcanoes and rockets and glycerine bubbles. The children loved learning about the Christmas story and saying their poems. They explored shape and space in maths. They became especially good at acrostic poems. We are making a special effort to use our phrases 'as gaeilge' at every opportunity.

1st/2nd/3rd Classes

1st, 2nd and 3rd classes have been working very hard this term and are definitely on Santa's good list.

In November our theme for the month was Houses and Homes and we studied our own homes and houses in different countries. We also learned about animal homes eg The fox and the Badger. The children did beautiful colourful artwork on this theme. Science week brought exciting experiments using food colouring. In November we also remembered our loved ones who have died and we visited the graveyard and made crosses. Roald Dahl is still our favourite author and we loved reading Fantastic Mr Fox and Matilda.

Our theme for December was Toys and Games and the history of the Toy Show was very popular.

We really embraced the Christmas theme for December and enjoyed reading all the Christmas stories and singing lots of carols and doing amazing artwork. We enjoyed playing the percussion instruments too at the Christmas carol service. Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir

4th/5th Class

Since Halloween, 4th and 5th class have been experiencing the classic story of Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. It was a race to finish the book before the Christmas holidays but along the way we integrated



this story into other aspects of our learning, such as factual reading about spiders in English and creating wax resist spider webs in Art.

We also integrated some Art work with the topic of 2-D Shape in Maths. We examined and created our own art pieces in the style of Spanish artist Okuda San Miguel who is known for his distinctive style of geometric patterns in the familiar shapes of animals.

In the run up to Christmas we have also experimented in art creating mosaic Christmas trees and prepared carols and songs for our Carol Service. The choices from our class were 'Hush! There's a Baby' and 'An Chéad Nollaig' which are firm favourites throughout the school.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir ó Rang a Ceathair agus Rang a Cúig!

6th Class

The theme for the last few weeks was World War 1. As part of their literacy class, the 6th class studied the famous story of "Christmas in the Trenches" during World War 1. This inspired creative writing projects and sparked an interest in the historical topic. The children enjoyed learning and researching about World War 1 in history.

The children really enjoyed engaging in creative writing for the December to Remember competition and created many wonderful pieces of writing to be proud of.



In maths, the children worked on Space and Shape. They developed their shape drawing skills and discovered how shapes tessellate. They used digital tools to play games and discover how tessellation works in a practical way.

They also integrated their art with Native American history.

Wednesdays were a treat for the children when John Walsh, the guitarist, arrived to teach them about rhythm and develop their interest in music. Over the past eight weeks, the children really developed their musical knowledge and learned to appreciate different types of musical genre. They had an opportunity to play percussion instruments and became expert body percussionists with their new found clapping skills!

Green Schools



We made our Clean-Air pledges for Clean Air Week and lots of classes made posters of the pledges. The pupils watched a clean air slide show and video. Karen Moore visited our school again and recorded Cormac, Kristina, Niall, Fionn and Sophie. She

spoke to them about pledges and then to Eva, Shane and David who regularly cycle to school. This is part of a podcast she is involved in creating.

CYCLE RIGHT began in November and provided an Introductory On-Road Training for all our sixth-class children. The cost of this course was sponsored by the RSA and County Council. The children learned many new skills and were taken out on the local roads to test their knowledge and ability.



Swimming commenced for all classes from 1st -6th. It was wonderful to see the children back in the water and the double-decker bus was a massive hit!

We started to run, walk and jog 3 mornings a week and at lunch time around our school perimeter. When we realised how dedicated and enthusiastic our pupils were, we set the target of reaching Lapland by Christmas week. It meant every pupil needed to commit to doing 2km a day approx. We need not have worried! A special shout out to Jonah, Sarah and Amy and to 4th and 5th who were vital in allowing us reach our goal.

Christmas Fun

We kicked off our Christmas preparations with a competition 'A December to Remember'. Making use of our new routers, the pupils were asked to submit their entry by email only, attaching the necessary file during school time. The prizes were great, and the entries fantastic. Congrats to Danny, Finnbar, Jessica, Mia. Hollie and Ryan who were all very worthy winners.

Our annual Santa Dash took place on Wednesday morning the 14th December. This time over half the pupils jogged the 2.5km! A big thank you to Bob who always keeps us safe on the roads. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful school community. We came back to drinks and treats and huge cheers as we had reached Lapland!

The sixth class organised a Movie Night for the whole school on Friday night the 3rd December. It was a massive success and they raised €300 for UNICEF and we are using the proceeds from the raffle to buy new yoga/meditation mats for the Lé Chéile room.

The same day Santa visited from Temple St. and a very generous donor provided us all with selection boxes. The families of our school sent €250 back with him to the hospital.

We had a festive morning of carol singing outside followed by hot chocolates in the yard. It was all about bringing joy to everyone and just what the doctor ordered.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and safe Christmas and thank you all again for your continued support,

We hope to see you all on January 6th,

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir!

