

Halloween Newsletter 2020

Christ The Saviour NS
Ballingarry

Welcome New Staff

- This year we have 5 new teachers in our school.
- Ms Collum is looking after Junior Infants.
- Ms O Connor is teaching Senior Infants.
- Mr Flynn has taken over 1st Class.
- Ms Barry has returned and is teaching 2nd Class.
- Ms Aherne has taken on the role of SEN teacher.
- We hope all our new teachers will be very happy in our school.



Welcome Junior Infants



- A big Ballingarry welcome to our 22 new Junior Infants who started school this year. The boys and girls are learning lots, making new friends and playing nicely together. They love their new school and their teacher Miss Collum.

Welcome New Students



Adam has joined 3rd class.



Antonio has joined 5th class.

Farewell Ms Fitzgerald

- On Friday 25th of September we said farewell to Ms Fitzgerald with some cake in the staffroom. We would like to wish Ms Fitzgerald the very best of luck in her career as she continues working in Mary Immaculate College.

Baby News

- Huge congratulations to Ms Hanley and her husband Mike on the birth of their beautiful new daughter Anna O Brien. We hope Anna is settling into life with her big sister Maeve.



Covid-19

The school has experienced many changes in recent times. We have all, pupils and staff alike, had to adapt to these new changes very quickly. Here are some of our changes:

- Children are now entering and exiting in their individual class fire exits from 8:40am each morning.
- Increased hand washing and sanitising has become part of the daily routine.
- Staff and any essential visitors to the school are asked to wear face masks, especially when working up close with our pupils.
- Children are seated in pods in their class bubbles. These pods remain for a block of weeks and teachers can move these pods only at extended school breaks e.g. The Mid-term break.
- The school has introduced staggered lunch breaks. We now have a Junior and Senior lunchtime. This is proving to be very successful, we have noticed less minor accidents on the yard and the children are enjoying the extra room to play.

Covid-19

We are constantly keeping updated with the latest advice from the HSE and Department of Education guidelines, doing our utmost to keep our school community safe and well. We thank our parents, pupils and staff for continued co-operation, vigilance and dedication.

Mrs Murphy



Junior Infant News

- Junior Infants have been very busy since they joined the school! In September, we explored the topics of School and Home in Aistear and we learnt about the rainforest and Halloween in October. We also visited Ballingarry Park for our autumn walk and we had lots of fun in the playground! Well done to all the boys and girls for settling in so well.



Senior Infant News



Senior Infants have made some spooky decorations for Halloween.

First Class News

Autumn Art

- At the beginning of October, 1st class went on a nature hunt around the school grounds where they looked at all the changes the season brings. We explored the different colours the leaves on the trees change to, this gave us our inspiration for our art lessons. We decided to paint an Autumn tree using a layering technique. Our finished products certainly brightened up our classroom. On Seesaw we decided to design a pumpkin online using our IT skills. Check out some of our work in the photo

Maths Week

- 1st class took part in a series of Math challenges across the week which included finding 2d shapes in the school and classroom environment, solving daily problems and puzzles and taking part in fun games. Here is a photo of us enjoying a game of 4 in a row.



Happy Lámh Day

Lámh

- This week, one of our pupils Diarmuid Hanley, took on the role of teacher and taught us a different way to communicate. To celebrate Happy Lámh day, Diarmuid taught us how to sing 'Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed' using Lámh. Lámh is a method of sign language used by people with intellectual disabilities as a way of communicating. Diarmuid did a fantastic job and our First class proved they are quick learners.



Second Class News



- We have been learning all about Irish Legends in Second Class. We read the story of The Brown Bull of Cooley which was about Queen Maeve and her husband Ailill who lived in Connacht. We watched a video clip of the Children of Lir and worked with our friends to discuss a new ending to that story.
- We particularly enjoyed the story of Finn Mac Cool and the Giants Causeway. Here are some pictures that we drew of Finn, the Irish giant and Angus, the Scottish giant. We also sequenced the story and did some lovely comic strips. Ask us to tell you about this story. We hope you enjoy our pictures.

Second Class News

On September 15th, 2nd Class enjoyed the rare sunshine and visited the beautiful local park and we even got to go into the playground too which was so much fun!

Over the past few weeks the boys and girls in Ms. Barry's second class have been learning all about Autumn. We discovered that certain animals such as bears, bats and hedgehogs all hibernate for the winter and have to gather and store food before they go to into hibernation. We also discovered that some birds migrate to warmer countries for the winter. We did a lot of work on researching swallows to discover why they migrate, the path they use when they migrate and where they go to when they leave Ireland. It was all super fun to learn about!

We then went on a nature walk to collect leaves and seeds. After our nature walk, we created wonderful artwork using the items which we collected. Here are some pictures:

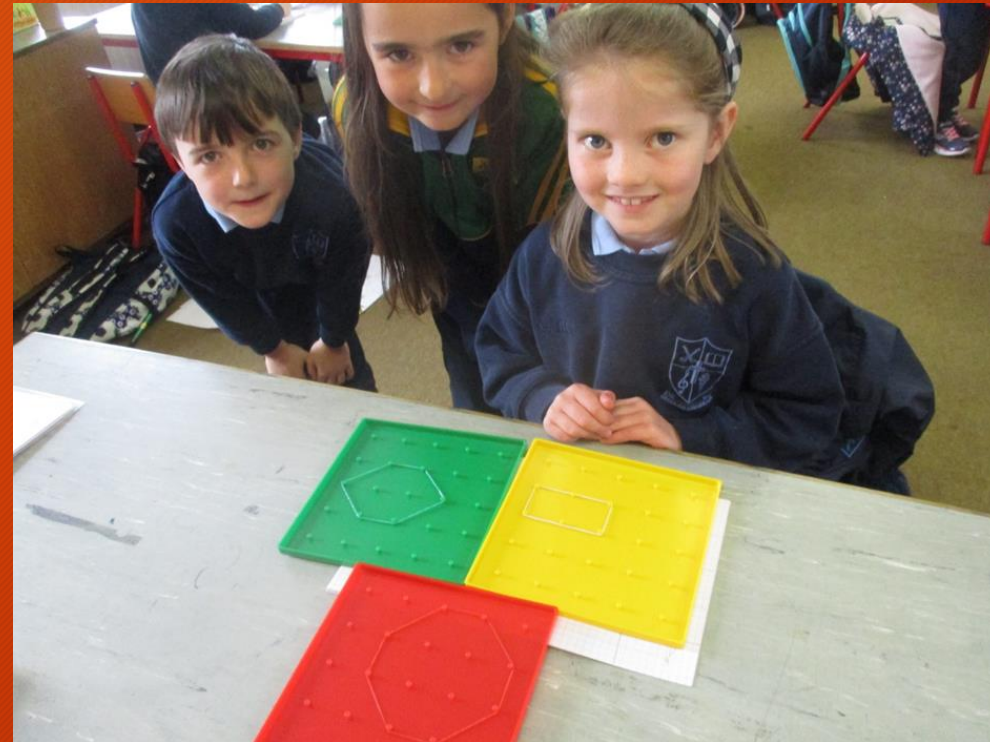
Second Class News



Second Class News

- During Maths Week, Second Class completed lots work on 2D shapes! We learned all about the square, rectangle, triangle, circle, semicircle, hexagon, pentagon, and octagon. Did you know that a 2D shape is always, ALWAYS flat! We did so many fun activities that helped us to become shape superheros! We examined each shape and counted the number of sides and corners.
- We constructed squares, rectangles, triangles, circles and semicircles using geostrips and geoboards. We also folded the squares, rectangles, triangles, circles and semicircles in half and coloured them in! Do you know what shape a square becomes when folded and coloured in half? We even used picture boards to help us create lots of items all by using 2D shapes. Take a look at our pictures below to see what activities we got up to.

Second Class News



Third Class News

- For Space week, the 3rd class pupils hosted 'Go Fly Your Kite' and Mary Immaculate College with a virtual workshop. We learnt all about the moon, space, rockets, the first landing on the moon and what it was like up on the moon. Later on that day, we all built our own kites that 'Go Fly Your Kite' had sent us. We all added some drawings to our kites. We tested the kites to see how they got on. We had so much fun learning all about space and creating our kites!!! Check out some of our brilliant designs!!

Third Class News



Construct



Decorate



All Set



Flying

Third Class News

Breakfast Morning

- We were learning all about food in our Gaeilge 'Bia' and in our SESE. We tasted some different fruits and had some fruit shots. We tasted watermelon, pineapple, blueberries, raspberries, pear and kiwi. We then had some fruit shots of tropical juice, apple juice and orange juice. We had lots of fun trying out some new fruits that we hope to start eating.



Third Class News



Third Class

- As part of learning all about Autumn, we visited the local park. We carried out an 'I spy' scavenger hunt looking for different signs of Autumn. We took some rubbings of leaves and rough bark. We saw lots of different colour leaves all around the park. After we looked for signs of Autumn, we got to play in the playground. We had lots of fun on our trip to the park and wrote all about it when we got back to class.



Third Class News



Third Class News

Ms Shelton's Class made lovely art for Halloween.



Even George the dog is dressing up this year.



OT Work



Some fantastic Halloween themed work this term.

4th & 5th Class News

We have been learning about trees in 4th & 5th this term. We can identify trees using their leaves, seeds and bark. We also investigated why leaves change colour and lose their chlorophyll.

We visited the local park to conduct a tree study and it proved very rewarding. We found Birch trees, a mighty Oak, Holly trees, Ash trees and a weeping Willow. It was great fun.



4th & 5th Class News



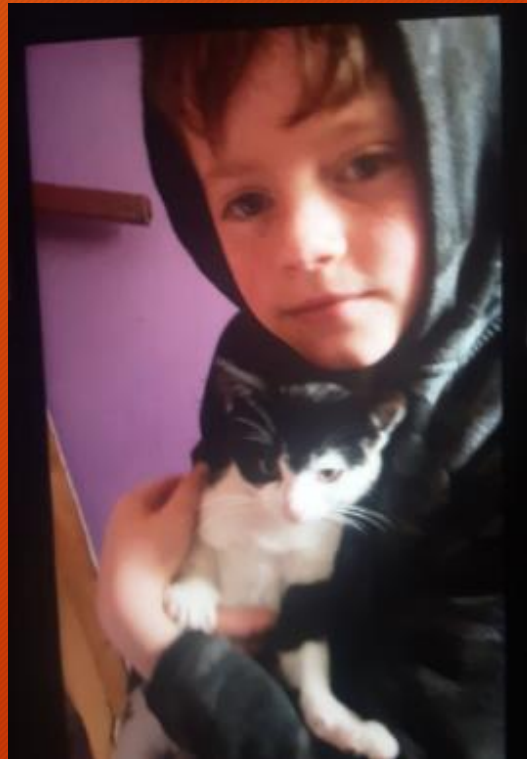
4th & 5th Class News

- We created spooky Halloween silhouettes during art. We were focusing on tints and shades and how we can create light and shade using one main colour, white and black.
- Our creations are on display on the window of the school for all of Ballingarry to enjoy this Halloween.



Teachers' Pet

- One Friday morning Ms Tangney's class got a huge surprise when a stray kitten wandered into their room at 9am. Luckily we discovered it belonged to James' Nana and the kitten has been named "Tom The Bomb". James is sending us regular updates on SeeSaw. The kitten is now our class pet!



Teachers' Pet

- Isobel in 5th class used the stray kitten as inspiration for her free writing. Here is her wonderful story.

The kitten in the class room
Based on a true story

Once upon a time fourth and fifth class were just about to start there class when a little black and white kitten came into there class room. Miss Tangney went to go to get some warm milk for the kitten. Then she got some newspaper and put it in a box for it. she put the milk in the box for the kitten. the kitten then learn that she could climb out of the box so miss Tangney had to make a lid for it and made some holes in it. The kitten kept on meowing in the box. to be continued

Marian's News

- OT is a lovely time to strengthen our fine motor and gross motor skills.
- Tuesday's and Thursday's are yoga days so we move to our yoga instructor online with relaxing background music. See One of our pupils demonstrating.



Marian's News

- We also covered Autumn and Halloween in some of our fine motor skills drawing and paintings this term
- For Autumn we went on a nature trail walk with Ms. Tangney to the Park, we learned about all the trees in the park and we collected some fallen leaves for our art.



Marian's News

- For Halloween we got a small pumpkin and experimented with paint to come up with our design.
- These activities are lovely to try at home.



5th & 6th Class News

Ms O'Sullivan's 5th and 6th completed a maths puzzle everyday during maths week. Here are some we tried;

- *World Cup Question: There are 6 teams in a group. Each team plays every other team twice. How many games are there in total?*
- *Text Question: Pete, Sarah, Matt, Amy and Luke are all friends. Each of them sends one text message to each other person. How many messages are sent in total?*

Can you solve them?



5th & 6th Class News

- 6th class completed a maths scavenger hunt in their pod's. They enjoyed trying to crack the code.



5th & 6th Class News

- In science we did an experiment to demonstrate the importance of hand washing. We tried different tests with individual slices of bread (wiping it on the floor, having everyone touch a slice without washing their hands, washing for only ten seconds, washing with only water and sanitising). We found that washing properly with soap and sanitising had the same result and after over a week those slices had very little mould, while the slice touched after washing hands for only ten seconds became very mouldy.



5th & 6th Class News



- 5th and 6th class also spent time learning about World War II. We read a book about a girl growing up in Germany during the war called Rose Blanche.
- We also looked at what life was like in Britain for people at the time, learning about rationing, evacuations from cities and how the government there encouraged people to support the war effort in different ways. People were asked to donate metal, grow their own vegetables, preserve food and be careful of what information they gave others. We studied real posters the government used at the time and then designed our own. Here are some of the posters we made.

Staff Sports News

Ms. Shelton and the Granagh Ballingarry Junior camogie team won the county shield final recently.

It is great to see some past pupils and our teacher playing with our local team!



Staff Sports News

Down in Kerry Ms Tangney and her gaelic football team MKL Gaels reached the Junior Championship county final in Fitzgerald's Stadium.

Unfortunately they lost the game to Dr Crokes by just 2 points after extra time.

Hopefully 2021 will be their year!



Staff Sports News

- Huge congratulations to Ms Barry and her team Kileedy who were crowned Limerick senior camogie champions.
- They had to wait 8 long years to earn the title.
- Well done Ms Barry!



Football Coach

- A big thank you to David O'Dea, the West Limerick Games Administrator who has been with us for the past 4 weeks with the 1st to 6th class pupils. We have received some great football coaching and can't wait until David comes back to us again!



Jersey Day for Daithi

- On Friday 25th September our school hosted a jersey day to raise funds for a young 10 year old boy, Daithí Lawless who is currently in Temple Street Hospital following a road accident. Daithí is a native of Cush, Martinstown and attends Martinstown NS
- A charity has been set up called “Rise 4 Daithí” to support his recovery and to adapt his living conditions for when he comes home.
- Christ the Saviour NS raised a total of €665 for this very worthy cause.



Jersey Day



Jersey Day



Parents' Council - 2020/2021

Greetings from the Parents' Council for Halloween

It is great to see all our children happily settled into the new routines in school and we congratulate them all. We especially appreciate the huge effort all the staff in our school have made to make the changes so easy for the children. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current status of the Parents' Council. Ordinarily by now we would have held our AGM and elected a new Council for 2020/2021. However with Covid restrictions we have had to defer this until Lockdown measures ease off. I spoke to an Advisor on the National Parents' Council and she advised holding the AGM within 3 months of school re-opening. If we are not in a position to hold a face to face meeting by end of December, we may look into holding the AGM via Zoom. So for the moment the same Council members will continue to represent you.

- **Chairperson:** Gemma Brady
- **Secretary/PRO:** Aisling Relihan
- **Treasurer:** Louise Kelly

Parents' Council - Fundraising

- We are still working towards raising funds for our School by hosting another Clothes Drive. We hope to be able to do this in November but as Levels keep changing we are not setting a date just yet. This will give everyone plenty time to fill those sacks – remember we accept **clean unwanted re-usable clothes, shoes, bags and belts. No household bric a brac please.** This Clothes Drive will not take place in the School. We are organising a Collection point at the rear of the Hall employing all the necessary Covid restrictions. Volunteers will be limited to a few people, gloves and masks will be worn and social distancing guidelines will be adhered to. Our time slots for collection will coincide with school drop off and pick up and also an evening slot to facilitate people who work outside the home. We will keep you updated via Aladdin when date and time slots are confirmed.

Parents' Council - Halloween Treats

- Finally, we are still in a position to treat our children for Halloween. Goodie bags will be created by two Council members wearing masks and gloves and handed over to the school on Wednesday. This ensures that the Goodie bags are safe to give to the children on Friday. We are also sending in Pumpkins for the Annual Pumpkin Carving competition so we await the photographic evidence of this years' efforts!
- Happy and safe Halloween to you all from the Parents' Council.

Halloween Fun

Have a look at the creative pumpkins created by the pupils in Christ The Saviour N.S for our annual pumpkin competition.

Mrs Murphy had a very difficult job trying to pick a winner!



An Garda Síochána

The local Gardaí sent on this important safety advice to keep all our students safe this Halloween.

Let's all work together to make this a safe and fun Halloween!

Halloween is about having fun, dressing up and trick or treating. However, every year lots of children and young people end up in hospital with injuries. Be 'spooky smart' this Halloween and follow this advice:



Keep away from bonfires. Bonfires often collapse or explode without warning causing serious injury.



Do not buy, use, or ignite fireworks. Fireworks are illegal, dangerous and can cause serious injury.



If you dress up in dark clothes, add reflective material so you can be seen by motorists and cyclists.



Remember that your behaviour affects your neighbours. Loud noises created by fireworks, bangers and bonfires can scare people and animals.

Wellbeing & Mindfulness

Our school has focused lots on coping strategies and wellbeing in September and October.

We are so proud of the resilience, positivity and co-operation of all our pupils when returning to school during this pandemic. They have done such an incredible job using their coping skills.

Well done everyone!

How to nurture a child's mental health

The infographic consists of 20 circular icons arranged around a central illustration of a child with brown hair, wearing a blue hoodie and purple pants, sitting on the floor and hugging themselves. The icons are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some icons placed above and below the central child. Each icon is accompanied by a short text instruction. The instructions are: Actively listen before offering your advice, Be patient, Share your feelings and validate theirs, Tell the truth, Model healthy behavior, Surround them with healthy adults, Be consistent and follow through with what you promise, Teach them how to be safe, Believe them and in them, Use open ended questions, Have scheduled family time, Limit electronic time for everyone, Reach out and hug them, Practice relaxation exercises together, Model forgiveness, Respond calmly when their emotions are elevated, View their behavior as a window to their needs and feelings, Make play and exercise a requirement, Recognize positive choices, Be present, and Set and respect boundaries. There is also a small circular logo with a girl's face and the text 'Mental Fills'.

- Actively listen before offering your advice
- Be patient
- Share your feelings and validate theirs
- Tell the truth
- Model healthy behavior
- Surround them with healthy adults
- Be consistent and follow through with what you promise
- Teach them how to be safe
- Believe them and in them
- Use open ended questions
- Have scheduled family time
- Limit electronic time for everyone
- Reach out and hug them
- Practice relaxation exercises together
- Model forgiveness
- Respond calmly when their emotions are elevated
- View their behavior as a window to their needs and feelings
- Make play and exercise a requirement
- Recognize positive choices
- Be present
- Set and respect boundaries



Happy Halloween

We wish our entire school community a happy and safe mid term break.
We are looking to seeing you all again in November.