

Parent Association Newsletter



Letter From The Chairperson

Dear parents and guardians,

I would like to start this newsletter by introducing the new Parents' Association Committee which was formed at an Association meeting held on 8 November 2021. Our new Vice-Chairperson is Terry Went Dyer, our new Treasurer is Derval Colleran, our new Secretary is Elaine O'Farrelly and I am the new Chairperson. The Committee will remain in situ for a 2-year period after which a new Committee will be formed. I would also like to thank the outgoing Committee which consisted of Majell Ryan (Chairperson), Maeve McNamara (Vice-Chairperson), Amanda Breen (Secretary) and Catherine Kelly (Treasurer). The composition of the Association has also changed, a function of the academic year having finished a few months ago, and we therefore said goodbye to some members but welcomed some new ones and as Chairperson to the Association I'd like to thank the new members for joining the Association and offering their time and effort. It is appreciated.

The change of Committee parallels another administrative change which saw Ms Morrogh take over as Acting Principal from Mr O'Doherty on 1 September and which will last for a 2-year period. Ms Morrogh has already made a magnificent contribution to the running of the school and on behalf of the Parents' Association I'd like to express our gratitude and to wish her the best with the remaining term of her appointment.

It is hard to believe that by the time the school re-opens next month that it will almost be 2 years since the Covid pandemic started. This year has seen all sorts of initiatives implemented at the school to manage the vagaries of the pandemic and notwithstanding the enormous burden this has caused to children, parents, and teaching staff alike, the fact that we continue to prevail is testament to the hard work, dedication and vigilance deployed by us all. Unfortunately owing to the pandemic we again can't have Santa and the Elves visit each class on the Christmas Colours Day which this year will be held on Tuesday 21 December. Nevertheless, we have some fun planned for all the children and it will be on the day that the winners of the hamper raffle will be announced. The Association, and I'd like to especially thank Terry Went Dyer, have put together 8 hampers, one winning hamper for each of the Junior Infant and Senior infant classes and the same for classes one through six. All money collected through the raffle will be donated to charity. The Association will also provide the teaching and support staff with some treats on the morning of the Christmas Colours Day as a small gesture of our appreciation for their commitment to the school and to our boys' and girls' welfare.

I'd like to finish off by wishing you all on behalf of the Association a very happy Christmas and a safe and restful festive season. Hopefully, 2022 will be such that we will be able to again meet up like we used to do for various fundraising and related activities.

Regards

Keith Parker

Chairperson

PRINCIPALS LETTER - December 2021

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of an eventful term in St. Patrick's, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in helping us maintain a safe and happy learning environment for the children. Despite the challenges we continue to face during this global pandemic, our pupils and staff remain positive and committed to a high standard of teaching and learning. We have managed to have plenty of fun along the way too! We hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter which provides you with a snapshot of the wonderful work going on in our busy classrooms and throughout the school.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support and encouragement that I have received from the whole school community throughout my first term as Principal. It is a privilege to work with the Board of Management, staff, parents and pupils of St. Patrick's and I look forward to continuing the journey with you all into 2022.

During this Advent season of hope, we wish for brighter days for our school community and hope that you and your families have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Your sincerely, Niamh Morrogh Principal



Student Council Elections

Anyone who was interested in running for the student council filled in a nomination form that was signed by our teacher, the principal, and two other classmates. Seventeen people in our class ran for the student council. We all wrote a speech explaining why we wanted to be on the student council and why we would be a good student council representative. Everyone said their speech in front of the class. Most people made a poster and badges as part of their campaign too.

Before long, it was election day. It was an exciting but tense day for many people. Lots of girls were crossing their fingers for a chance at being elected onto the student council. All classes from 4th-6th class went to the basement to vote for this year's student council representatives. Our names were taken as we entered Ramthai and we were given a voting sheet, which listed all of the candidate's names. We were then directed to a voting station where we cast our vote. After voting, we folded the sheet in half and popped it into the voting box. The votes were counted and the successful candidates were announced over the intercom on Monday. It was a wonderful day overall.

On the day of the announcement I could tell that everyone was anxious about the election results. I was nervous as well but I tried to push it down and act like nothing was going to happen. A quiet classroom is something our classroom never is, but that day it was. Halfway through the day the ding-dong of the intercom came on and everyone shushed. My heart thumped so loud I thought everyone could hear it. Everyone in the class was drinking in Ms Morrogh's words, waiting for the names to be called. As she reached our class, everyone waited with anticipation. First Zara's name was called, then mine! We are so excited to be elected and can't wait to hear everyone's ideas, no matter what it is.

Zara Zhang & Cate Cobb

Which of Santa's reindeer has the best moves?

Dancer!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!





What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

Jungle bells!

Who is Santa's favourite singer?

Elf-is Presley

News from Ms Dagg's 3rd class

We have been working very hard since we came back to school in September.

We have begun to learn joined writing and are working very hard on our handwriting. We are very proud of our hard work.

In Maths we have begun to learn multiplication and division. We work really hard learning our tables at home each night.

We are reading The Witches by Roald Dahl as our class novel. We are really enjoying the story and we think Ms. Dagg might be a witch!

We spend lots of time outdoors – we do a run each morning and we have been planting seeds. We each picked a tree to monitor throughout the seasons. We made bird cakes to feed the birds in winter.

We joined the Agri Aware zoom calls each week to learn more about farming, food production, environment and climate change. Today we entered a competition to win a trip for our class to visit Dublin Zoo. We hope we win.

We are participating in a programme run by Airfield Estate called 'Farmertime.' We have been twinned with a lovely farmer from Co. Kilkenny called P.J. We have monthly Zoom calls with P.J. to find out how his cows are doing on the farm. We also get lots of photos of the cows from him. We got to name his favourite cow. She was called 3120 but now her name is Daisy.

We love third class so far.

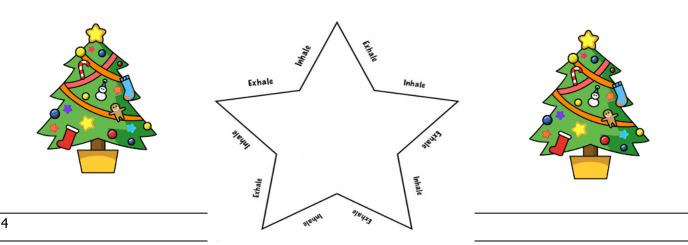
Ms Daggs 3rd Class.

HPS (Healthy Promoting School) Committee

Hello, our names are Éabha Humphries, Sophia Byrne and Isabella Mulligan and we are in 4th class. We are the newest members of the HPS committee in St. Patrick's.

We wanted to join the HPS because we thought it would be a great experience and also a chance to help our school. In our school, as the newest members we must try and make our school a healthier and happier place to learn and have fun.

One of the first things we focused on was something called the "Breathing star" which was based on mindfulness. The Breathing star is about learning to focus on your breathing and taking a minute to relax. It also helps when you are a bit anxious or stressed. You trace your finger along the star and breathe deeply in and out. Try and focus on how you feel before and after doing this mindfulness activity!



Our Nativity Play

We have been practicing our nativity play. The play is about baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and King Herod. We go on the stage and dance and sing songs. It is very fun. Today we went to the PE hall and got dressed in our costumes. We looked great!

We have been working very hard at learning our lines. We are recording the play next week. Our parents are going to watch us at home. We are very excited!

Ms Ashall's Junior Infants



2021-2022

Congratulations to all eighteen elected members of the Student Council from 4th, 5th and 6th Class.

Thank you for putting yourself forward to work on behalf of all of the students in St Patrick's to help make our school a better place!

Aimee Leigh Greene Byrne (Secretary)	Emma Brady (Chairperson)	Grace Cloney (Deputy Chairperson)
Lilia Cassoni	Ava Vahedi	Evie Seavers
Zara Zhang	Sinéad Moran	Zoe Kavanagh
Cate Cobbe	Penny Standage	Ciara Duffy
Georgia Shortt	Eve Larkin	Hannah Barrie
Dilara Dal	Chloe Zhang	Millie Devlin





St Patrick's HPS Team!

Name	Class
Alyson Walsh	6th
Anna Morrissey	6th
Kaitlyn Bowes	6th
Lizzie Menzies	5th
Olivia Barrett	5th
Nicole O'Keefe	5th
Éabha Humphries	4th
Sophia Byrne	4th
Isabella Mulligan	4th

A huge thank you to the girls for stepping forward to help make our school community healthier and happier!

6th Class Christmas Stories for 1st Class

The 6th Class girls have been working hard on writing Christmas Stories for the three first classes in St Patrick's.

Ms Condren & Ms McCann's class are writing stories for Ms Catterson's class, Ms NíRíain's are writing stories for Ms Doran & Ms Travers' class while Ms Billington's class are writing stories for Ms Cunanne and Ms McCormack's class.

Each 6th class girl has been assigned an individual recipient of their story and have designed the story around the interests of their first class girl. The girls took part in a socially distanced interview outside before planning their stories.

Each story is uniquely inspired by the intended audience. Moreover, each story has the assigned first class girl as the star of the show- the protagonist of the story!

We really hope the girls in first class enjoy reading the books as much as the girls in sixth class enjoyed writing and designing them.

Happy Christmas from all in 6th Class!







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Science Week in Ms Travers & Ms Doran's 1st Class



We did lots of
experiments in our class
for Science Week. As
well as these two
pictured, we also made
spinning spiral snakes,
watched the reaction of
adding mentos to coke
and made our artwork
into music!







Rainbow Colours

We did a fruity sweet colour mixing experiment. Watch what happens when we added warm water to the sweets









Tallest Tower Challenge

We had to build the tallest tower using only marshmallows and dried spaghetti. It was great fun!

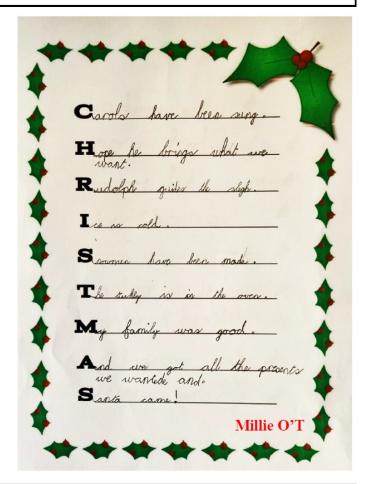




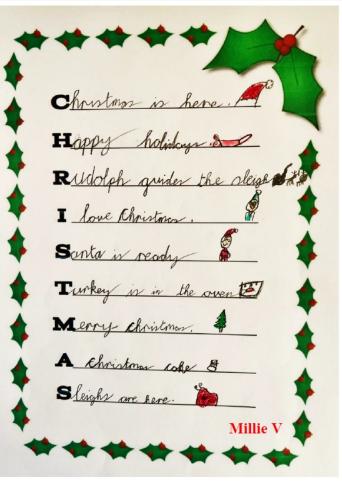


Ms Doran & Ms Travers' 1st Class Christmas Poems

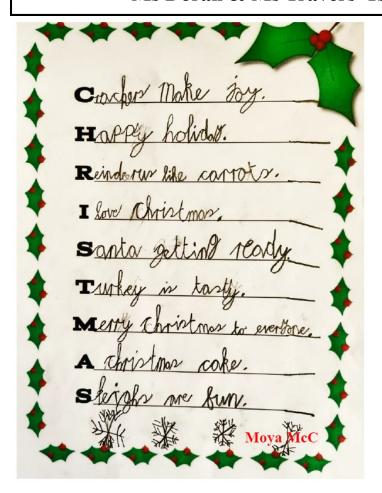


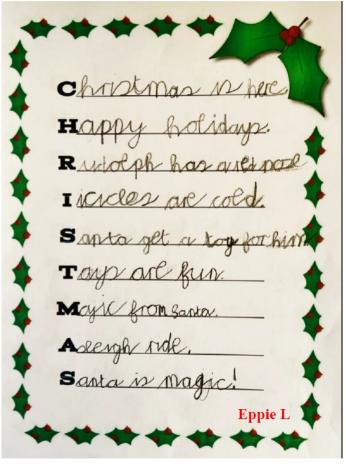


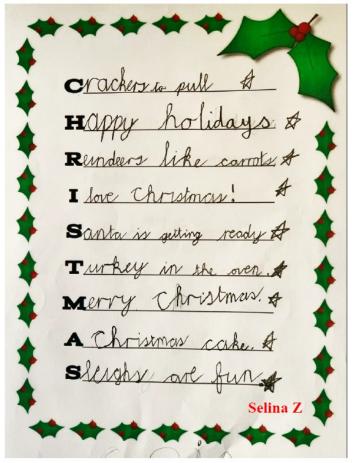


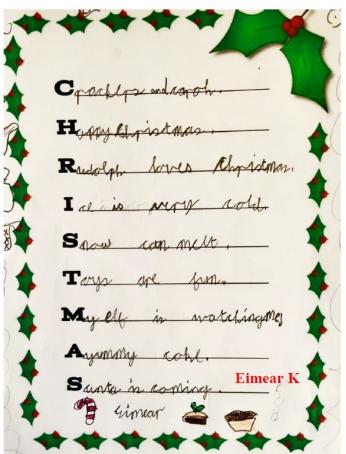


Ms Doran & Ms Travers' 1st Class Christmas Poems











We wish you a sustainable Christmas!

This term, we were learning about climate change and sustainability. We made posters to be stuck around the school that offered tips and tricks on how to have a sustainable Christmas this year! We really enjoyed making these posters and we hope they help everyone in our school!

Take a look at some of our posters to get some clues onow to help the

environment this Christmas!

Here are some of the ideas we came up with for our posters:

- Reuse your Christmas jumper from last year
- Try to use solar panel Christmas lights
- You can use newspaper instead of wrapping paper
- Bring unwanted presents to the charity shops
- Try to walk to the shops instead of driving
- Always turn off the lights when you're leaving





Sometimes at Christmas, there can be a lot of waste. To live sustainably is very important because to not live sustainably effects the weather badly. When we pollute the environment or use too much electricity, it can cause greenhouse gases to create holes in our ozone layer (which protects us from the very hot sun). We want to be more sustainable because it will help our planet to heal from the damage that has happened over many years.

Ms. Walsh's 3rd class

WHAT ARE GIRLS MADE OF

I am a beautiful, kind and happy girl.
I like to chill and play some games
I like ice-cream chocolate and
All things nice.

I'm not a veg girl
I'm not a fan of fruit, I don't like rain
I'm not a snow girl, I find my brothers annoying
and that's what this girl
Lara is made of.



By Lara Bayliss

I had lots of fun learning about 2-D shapes.

I used cocktail stick and yummy marshmallows to make a square, a rectangle, a triangle and a star.

Do you know what the last shape is?

By Aliyah O'Brien, Senior Infants







Loreto Student Council Conference

On the 25th November twelve members of the Student Council attended the Loreto Student Council Conference. It took place via Zoom due to Covid restrictions. Student Councils from other Loreto schools around the country joined us.

We discussed the importance of using your voice in a responsible way. We also talked about our rights as children. Rights come with responsibility- everybody has a right to have a voice, but with that comes the responsibility to use it responsibly and fairly. We heard about the functions of a Student Council and how meetings work.

Afterwards we took part in a quiz about everything we talked about to see if we had listened. Our Student Council came 3rd! Woohoo!

We discussed our ideas for the Student Council with the other schools, such as Dignity Packs which we will be doing again this year. We also came up with some super fun things we know the school will love.

At the end of the call each school spoke about their Student Council. We played a video that Student Council members from last year had created especially for the conference.

Everybody enjoyed it and we definitely got a few laughs in too.

You can find this video on the school website

https://stpatsbray.ie/2021-student-council-presentation/.

Merry Christmas from the Student Council!

By Lilia Cassoni and Evie Seavers



Christmas Colours Day 2021

Christmas Colours Day is nearly here! The Student Council invite you to wear your Christmas Colours on the 21st of December 2021. Our aim this year is to reuse our old Christmas jumpers or sweaters from previous years. The brighter, the better! If you don't have a Christmas jumper, you can wear Christmas Colours like red and green, - or anything that sparkles! And don't forget your Santa hats!

This year we will be supporting a local charity and we are asking the school community to donate $\in 1$ per child or $\in 2$ per family. Christmas Colours Day is not only fun, but we can help people who really need it.

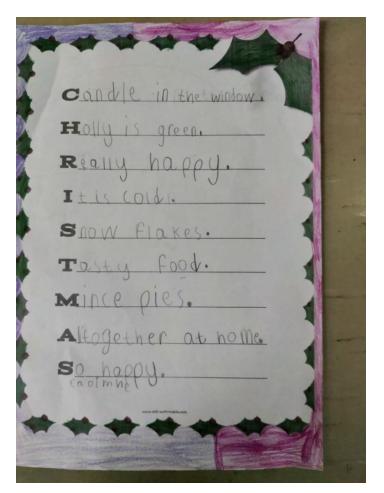
Thank you to the Parents' Association who have kindly organised some treats for all the girls and boys. We might even have a special visitor on the day...

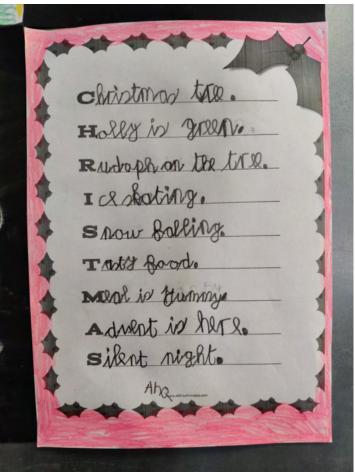
We are looking forward to seeing all the happy girls, boys and school staff in their bright Christmas colours on the 21st of December.

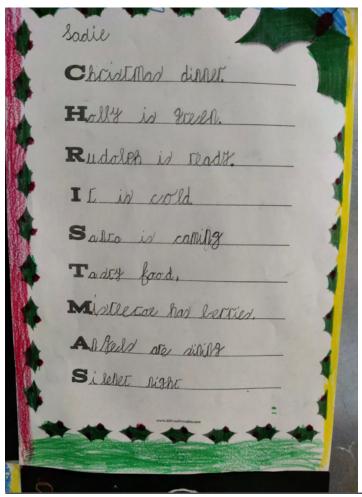
The Student Council would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Student Council, 2021

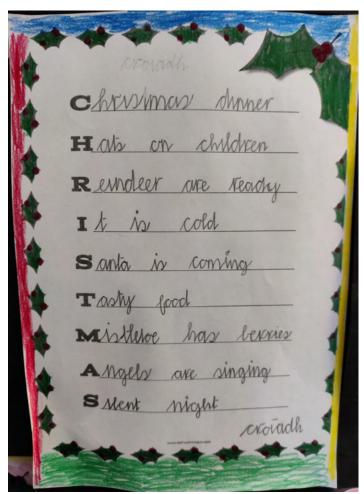
written by the Student Council representatives in Ms Ryan/ Ms Long's 4th Class

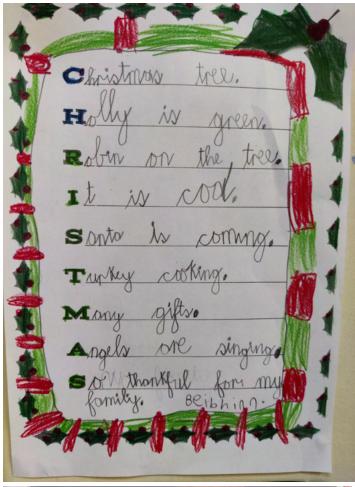
Poems from First Class Mrs Mc Cormack/ Mrs Cunnane



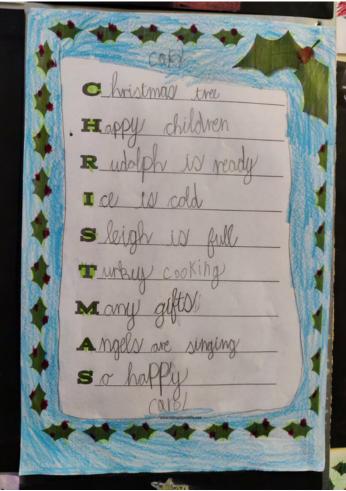




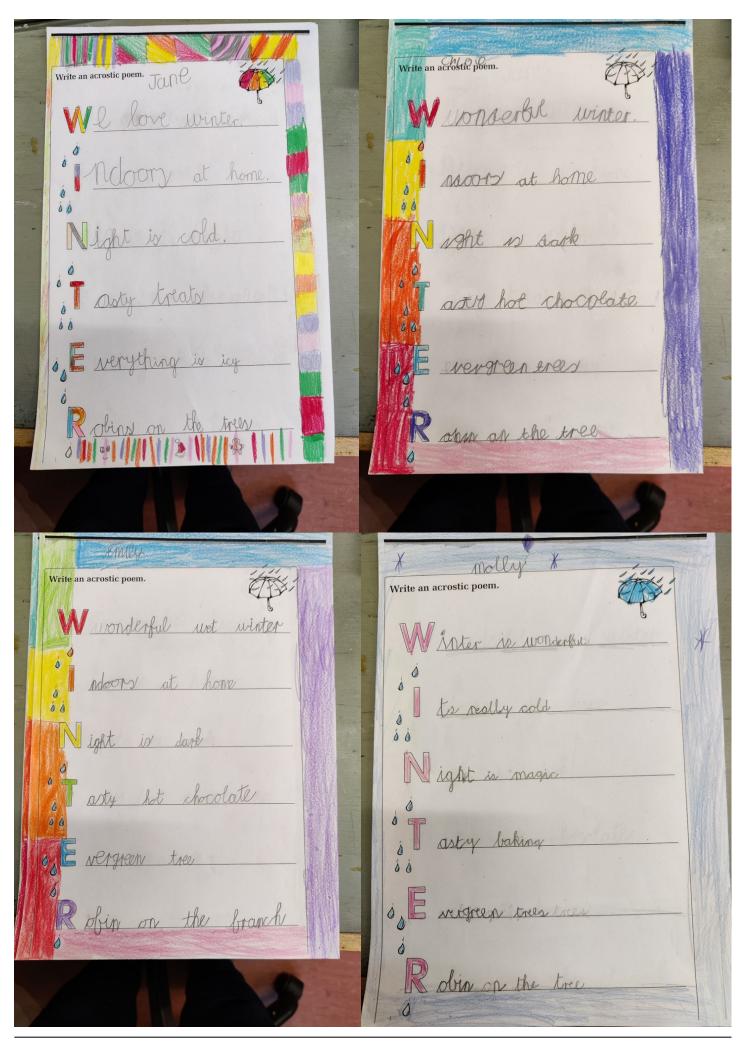


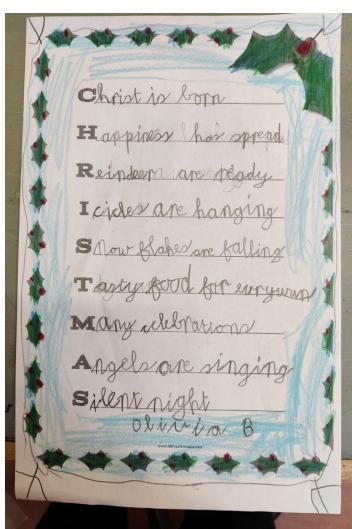


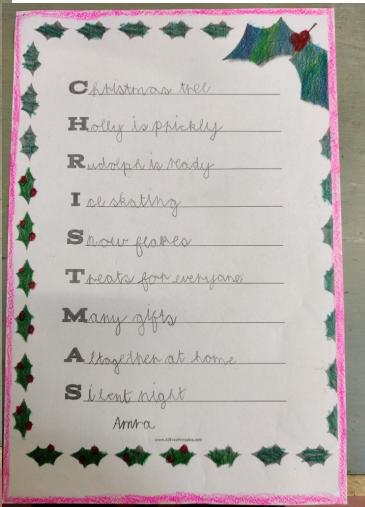


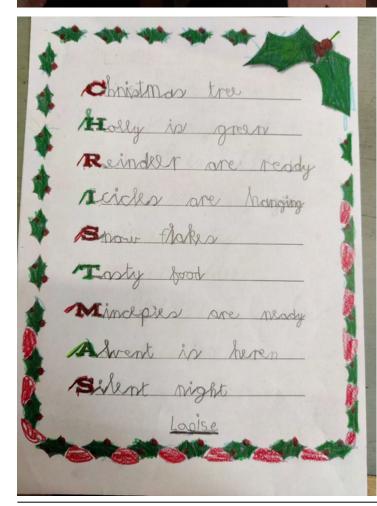


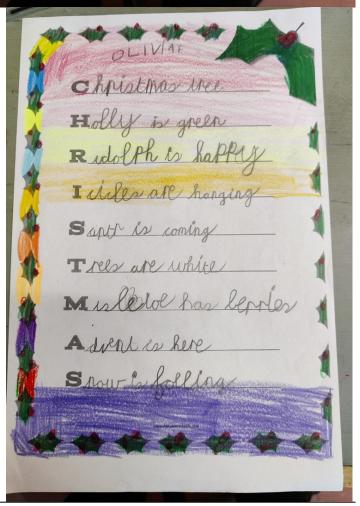














Christmas Fact!

If you gave all the gifts listed in the "Twelve Days of Christmas," it would equal 364 presents.

In Japan, it is traditional to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken for dinner instead of Turkey. They have to order their dinner in October!

Hallowe'en Poetry Competition

This year, as always, my class participated in the Hallowe'en Poetry competition. All the poems were great. They were about goblins, ghosts, vampires, and ghouls.

This year I won the competition. I was really delighted because I worked hard on my poem, and it was my first time winning a competition in school. So here is my poem.

The Grievous Ghost.

The grievous ghost walks alone, Her dress glides behind. Her skin as pale as snow Her hair as dark as midnight Her figure tall and thin. Walking to the bathroom one night, When I feel a cold hand touch my face. I turn around and what do I see? Two blank eyes staring at me! I ran and ran and I started to sprint! Suddenly I notice I am at a dead end! I turn around slowly shaking with dread As the ghost gets closer, I start looking around For something to use to get out of this house. Soon my eyes lay on something new, I quickly grab it and plugging it in I press the button sucking her in! Phew I thought Suddenly I hear a little voice say, 'Please help I've been trapped in this house For more than ten year. I want to get out so I can be free! I go outside and turn the vacuum on As she shot out I heard her say,

Niamh Davies rang a cúig.

Thank you so much for now I am free.

Gymnastics

Our PE class has recently switched to gymnastics which means it is all the more fun. PE is always one of the most exciting lessons for me and now even more with the climbing frames and everything else. Our teachers have been trying their hardest to make out PE lessons the best they can.

All the classes have been doing a great job sanitising the PE equipment so that the PE hall is the best it can be.

The things we are focussing on currently in PE are jumps, rolls, balances and travelling. Sometimes I am OK at handstands and cartwheels on the mat, but it all depends on the day of the week that it is.

My class is improving at gymnastics all the time.

By Arianna Griffith, rang a cúig.

Covid Charters

At the start of this year Ms. Dunleavy's class wrote Covid Charters and we put them up around the school. This is how we made them. You and your partner thought of all the very important rules you must follow during the Pandemic such as staying 2m apart, sanitizing and wearing masks.

Next Ms Dunleavy gave us a somewhat big sheet of paper and we then wrote down all the rules we had. After we wrote the rules we decorated. Some people drew Covid splatters, others drew sanitisers or a 2m sign.

Finally, Ms Dunleavy gave all the pairs a big piece of blue tack and told us where to go to stick up the posters. My partner Jessie and I put them up on Ms Dagg's corridor outside her classroom. So, at the end of the day making Covid charters was fun.

By Serena Shortt, Rang a cúig.

Irish Poetry Awards

In September, my class entered the 'Poetry Town' competition, and I won a prize with my poem 'Sidmonton Park'

Sidmonton Park is very lively
With children playing wildly
With trees swaying
And children playing
Sidmonton Park is the place to be.
With laughter and chatter and me in my basket

When I was three

My dad beside me.

That goes to show

Sidmonton Park in Bray,

Has loads of memories for me.

Niamh Arcan, Rang a Cúig

Science Week 2021

We really enjoyed Science Week. We did lots of experiments with Ms. Catterson and Anna. One of our favourites was putting Mentos sweets in to Diet Coke, it exploded everywhere in the yard! We made Skittle rainbows and we built our names in 3D out of Lego. We did lots of other experiments and activities too. Our class loved learning about Science and new things.

Movement Breaks

We are so lucky to have Anna in our classroom. She teaches us lots of dances during our movement breaks. We love to dance and have fun together!

Ms Catterson and Anna's First Class











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Our Social History Project

In February 2021, during second lockdown, I read the newspaper headline 'most boring apocalypse movie ever' and was urged to read on as this had to have come from a child. They are the champions when it comes to identifying the most boring things ever!

This banner headline had emerged from the research of Dr Jane Maxwell and her team in Trinity College who led the *Living in Lockdown* project which had sought to record and preserve the experience of ordinary people during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Ireland has a history of recording and preserving the ordinary person's voice with the most famous one being the schools' collection from 1930s. Here researchers from the Folklore Department in UCD asked teachers to collect from the pupils in their classes the stories and traditions of their respective parents and grandparents. This wonderful collection, much of which has now been digitalised, is a treasure trove of information concerning customs, traditions, stories and seasonal events that were important to the people in the countryside.

Inspired by Jane Maxwell's online exhibition and remembering the tales of my father as he recounted his time in Tavrane National School in the 1930s writing in Mr. Mac's copybook about 'The Little Red Man', I suggested at our staff meeting in March 2021 that we should ask all the children in the school to write about their experience of the pandemic.

Asking children to reflect on their lockdown experiences was something that our own professional support teams were recommending on returning to school as part of the settling back process for all children. Expressing their opinions on all manner of things is an activity the children are very familiar with in St Patrick's. Our school plan endorses writing in response to books, art works, trips to special events and topical issues. Therefore, we felt the children would be more than capable of giving their opinion about the unique experience they had been through and to say how it impacted on their daily lives. The most important aspect of the activity was that the child's voice would be heard so we treated the exercise like a free writing activity with the child's perspective being the critical element of the work.

The next stage involved uploading the material onto our *Teams* platform and then sending a digital copy to the local printer, *Central Press*. Ruth Power from the digital committee led the way at this stage of the project and soon everyone was scanning and uploading the work of each pupil in their class. Aidan Flynn and his team did a great job, and we were delighted with the 34 books we received in June, one from each class and 4 volumes of poetry that had been compiled by a parent in the school, Darren Walsh and Ms. Adele Mc Keon during lockdown 1.

The books are a wonderful compilation of all that was both positive and negative for the children. A prominent theme in the work of the children was the importance of the family:

'I got to spend more time with my family, first class,

I played with my Mum. We played chess., first class.

I did some baking with my sister and brother. Senior Infants.

I liked lockdown because Daddy didn't have to go away' first class

My Dad worked from home so we spent more time together. 6th class.

The lockdown brought on a lot of emotions and the children were able to express how they were feeling with reference to the events that had prompted the emotion.

I felt upset during this pandemic, young and old were getting sick. 4th class.

The first time I saw my nanny I cried. 4th class

I was upset because I wasn't able to hug my nanny. 3rd class.

In the first lockdown I was very scared even if I walked one step out of the house I was terrified. 4th class

Home schooling was a topic that consumed a lot of the senior students

Home-school was the worst. It was hard only having my Mum to help me and I struggled a lot. 6th class.

I used to say I hated school but I will never say that again being in lockdown for 6 months. 6th class

We had fun online activities and soon we were introduced to a thing called 'zoom'. 6th class.

I felt worried I was not doing enough homework. Myce 4th Class

Family celebrations were often commented on.

Santa left a santiser in our stockings. 3rd class I missed not having a proper birthday. 3rd class For lockdown you could not even go trick or treating. 4th class

I took the books home and felt that such work deserved to be properly stored for the future and so I emailed Dr. Jane Maxwell in Trinity College and asked her advice. She was very positive and encouraging and welcomed the opportunity to accept the children's work into Trinity Library for future use by researchers. The last remaining part of the process was to obtain permission from parents to hand over copyright of the material for use in perpetuity. This project represented a whole school effort and there is some level of satisfaction when I look through the online schools' collection in UCD and think that the lockdown journals of the pupils of St Patrick's Loreto will form part of a schools collection in Trinity for another generation to read, exclaim over and reflect upon.

Breda Dunleavy.

Festive poems and pictures - 2nd Class

We have been very busy in Second Class writing some poems and riddles.

Hope you enjoy reading them!

Enjoy our festive pictures too!

Happy Christmas to you all!

Christmas is amazing!
Happy Christmas!
Really nice decorations,
I adore Christmas.
Santa is coming.
There is lots of shopping to be done.
My cat loves the wrapping paper.
Advent calendars to open,
Snow is falling.

By Eliza

A riddle

You won't be jolly, Because of me You will need a brolly What am I?

Answer: rainstorm By Sophia

Cheers are everywhere,
Happy holidays!
Reindeer are coming.
I love Christmas!
Santa is delivering presents.
Tonnes of Christmas presents,
Merry Christmas!
A lot of family time,
Shhh! Santa is coming!

By Mia B

A Riddle

You get presents.
You have lots of fun.

What is it?

Answer: Christmas By Ronja

A riddle

I can be a ball and a snowman. What am I?

Answer: clay

By Isabella R

Christmas is coming very soon.
Hopefully I've been good!
Rudolph and his friends chomping on carrots
It is the day,
Santa has come! Look! Yay!
Trees are decorated.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Santa is a jolly good fellow!

By Chloe

Christmas is coming.
Holidays are nearly here.
Reindeer in gardens,
Icicles on branches,
Santa in the stores,
Trees in the windows,
Merry Christmas everyone!
And I'm so excited,
Santa is almost here!
By Emily G

Carols being sung,
Happy Christmas to everyone!
Reindeer coming to your home tonight,
T really have that they don't bitel

I really hope that they don't bite!
Sleigh bells ringing,
Through the night,
Making children full of delight,
And as they wait
Santa is not going to be late!
By Mia H

Cards are being written,
Happy holidays to all!
Reindeer flying in the sky.
Icy slippery roads,
Santa is coming to town!
Tasty treats,
Merry Christmas!
Amazing lights in the town,
Snow is falling all around.
By Andrea

A riddle

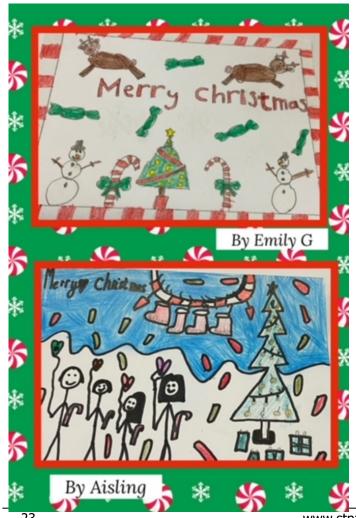
I can be tall or small. I can be decorated. What am I?

Answer: a Christmas tree

By Zélie-Rose

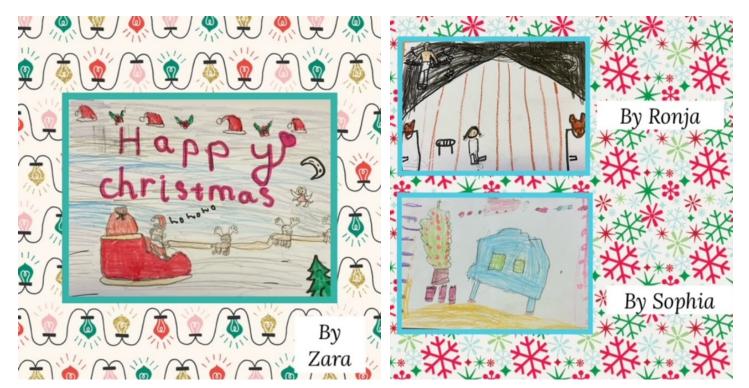
Children are singing carols.
Hope you have a great Christmas!
Rudolph has a red nose.
I love Christmas!
Santa is coming soon.
Tinsel around the tree,
Merry Christmas!
All the elves are working hard.
Spectacular Christmas trees are everywhere!
By Ella

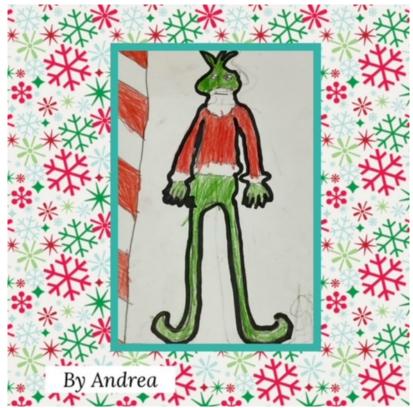












Happy Christmas &

A Happy New Year.