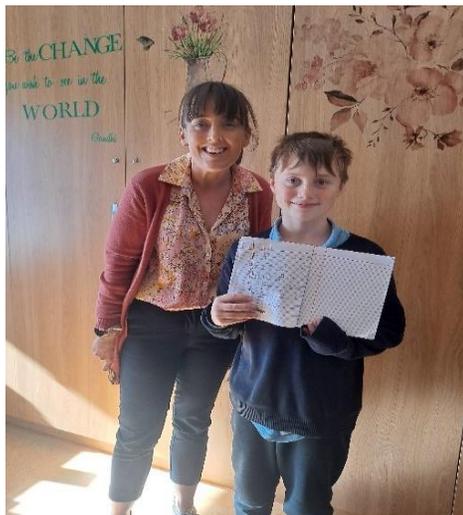


Scoil an Chlochair

November-December

Nollaig Shona Duit!!!!

We have had a wonderful and very busy two months preparing for Christmas. Since our last newspaper in October, so much has happened. The Student Council hosted a really wonderful bake sale and raised over 600 euro. We had a very fun filled day before the mid-term. Everyone enjoyed the witches walk and seeing all their teachers dressed up. We celebrated a very special birthday for a very special lady this term also. Happy birthday Debbie!!! I am still blown away by all the work the children show me in the office. They are all making a really fantastic effort and we are so excited for all the fun we will have in December. We hope you enjoy our Newspaper. You will see all the wonderful work being done throughout the school in general and also in every individual classroom. Thanks to all the teachers for helping me put it together. I think we should all be very proud of our efforts so far this year for all the children of Scoil an Chlochair.



Dates of your Diary

School Mass: The children will go to mass on Friday the 8th of December.

Santa Visit: Santa will visit the Parish Centre after mass on Saturday the 9th of December at 8:15pm.

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday the 15th of December.

Christmas Show (JI, SI, 1st, 2nd): Wednesday the 20th of December 11am

Christmas Carol Service (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th): Wednesday the 20th of December 7pm in the church.

Enrolment for Junior Infants 24-25: 15th-31st January 2024

Peace Proms (3rd Class): Sunday the 4th of February 2024

February Bank Holiday: Monday the 5th of February 2024

Confirmation: Tuesday the 6th of February 2024

Parent Teacher Meetings: Wednesday the 7th and Thursday the 8th of February

Midterm Break: Monday the 12th-Friday the 16th of February 2024

Wellness Week: 19th-23rd February

Internet Safety Talks (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th class): 12th and 13th March 2024

Swimming: Thursday the 22nd of March for 5 weeks for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th class

Thanks

Thanks to all the families who have paid their voluntary contribution to the school. This money is used for educational resources for the children throughout the year. Thanks to all who have paid the insurance money for their children. This is very important. If you have not paid either of these, could you please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you all for your continued support.



Tractor Run



The Parents Association organised a tractor run on Saturday the 2nd of December. It was a roaring success. There was a fantastic turnout up at Mace filling station. It was wonderful to see all the people lining the streets of Kilbeggan in support of the Tractor Run. The community spirit was at an all time high.

Over 50 tractors entered the Tractor Run and many of them were decorated with Christmas lights. Congratulations to Evan Maloney for winning best dressed tractor.

That night, in McNamaras, the raffle took place. There were fantastic prizes up for grabs. Some of the lucky winners included our 2nd class teacher Robyn Grimes who won the ton of turf, Helen Quinn on winning the hotel voucher and Cain Rothwell on winning the Brownes voucher. Well done to everyone.

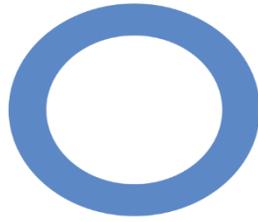
Thanks to the Parent's Association for pulling it all together. They put in so much effort and it really paid off. Thanks to everyone who supported the Tractor Run. The money raised will be used for the children in the school. The final total is a whopping €5411.30.



Cumann na mBunscoil



The 5th and 6th Class boys and girls have been in Cumann na mBunscoil action lately. The boys played two games against Gainstown and Moate. They were unlucky to lose both games but showed great skills and determination in both games. They also met the current Westmeath Football manager, Dessie Dolan in their game against Moate. The girls have played Rosemount and Mount Temple and have shown great improvement in both games. Thanks to the boys and girls for their dedication and to their coaches Mr. Seery, Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Barrett for their time and effort.



world diabetes day

14 November



On Tuesday the 14th of November the children of Scoil an Chlochair wore blue in support of “World Diabetes Day.” We have two students in 3rd class, Layla Cornally and Maria Dias Ferreira who are both type one diabetics. They are pictured here with their teacher Katie McDonnell and their SNA Noeleen Costello with a cheque for €215. The children in the school raised this money for Diabetes Ireland on the 14th of November. Well done to all involved.

Student Council



The Student Council pictured with one of the Rebounders they fundraised for. There is another one for the front yard. Well done to the Student Council. You are all doing a fantastic job for your classmates and the school. We can't wait to see the contribution you will make to the school community after Christmas.

Here are the Student Council with the winners of the "Teachers Halloween Dress Up Competition." Congratulations to Angie Doonan, Robyn Grimes and Sinéad McLoughlin who were very worthy winners. When I asked the Student Council why they wanted to have this competition they said "To have a bit of fun" and boy did we have fun that day. Well done everyone.



Green Schools Committee

In an effort to renew the schools Litter and Waste flag, the school have set up a Green Schools Committee (including children from 2nd class upwards).

The Green Schools representatives for each class, as selected by their teachers, are as follows:

2nd Class: Emilee Scarnicchio and Dominion Abhulimen

3rd Class: AnnaMai McDonnell and Peter Fox

4th Class: Emily Ireland and Noah Jessop Killian

5th Class: Sam Whelehan and Alanna Cuskelly

6th Class: AJ Rushe and Emanuely Cordeiro Peixoto

The committee met for the first time two weeks ago, and gave some wonderful suggestions and feedback on how we could work towards achieving a more 'Green' school.

As such, our first action day will be Friday, December the first, our Litter picking day. Each class will go out around Kilbeggan picking up litter (with the appropriate equipment) and disposing of it.

More events coming soon!





News from the Junior Infant Room.



Our theme for November was “The Hospital”. The children had great fun being doctors and nurses, listening to a patient’s breathing or heartbeat, applying plasters, prescribing new glasses, taking blood pressure, giving injections. They enjoyed the “Teddy’s Hospital” when they brought in a teddy to be their patient. We also had a pharmacy where the children displayed their fine motor skills, using scoops to fill containers with tablets and syringes to fill bottles with medicine. This activity was very popular as you can imagine! In our Construction area, new designs for hospital buildings were drawn out on paper and then built.



In Literacy, we have begun learning letter sounds and been busy thinking of many words beginning with s, a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e. The children are starting to put some of these sounds together to make words.

In Maths, the class have really enjoyed learning about shapes. We went on a Shape Hunt around the school, searching for squares and circles. We took photos and then added the photos to posters along with shapes the children brought to school. We also practised making lots of shape and colour patterns

with bears, cubes, peg boards, dinosaurs, etc. We have just started Number and will be working on 1-3 over the next few weeks.



In Irish the children are learning words for various toys. They are so happy when they remember the words. They love being asked to come up to the Interactive Whiteboard to do activities.

Junior Infants are really looking forward to our next theme in December – Santa's Workshop. I would like to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas.



Senior Infant Yellow News



We have been very busy in Senior Infants Yellow since our October Newspaper. We were very busy in The Café taking orders, baking some treats and building our own Café. We will also be super busy for the Christmas period in The Post Office.



We had a fun filled Science Week with lots of exciting experiments, from making Sound Shakers to Colour Mixing Skittles to Dancing Raisins, we had it all.

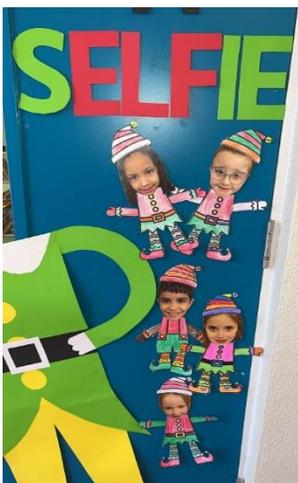


We have been working super hard in Maths the past two months. We have explored the story of 6, making patterns, 2D Shapes, adding numbers and collecting Data. We have discovered that brown is the most popular eye colour in our class. We are amazing!





Senior Infants Yellow have done some amazing artwork over the past two months. In November, we remembered all our loved ones who have passed by making a Remembrance Garden filled with butterflies and flowers. We prepared for the Late Late Toy Show with some Christmas Jumpers to help Patrick Kielty with his debut Toy Show.



We made stained glass window snowflakes and some hard-working elves landed on our door to prepare for the bust few weeks ahead in school. Ms. Watts was very excited to have her selfie taken when she popped into our classroom for a chat.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

News in Senior Infants Green

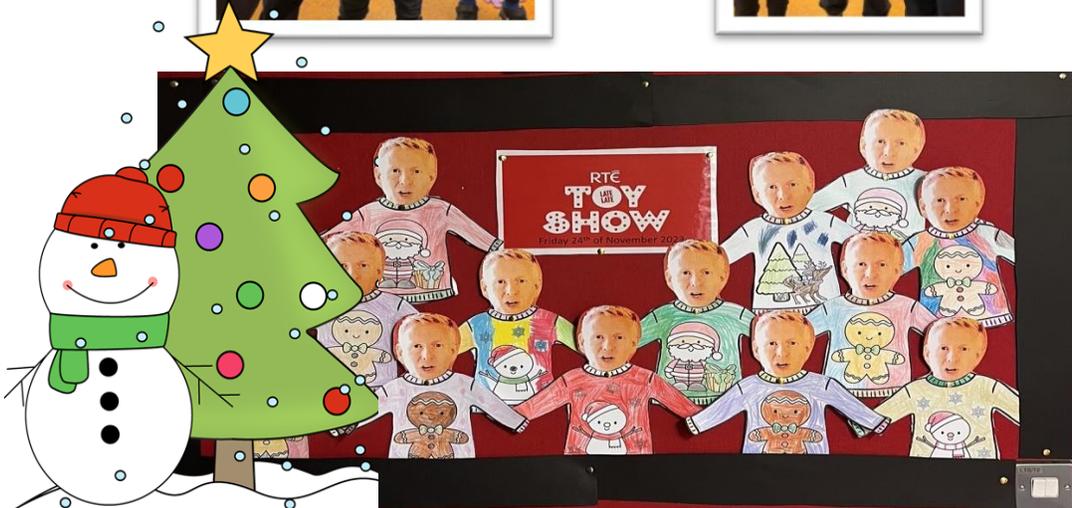
We had so much fun with our Aistear theme this month. The children explored 'The Busy Café', where they worked very hard as cashiers/waiters/chef's/delivery drivers and so much more!

In our Café we made hot chocolates and biscuits, it was a very delicious treat for all the hard work!!!



The children blew me away with their creativity and artistic skills when they worked in groups to create their own versions of the story:

'The three little _____ & the big bad _____ !!'



We are so excited to be entering December and all the fun that comes with it!!

1st Class News

1st Class have been very busy over the last two months. After our Halloween midterm break we went on a nature walk to the Harbour. We used our senses which we had been learning about in science and SPHE to become more aware of our surroundings and the environment around us.



We made our very own mini greenhouses as part of science. In our groups, we placed some soil into clear plastic cups, added some cress seeds and dampened the soil with water. We then taped another plastic cup on top and placed each greenhouse over by the window. Over a period of three weeks we got to watch our seeds grow.

We enjoyed learning all about the different plants and animals that can be found in our locality. We visited Ardan Woods in November and we learned about the importance of looking after our flora and fauna. We were explorers for the day and saw holly trees, oak trees, a badger's burrow and a hawthorn tree. We found acorns, moss and had fun catching leaves falling from the trees above us. To end our adventure we sat on some picnic blankets in the woods and drew some of woodland animals. Thanks to Alastair Ferrar and the Native Woodland Trust for giving 1st class this unique learning opportunity.



We have been doing lots of lovely artwork each week. See our fantastic work below.



We are getting ready for Christmas and counting down the days to Santa's arrival using our Santa countdown calendar. We made our very own advent calendar too where each day we are going to be doing fun activities.



Last week we had our Tractor Run which was organised by the Parent's Association. It was great to see such a fantastic turnout. Thanks to all involved.

Butterfly Room

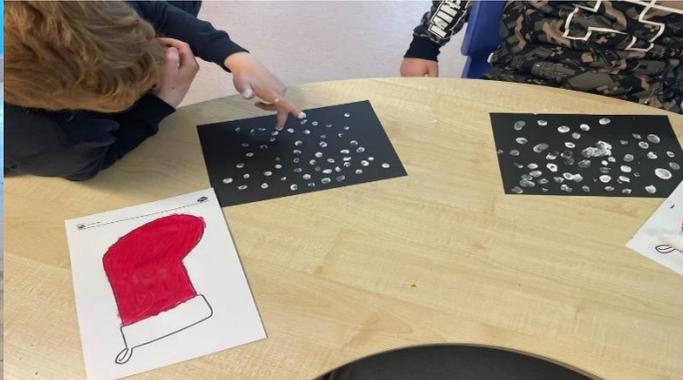
We have been very busy in the Butterfly Room the past few weeks. Some pictures below the great work we are doing. We are enjoying some cooking, some art, in particular some Christmas art!! Some of the boys and girls have been working on their STEM projects, Peace Prom practice & also Mullingar Voices practice. We are continuing with lots of integration. We are enjoying some GAA and practicing for our Christmas concert and Christmas Carol Singing for the Carol Service!!



SOME MORE FUN!







HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL IN THE BUTTERFLY ROOM

2nd class News

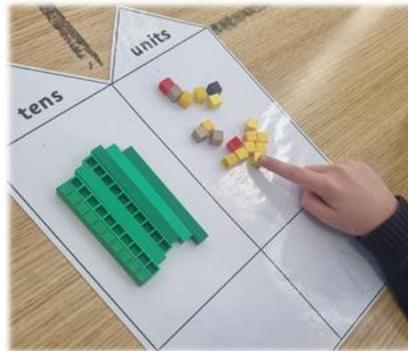
2nd class have been super busy since our October newspaper. Our themes over the past few weeks have been Shape & Space; and now Winter & Christmas.



We made 2-D shape Frankensteins as part of **Maths week.**



We made vampire teeth and chocolate apples as part of procedural writing in **English.**



Maths:

We started to learn re-grouping in maths using dienes blocks to help us understand it better.

Re-grouping is a really important concept that we will use the whole way up the school.



We had fun dressing up for Halloween!



Our whole class reward this month was a **pyjama party!**
We had lots of fun that day designing our own pyjamas that we would sell
and we had some treats!



2nd class have started to learn the **tin whistle** and have been practising lots in class and at home.

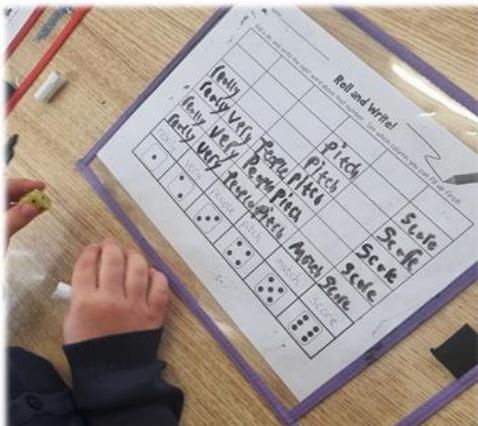


We learned about **“Value”** and **“shading”** in art.



Literacy stations:

We have been practising our spellings during stations.



We are looking forward to doing lots of exciting and fun Christmas activities over the next couple of weeks.



3rd Class News



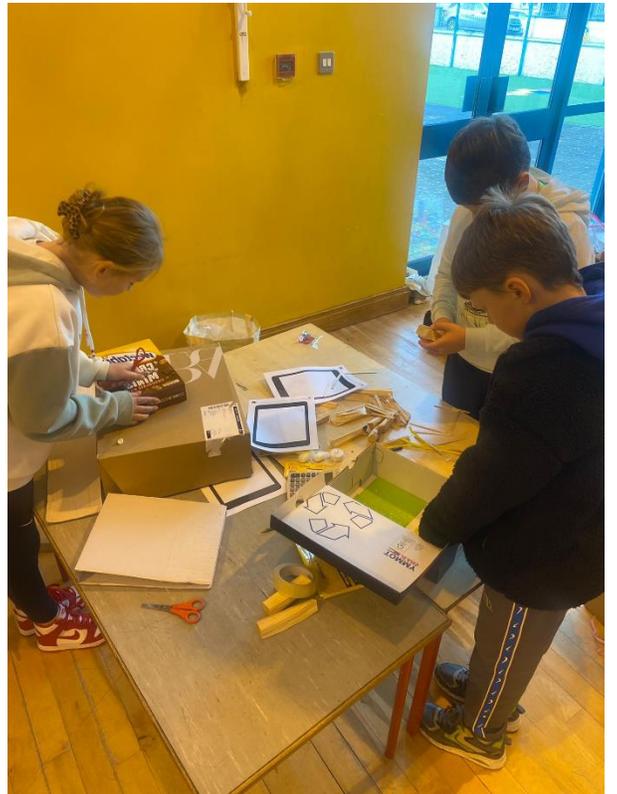
Congratulations also to the 3rd class Green Schools representatives, - Peter Fox and Anna Mai Mc Donnell. I have heard they have contributed brilliantly during the first Green Schools meeting.

3rd class are lucky enough to have been accepted into Peace Proms and our practices are well and truly underway their beautiful voices are filling the corridors and we have our first rehearsal on the 5th of December in Dublin.

We are also busy finishing up our STEM engineering projects we are using our engineering minds to come up with ways to improve the locality of Kilbeggan. The children in 3rd and 4th class have come up with some excellent ideas (dog parks, a backup water system, swap boxes, digital language dictionaries just to name a few). We have had two STEM days dedicated to building our prototypes and getting our booklets ready to be submitted for Friday the 8th of December. We were fortunate enough to get some feedback on our prototypes during a zoom call with Anna a STEPS Engineer. We are hoping to showcase our designs for the rest of the school and parents. We are looking forward to a busy December. We are going to be busy with Christmas jumper day, Christmas carol service and the Santa run. It's going to be a festive fun filled few weeks.



STEPS STEM Engineering project 3rd and 4th class



4th Class News

Since the last edition of the school newspaper in October we have been busy. Firstly, we celebrated Halloween by dressing up, going on a witches walk and eating sweets.



We are almost ready to submit our STEM projects to the STEPS Young Engineering competition. Over the past few weeks 3rd and 4th class have worked really hard to create a prototype. We had two days dedicated to building and we had so much fun. It was fantastic to see how creative and imaginative the children could be. We had a zoom meeting with an engineer who gave us lots of wonderful ideas and ways to improve our projects. In the coming week we will get the opportunity to showcase our projects to the rest of the school and explain how they work and why or how they would improve the life of someone in our local community.



Congratulations to Noah and Emily who were chosen to represent 4th class on this year's Green School Committee. This year we are renewing our litter and waste flag. In the coming weeks we will have our first action day – litter picking. Each class will be allocated an area in the town and will pick up litter using equipment supplied by Westmeath Co. Council.



We celebrated Walk to School Week by taking a walk with 3rd class down to the Circular.



We have completed lots of fabulous art. Some samples can be seen below. Many of the boys and girls in 4th class claim the optical illusions art seen below was their favourite art lesson ever!!



We are really looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit and we can't wait to see what December brings 😊



5th Class News



Firstly a huge congratulations to 5th class (and sixth) on their beautiful performance on the night of Mrs. O'Neills retirement gathering. I know she was very appreciative of their performance and even visited them the next day to thank them all.

Congratulations also to the fifth class Green Schools representatives, - Sam Whelehan and Alanna Cuskelly. They have already contributed brilliantly into our first Green Schools meeting, with some excellent points and suggestions for renewing our Litter and Waste Green Schools flag.

Fifth class were also lucky enough to go on a fabulous guided and informative tour of Ardan wood, and we thoroughly enjoyed the morning. A big thank you to Jeremy and Aaron from the Woodland Trust who organized and sponsored the trip.

We are all very much looking forward to the beginning of the Christmas preparations and celebrations here in fifth class, with many up and coming events on the horizon (e.g. Christmas jumper day, Christmas carol service, Secondary Christmas markets visit, and so on).





6th Class News



Congratulations to AJ and Emanuely who were nominated for the Green School Committee. They will be looking at a number of different themes, beginning with litter and waste minimisation and followed by themes such as energy, water, travel, and biodiversity. Best of luck.



We had a visit from Clodagh Reid who is an assistant lecturer in technology education in the Technology University of the Shannon/Midlands Midwest. She introduced us to the First Lego League competition and worked with the students showing them what is needed to enter the competition. Lots of work ahead of us.



Well done to 6th class who performed flawlessly on the night of Eileen O'Neill's retirement night. I was very proud of them. Well done all.



Well done to all involved in this year's school choir. Excellent feedback from Mr Seery and Miss Irwin. Keep up the good work.

Both girls and boys are representing the school to a high level every time they pull on the school jersey. Despite results not going our way, the students continue to put in brave and respectful performances.

We continue to work towards our Confirmation on a daily basis.

I was very impressed with the Secondary School open night. I had lots of questions the next morning as to how we could improve life in the primary school. No pressure.

The students are working really well on the tin whistle.

We have also registered and submitted our project for Science Blast which will take place in the new year.



Gru and the Minions.



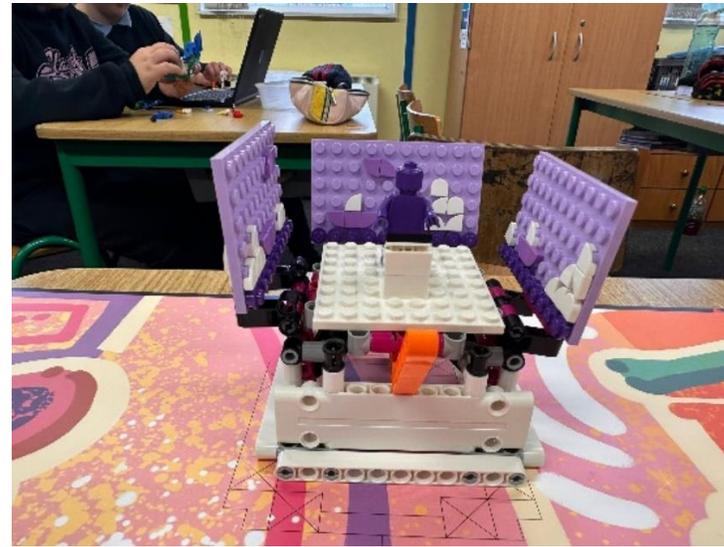
Our First Lego League mat.

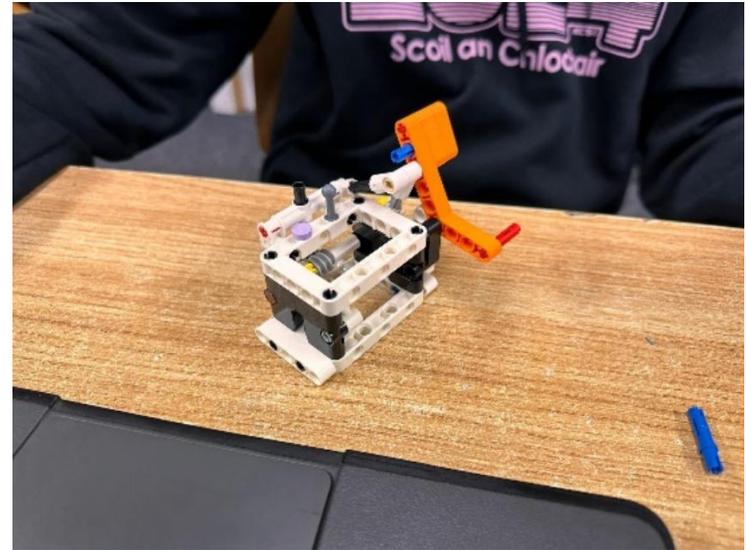


Our Lego Mission pack arrived so we spent some time assembling them.



Lots of planning, organising and teamwork.







Completed Missions



Hub and parts for the robot build.

Kindness Café with 5th class.





Many thanks to all who contributed to the wonderful monthly experience of mixing with another class and just having a conversation over a cup of tea/juice.