



December 2022

Dear Parents,

What a positive and productive first term we have had here in St. Patrick's. Having endured so many restrictions last year, we are thoroughly enjoying the freedom to resume normal school life - our classrooms and outdoor spaces are buzzing with a wide range of learning activities. The children's digital learning experience has been enhanced by our new set of pupil iPads, which are a welcome addition to the store of school laptops and tablets. Our focus on improving Irish continues - thank you for your support with this at home. The Student Council, Green School Committee, Health Promoting School Committee and Parents' Committee are in full swing and are busy planning plenty of initiatives for the year.

The AGM of the Parents' Association took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, and we are delighted to have an enthusiastic committee of volunteers. We are very grateful to you for the many ways in which you enrich school life. Special thanks must go to Keith Parker, Chairperson and long-time member of the committee for his commitment and dedication to St. Patrick's. In this, his final year, we wish him and all the members of the committee well for the year ahead and I look forward to working closely with them on behalf of the school community.

Christmas is a very special time in our school calendar and the resumption of 'live' Nativity plays is generating much excitement throughout the classes. We hope to see lots of you at the performances over the coming days and look forward to many opportunities to welcome you into the school during the coming year. Don't forget to follow our vibrant Instagram and Twitter accounts, where you can keep up to date with all our school news.

With every good wish for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year,

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Morrogh  
Principal





December 2022

Dear parents and guardians,

It's difficult to believe that we're right at the end of 2022 and that it's only a few sleeps until Christmas Day! The Parents' Association has had a busy and productive year and I would like to thank all Association members, and indeed all volunteers, for their contribution to fundraising and equivalent initiatives over the last number of months. I would also like to thank all parents and guardians for their €1 contributions recently received which allows the Association to fund various initiatives. One of these is the annual Christmas Colours Day when Santa and his elves will visit all the classes to sing some carols and to distribute some chocolates for the girls and boys to enjoy whilst watching a Christmas-themed movie. On the day the Association will also be arranging teas/coffees and cakes for the school staff to show them our appreciation for everything that they do for our girls and boys. All proceeds collected on the Christmas Colours Day will go towards the Dignity Packs project that the school is involved with.

I'd like to finish off by firstly thanking each of Derval Colleran, the Association Treasurer and Elaine O'Farrelly, the Association Secretary for all the work they do as Committee members and secondly in wishing you all on behalf of the Association a very happy Christmas and a safe and restful festive season. Looking forward to seeing you all in early 2023.

Regards

Keith Parker  
Chairperson





## Our Student Council 2022/2023

This term, we held elections for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. They voted for new student council representatives for the year. They elected two pupils from each class. The voting was anonymous and there was a thrilling atmosphere. Congratulations to everyone who put their names forward!



Once we had our student council members, we took part in a Loreto student council training day. It was a great opportunity to learn how the meetings are run and to get ideas from other Loreto student councils. After our training day we moved on to our first order of business – Christmas Colours Day!

This is a day where everyone gets to wear their Christmas colours to raise money for charity. As a student council we chose to split the money between Purple House and Dignity packs.

We are so looking forward to making the school a better place for everyone this year!

By Ella Breen and Lauren Murphy (*student council representatives from 6<sup>th</sup> class*)



## The Green School Committee

The Green School Committee was set up this year to stop people from causing more pollution of our air. Our school wants to obtain the travel flag. Miss Dagg set up the Green School committee. In Miss Dunleavy class our green school committee members are Clodagh Murray and Lucy Gong.

On the Green Committee they think about ways to make our school a better green school. The Green School Committee is trying to convince pupils to walk to school instead of taking a lift in the car. They are hoping to reach their goal of a school travel flag by the end of the school year.

Clodagh and Lucy attended the first Green School Committee meeting in November. They met in an infant room and Clodagh reported that the infant furniture was tiny! The committee members introduced themselves to one another and then they looked at a map of Bray showing the school and a circle around all the places and estates within a radius of 1 km from the school. If you live in this area, you should try and walk to school.

The Green School Committee want people to walk more as it will mean releasing less CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Did you know that walking 1 km saves 130g of carbon?

Lucy Gong who is the sub on the Green Committee is in charge of water and she has been given the job of making sure our taps are turned off and that we are not wasting water.

By Ruby Boyle

## The Cosy Cabin

We are very lucky in St Patrick's to have a cosy area for children and staff to use when they need somewhere to relax. This is a safe space, like a home away from home. We can play games here, prepare a snack together, do art activities or just relax on the comfy chairs! Time in this room helps us to learn when we get back to class.

We asked the boys and girls to name the room for us. After gathering lots of suggestions, the Health Promoting Schools Team (HPS) put the shortlist to the vote in every class. By a clear majority, the classes voted for The Cosy Cabin!

We think it's a great name for such a lovely space.





Ms Tighe's  
class have  
had so much fun  
in school this term!



**Ms. Mahon's Junior Infants**  
have been busy making Christmas stockings!



**Ms. Dunne's Junior Infants**



Ms. Dunne's junior infant class  
love to visit the 'home of books'  
– we never run out of things to read!



Ms. Dunne's junior infants class  
were exploring their 5 senses this term.  
Here is us exploring our sense of taste – YUMMY!

## Ms Travers & Ms Doran's 1<sup>st</sup> Class

We have had a busy term in 1<sup>st</sup> Class. As well as all of our wonderful reading and cursive writing, we had great fun with all of the activities, maths trails and challenges for Maths Week.



For Science Week we did lots of experiments including a fruity sweet and warm water experiment, making dancing snakes and spinning helicopters, and our tallest tower challenge with only spaghetti and marshmallows!



We are working hard on our Nativity play, learning all of our lines and songs and can't wait to perform it for our families.



**Ms. Lematti's Senior Infants**  
worked very hard on literacy this term



**Ms. Collison's**  
Senior Infants  
are full of  
festive cheer!

Dancing and  
singing now  
that Christmas  
is here.



## Ms. McCormack & Ms Cunnane 1st Class Snowmen



## Ms. Coyne's Class

What did Mrs Claus say to Santa looking at the sky?

*It looks like reindeer*

*(Sorcha Vandamme , Age 10)*

What do you get when you cross a duck with a cracker?

*A Christmas Quacker*

*(Annie Longwill, Age 9)*

What did Santa use when he came back from  
delivering the presents?

*Santatizer*

*(Sophie Temple, 10)*

# Ms. Catterson's 1st Class



We loved looking for signs of autumn! We wrote about our nature walk and drew beautiful pictures!



## The Fire-Fighters visit to Ms Nolan's 2nd Class

All the 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes had such a great time meeting with the fire-fighters, Ross, Stewart, Pat, Sarah and Brian. They visited on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

We learned so much about fire-safety and about how to keep safe at home.

The fire-fighters brought a fire safety pack for us and even a fridge magnet. We could bring the pack home so that we could talk to our families all about fire safety.

We also found out about the many things that the fire-fighter does.



## Ms Shannon's 2nd Class enjoying the library

Our school library has re-opened this year and 2nd class have been so fortunate to have a weekly slot in it. We have learned about borrowing, renewing and returning books.



We are also getting better at alphabetising the books we return by author!

We find the library to be a lovely quiet place where we can browse a huge selection of books.

The librarians have been very kind to us and helped us to locate some of our favourite books

## iPads in Ms Hawkin's 2nd Class

We have been busy learning how to use our new school iPads.

1st we started using the coding app Scratch Junior. We learned how to add a background and then a character.

We then discovered how to make the character move using the motion blocks and making scripts!

We also figured out how to change the colour of the characters and we wrote sentences in Irish describing our character. We learned how to add text to our pictures as Gaeilge!!



We have also started to learn how to make our own Gaeilge stories using book Creator. We love using our iPads!



**Ms. Walsh's 3rd Class**  
have been reading *The Witches* by Roald Dahl for our class novel.

We loved designing disguises for the Grand High Witch.  
Could you spot a real witch?



## Ms. Moores's 4th Class

Fourth class focused on climates in Geography during the month November.

We learned about lots of different climates all around the world. The girls then worked in groups to research a specific climate using the school laptops and put together these brilliant projects.



## Ms. Long/ Ms Ryan 's 4th Class

Why should you never give Elsa a balloon?

Because she'll let it go

What did the nutcracker say to the other nutcracker?

You crack me up

What does an elf learn in school?

The elf-abet

## Ms Man's 5th Class

'It has been a busy few weeks in Room 25. World cup fever has hit our class, and we have been busy learning about the different countries participating in the tournament.

We have also been enjoying getting into the Christmas Spirit. This month, we have been focusing on 'Lighting up the world with acts of kindness'. The girls have been busy creating a fantastic array of Christmas decorations out of recycled materials.

They have also been getting creative while writing and illustrating their 'Cartún na Nollag' entries, for the annual 'Comórtas Cartúin'





## Our 6<sup>th</sup> class stars

(Ms Larkin)

By Luck Kelly and Isabel Gaskin

In 6<sup>th</sup> class we have a star system, with 10 stars to fill. Once we reach 10 stars, the class chooses a fun activity to do. We get our stars by being on our best behaviour, for our choir singing, by being kind to one another and many other ways.

The first activity we picked was our pillows. We all brought a pillow from home into to the classroom to sit on for the rest of the year. It is much more comfortable to sit down for the day now and get our work done!

For our second activity, we chose to bake. We made Oreo truffles because you don't need an oven, so it's a very simple and fun activity. They were very delicious, but quite messy.

The third one was a karaoke day. We even had a juice station for refreshments! We all got to take turns to sing different songs and it was hilarious. We played Last Christmas and all of us got up to sing it and so many more songs.

We have chosen a Christmas movie/pyjama day for our upcoming activity. We will get popcorn and we can bring in sweets. We are trying our very hardest to reach our 10 stars.

We always enjoy the activities and we will always remember these times.



## Christmas Stories: Writing for an Audience.

(Ms Condren 6th Class)

The three sixth classes have been enjoying continuing the tradition of writing Christmas stories for first class. We were all assigned a first class pupil to write our Christmas stories for. After a short interview, we got to work creating magical stories filled with Christmas spirit. Our classes have nearly completed our stories and we can't wait to show first class how we incorporated their very own lives into our stories.



## One Book, One Loreto

In 6<sup>th</sup> class, we read the book 'October, October' by Katya Balen.

It is an award-winning book chosen by 6<sup>th</sup> years in Loreto Secondary School, Bray.

"One of the most beautiful books I've ever read." –Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

Our class couldn't agree more. It was a beautiful book filled with emotion and authenticity. This is an example of a quote that we enjoyed: "He never says my name once when he can say it twice, like it's the words to a song and the sound rises like music."

We are so glad that Loreto Secondary and St. Patricks started an initiative to encourage us to read more and give a book we never would have picked off the shelf a chance. Our class had the honour of reading 'October, October' first. The other two 6<sup>th</sup> class are yet to read this amazing book.



***"One book, One Loreto."***

*By Zara Zhang*

*and*

*Emma Johnston*

*Ms. Billington's 6<sup>th</sup> Class*



## We love our school library

To celebrate the re-opening of our school library and to celebrate libraries during Library Ireland Week 2022 the girls in Ms Shannon's 2<sup>nd</sup> class, Ms Moore's 4<sup>th</sup> class and Ms Dunleavy's 5<sup>th</sup> class prepared posters sharing why they love their library. Using words and/or pictures each girl created her own post-it about why she loves the library.

You could feel the girls' excitement about all the books they get to choose from at the library from the colourful and detailed artwork by **Ms Shannon's 2<sup>nd</sup> class**. This was echoed in their words as they spoke of how excited they feel getting new books and being able to read the same book at the same time as their friends. They also mentioned that they can learn more things and get inspiration for their own writing from the stories they read from the library. For many it is a calm and peaceful place, quiet and relaxing. As one of the girls put it: "Library I love you".



For **Ms Moore's 4<sup>th</sup> class** the library is also a quiet cosy place that makes them feel relaxed and calm – somewhere they can chill out. They also commented that it is a nice break from work and spoke of the kind people who work there. They enjoy all the interesting "different and amazing" books that make them want to read them. They also observed that because there are so many different books everyone is included and they liked that there are books in Chinese and Ukrainian. They spoke of loving reading and how important the library is "because you can learn something new every day like I learned that we need trees in the world". You could feel their excitement as they spoke of finding all the books they want and how they get to read more by borrowing and returning books rather than having to buy them.



This excitement resonated in the words of **Ms Dunleavy's 5<sup>th</sup> class** as they spoke of choosing from a wide selection and not being rushed to do so, of having lots of choice and picking for yourself what to read. They talked of how the library is comfortable and a good place to get away to read. They liked that they get to read and relax peacefully as well as going to the library with their friends. That it's calm and gives them personal space is important, as is that they get to stay there as long as they want. They appreciated that it is free to join and borrow books and can access to books in different languages. And they talked of how the librarians are kind and helpful.



While the school library is closed when the school is closed, public libraries are open across the year. Free to join and borrow books (including eBooks, audio books), they also provide free online access to encyclopaedias, newspapers and magazines. You can join online at [www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library](http://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library) or in person. Call into our local libraries at Bray or Ballywaltrim to find out more, including how to renew your membership.

From School Library Team