



**Summer Newsletter 2016  
Christ the Saviour N.S.**



**Introduction**

Welcome to the Summer edition of our school newsletter. It has been a jam packed calendar and a huge variety of activities have taken place in the school since Easter. We have celebrated some very special occasions, we have had lots of fun and the school has received a number of sporting awards.

We hope you enjoy this reading this edition!

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**Sacramental Occasions:**

**Confirmation Day:**

The final school term began with our special celebration of Confirmation for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The ceremony took place on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 1:00 p.m., celebrated by Bishop Brendan Leahy and Fr. Lane. We were blessed with the weather on their special day and the children as usual did themselves, their families and school proud. The support and beautiful singing from the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the choir was fantastic.

**First Holy Communion Day:**

Our second special occasion took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. Congratulations to the boys and girls in Second Class who made their First Holy Communion in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Ballingarry. They all did their parts so well and looked absolutely beautiful on the day. They were a credit to their families and their teacher Mrs. O' Neill. The school could not be prouder of them. Well done boys and girls!

**First Holy Communion Class 2016**





## **Biodiversity: Green Schools Programme**

This year we have completed Year 1 of 2 towards our fifth green flag under the theme of 'Biodiversity'. We have much more work to do in September 2016 but we are making great progress here in our school to increase our Biodiversity.

Here are some things we have done in our school garden:

- Developed our Willow House
- Set a variety of vegetables in our raised beds including carrots, pumpkins, lettuce and more.
- Created a Fairy Garden – each class designed and planted individual fairy gardens and we laid them out as a little fairy village. All the children loved this project and really enjoy imaginative play at breaktime in this area.
- Began developing our Sensory Garden at the front of the school, this area is a work in progress and will continue in September.
- Bird feeders have been made to be set up outside classroom windows on the left side of the school near O'Grady's. These feeders will be in place from December to March each year and children will be able to watch birds come to feed right outside the classroom windows.
- The front of the school got a lovely face lift in terms of planting – we now have beautiful roses planted all along the front and side of the school building on the left. A huge 'Thank You' to Vincent Hanley and Hugh Shanahan for their hard work. A cherry blossom tree was kindly donated and planted in this area by John Noonan earlier this year, many thanks to him for this kind donation.
- Pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class built an Insect hotel. We hope to attract a host of insects to our 5star accommodation so we can study them during our Science lessons in the next school year.

Here are some photos of our Biodiversity work:

The children in First and Second Class have been busy planting turnips and lettuce for the school garden. We are looking forward to a feast before the summer holidays !!



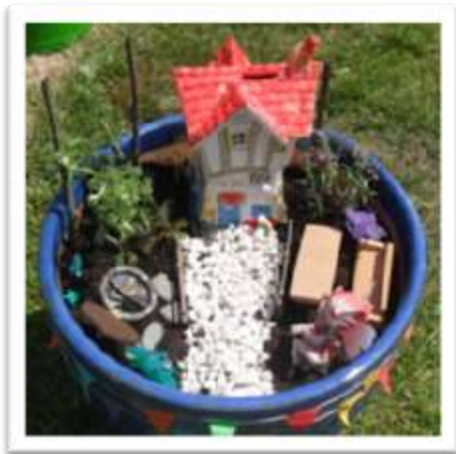


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**Our 5 star  
Insect Hotel**

**Some Fairy Gardens:**



**Ms. Tangney's Class Fairy Garden**



**Mrs. Murphy's Class Fairy Garden**



**Mrs McHale's Class Fairy Garden**

## Geoff Hunt visits the school

On the 21st of April 2016 Ms Fitzgerald's 3rd & 4th class had a special guest, Geoff Hunt. Geoff came to talk to the boys and girls about nature all around us and particularly micro-organisms. Geoff brought the whole class down to the park to look for different micro-organisms in the pond and around the park. The class got the opportunity to collect different things and bring them back to the school to look at under the microscope. 3rd and 4th class had a great day learning about nature and we hope that Geoff will come back soon to teach us even more about nature in the near future.



## CraftED – Artist in Residence (6<sup>th</sup> Class)

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's CRAFTed programme gives primary school children and teachers an exciting opportunity to explore their creativity and learn new skills by working with professional craftspeople. Ballingarry N.S. was one of four Limerick schools chosen to participate in the 2016 programme. Mr. Keogh was the school facilitator and attended planning meetings in the Education Centre in Limerick, where he met the chosen artist, Kate O'Kelly.

Kate, an NCAD art graduate, multiple award winner, and accomplished and decorated ceramic artist, was eager to help us create something meaningful for our school. After much thought and consideration, we decided to create something around the theme of nature, as our school is in pursuit of our fifth green flag, where biodiversity is the theme.

Over ten sessions in term three, the 6th class pupils created the most beautiful ceramic bird houses, which will be spread across our school gardens, and will hopefully attract numerous birds for us to observe.

Thank You so much Kate for aiding in these creations. We really appreciate your hard work!



## Friends for Life Programme (6<sup>th</sup> Class)

'FRIENDS for Life' is a school-based positive mental health programme that promotes emotional resilience and reduces anxiety in children and adolescents. Mr. Keogh has been trained in the programme and has delivered it to the sixth class children over the third term. The course included teaching the children how to recognise their thoughts and feelings, as well as relaxation techniques such as breathing exercises, aspects of mindfulness, identifying green (helpful) thoughts, red (unhelpful) thoughts, and how to challenge these unhelpful thoughts. It also taught the children how to create coping step plans whenever they encounter something daunting in life, and to reward themselves when they achieve a goal. The general consensus from pupils and teachers is that Friends for Life is a fantastic, fun programme, which gives children the arsenal to deal with turbulent situations they may encounter as adolescents.



### Book Fair



The School's Book Fair took place on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11 am until 2pm. Teachers and staff were overwhelmed with the amount of support shown by the parents and community. The final figure raised from the sale of books was €2640, of which €1584 (60%) was returned to the school in the form of a book token. A massive 'Thank You' to everyone who supported the Book Fair. We hope the boys and girls will enjoy the many new titles coming to their libraries very soon.



## School Tours

### First Class Tour

All of 1st class joined together to visit Stonehall Farm and Curraghchase. It was an exciting day full of new discoveries: the children saw some very unique animals including a white peacock, alpacas and even an Australian parrot called Bobby. There was even a llama who tried his best to spit on the boys and girls as they walked past. Farmer Christy and Sinead were our helpful guides who taught us all about the interesting animals and plant life on the farm. We had loads of fun on the bouncy castle and go-karts after lunch. On the way home we called to Curraghchase to visit the beautiful wooden playground. First class had a fantastic day and some boys and girls were so tired that they had a little nap on the bus coming home.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Tour

The boys and girls from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class travelled to Tralee for their school tour on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. The boys and girls took part in lots of fun and active activities. We firstly wened to the Aqua Dome where we spend over an hour in the water and going on the water slide. After lunch we travelled to Active Kingdom where we took part in various activities such as orienteering, co-operative games and zorbing. It was a great day.



## 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class Tour

Children from the Senior Classes hit the road at 8:10a.m. on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of June to reach our destination at Kilkee at 10 a.m. Luckily the sun shone brightly for the most of the day. The group of 59 children was divided into two smaller groups. The first group got into their wet suits and did some surfing and kayaking. Surfing seemed to be the favourite activity of the group overall. The other group took part in some land games at this time. These games included archery, orienteering and more. After a quick lunch other groups switched activities. Although the children were cold and tired from their activities in Kilkee everyone seemed to have had a terrific time. We left Kilkee around 2:30 p.m. and made our way to the Ennis road in Limerick where we enjoyed dinner at Supermacs and an hour of bowling. Teachers got to see the very competitive side of many children during this hour!!! Children who scored the highest on each lane received prizes. We reached the school, all safe and sound again around 6:30p.m. Check out some of our photos below!



## **Teddy Bear's Picnic**

On Monday the 20th of June Junior and Senior Infants went to the park in Ballingarry for the teddy bears picnic. We had all sorts of friends with us including Super Mario, monkeys, rabbits, ninja turtles, rag dolls, elephants and teddy bears. The weather was lovely while the children played happily on the swings, climbing frame, roundabout and see saws. 1st class came along to help the infants and were very good at showing us how to be safe on our journey to and from the park. Everybody had a wonderful day and Sheila was so kind to drop down some yummy ice pops for us to enjoy.



## **Matilda Bear**

On Monday morning Ms Tangney arrived into school to see that she had been replaced by Matilda Bear Irwin. Matilda was dressed in a school tracksuit and was sitting at the teacher's desk drinking a cup of tea before school. After some investigating it was discovered that Matilda was a friendly bear who just wanted to come to the park for our Teddy Bear's picnic. Thank you to Louise Irwin and her family for giving Matilda a lift home on Monday afternoon.





## School Attendance

This year we are delighted to announce that fifteen children throughout the school had a perfect attendance. The following children will receive special attendance certificates on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate this achievement. Full attendance is a testament to good health and dedication. Well done all!

Junior Infants:

- Aoife O'Sullivan
- Murieann Quaid
- Ellie Roche
- Isobel Walsh
- Rory O'Hanlon
- Nathan Hartnett

Senior Infants:

- Eimear Hickey
- Lucy Quaid

First Class:

- Lydia Hartnett
- Sarah-Jane Hanley

Third Class:

- Abbie Mulqueen

Fourth Class:

- Jack Mullane

Fifth Class:

- Niall Sheahan

Sixth Class:

- Michael Sheahan
- Phoebe Sheehy



## New Junior Infants Sept. 2017 Induction Day

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June our school happily welcomed 22 new Junior Infants into Christ the Saviour N.S. They met Ms Hanley in the GP room and she welcomed them to the school. They also met Aisling Frawley, representing the Parents' Council and she encouraged new parents to become actively involved in the Parents' Council. Finally, they met their Junior Infant teacher Ms Tangney and went to their new classroom.

All the new boys and girls had a wonderful time playing with toys, listening to a story, playing on the interactive whiteboard and even visiting the fairy garden. Parents waited patiently in the supper room of the Community Hall and enjoyed a cup of tea kindly provided by the Parents' Council. The boys and girls got a lovely treat bag from Ms Tangney. We are all really looking forward to them coming back in September!!

## **Active Schools Week**

Active School week took place in the school from the 23rd to the 27th of May last as part of trying to achieve our Active school flag. As part of our active week, we took part in various different active activities. We began each day with a lively dance, even getting to see the teachers strut their stuff! We had a 'friendly' game of dodgeball where the pupils faced off against their teachers, we skipped to our heart's content in a Skipathon, walked to school from the church, went to play in the park, played hurling and camogie against each other and other schools, and much much more. We will be submitting our Active school flag application next September.



## **Sporting Achievements**

We are very privileged in Christ the Saviour N.S. to have so many students representing the school in different sporting events. Well done to Michael Russell, Michael Sheahan and Philip Byrnes who were part of the West Mackey Cup hurling team 2016. Unfortunately the West was beaten in the Semi- final of the competition. Well done also to Aisling Irwin and Emily Flynn who were part of the victorious West Eithne Neville West camogie team that won the county final beating South Limerick. Congratulations also to Michael Russell who was one of three pupils from the West to be chosen to be part of the Primary Game hurling team that played at half time in the Limerick Tipperary hurling championship match in Thurles on the 19th of June. Well done Michael. The future is looking bright for our young GAA stars.

## **School Hurling and Camogie Teams**

We have had a very successful year on the sporting field with both our hurling and camogie teams winning their respective Division 2 West finals at the start of June. The hurling team comprised of pupils from 5th and 6th and played three matches on their way to the final in which they beat Mahoonagh National School. The girl's camogie team topped their group in the camogie blitz before progressing onto the West final where they beat Kilfinny National School. Both the hurling and camogie teams will now play in Division 1 of both the hurling and camogie competition next year. This is a massive achievement and well done to all the boys and girls that were involved and it is great that the school will be

competing at the highest level next year. Well done and thank you to Ms. Fitzgerald, hurling team coach, and Miss Casey, camogie team coach, for all their hard work in training and preparing the teams.



### **School Jersey and Half- Zip Launch**

We officially launched our new Christ the Saviour N.S. jersey and half-zip tops on Friday the 24th of June last. We are delighted with the way that both the jerseys and half-zips turned out and would like to especially thank Cora and Charles Byrnes, Ballynoe Stables, for their kind sponsorship of the jerseys and Donal O'Grady, O'Grady's Spar, for his kind sponsorship of a set of half-zips for the school. We would also like to extend a big thank to the generosity of all the parents at the carol service held last December in the church that enabled us to subsidise half zips that were made available for purchase to all the boys and girls in the school. The school half-zips are going to be worn at various school events in the future including school matches.



## Annual GAA Blitz

Our annual GAA blitz took place in the GAA field on Friday the 24th of June. All the boys and girls from Junior infants to 6th class headed over to the GAA field at 10am for a morning of hurling and camogie matches. Great fun was had by all involved. We would like to say a big thank you to Granagh/ Ballingarry Bord na n-Og and Granagh/Ballingarry Camogie club for all the work that they put into organising such a successful event and for providing everyone with some lovely treats at the end of the day. We also held our annual camogie and hurling lunch time league finals on this day which the boys and girls from 3rd to 6th have been taking part in during lunch time since May. We would also like to say a special thanks to Tommy O'Donovan, our hurling coach for all the hard work that he has put in during the year in the school. Tommy has been calling to the school every Friday since February coaching the boys and girls important hurling and camogie skills. We look forward to having Tommy back again next year.



## Sports Day

Our annual sports day was held on Tuesday the 21st of June last in the school. All the boys and girls from Junior infants to 6th class took part in various fun activities including running races, egg and spoon race, wheelbarrow race, three-legged race and sack race just to mention a few. All the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and had great fun.



## Annual Field Trip to Knockfierna

On Monday 27th June, pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th class headed off on their annual field trip to Knockfierna. To ensure pupil's safety, a shuttle bus was provided from the school to the bottom of the "Red Road". We began our trek to the summit of Knockfierna and enjoyed a few pit stops along the way at the

Rambling House and the Famine Rock. By the time we reached the Marian cross, we had worked up an appetite and we dug in to our picnics! The weather was on our side and we were able to enjoy the beautiful views of the surrounding hinterland!!



### **6th Class Graduation**

On Friday 24th June, a special Graduation Mass was held in the GP room for this year's 6th class. All 24 pupils contributed to the Mass through readings, Prayers of the Faithful, bringing symbols to the altar and through singing. The choir comprising of pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class were accompanied by Mrs Murphy on keyboard and their lovely singing really added to the occasion. Special guests included Mrs Lily Hanley, Mrs Eileen O'Shea, Mrs Rebecca Cleary and members of the Board of Management, as well as parents and siblings of the graduation class. A special photo display was shown highlighting some of the special times during their time in Christ the Saviour N.S. Ms Hanley, Acting Principal and Mr Kevin Kennedy, Chairperson of the Board of Management wished the boys and girls every success in their transition to secondary school and in their future. Mrs Cleary presented the pupils with their certificates and wished them well. Aisling Irwin spoke on behalf of the boys and girls and thanked all the teachers who had taught them during their 8 years in Christ the Saviour N.S. and Aisling and Molly O'Connell presented Ms Hanley with a

bouquet of flowers. The boys and girls enjoyed a special graduation cake after the Mass while parents and guests enjoyed tea and refreshments.

Check out the 6th class Graduation photo display on the school website.

### **Class of 2016**

Todor Aleksandrov, Daniel Anderson, Philip Byrnes, Michael Russell, Owen Lynch, Brian Sheehy, Dylan O'Sullivan Kelly, Calum O'Sullivan, Reece Kelly, Phoebe Sheehy, Anna Mullane, Aimee O'Keeffe, Raonaid Ruddle, Molly O'Connell, Emma Kelly, Noelle Insley, Aisling Irwin, Brett Shanahan, Sophie Lee Bourke, Michael Sheahan, Pádraig McKenna, Robbie McEnery, Jack O'Keeffe, Cian Moore

#### Thank Goodness for you School

By

Brett Shanahan

Farewell to school,  
Thank goodness for you,  
Or I'd be a fool!

I can do my maths,  
Choose wise life paths,  
Irish and English I'll keep that up too,  
Languages a few!

And every other subject,  
I promise I won't forget!  
Though sometimes you bored the heck out of me all day,  
And even made me pay  
I'll still say  
I'm leaving,  
For good this time,  
But thank goodness for you,  
I'll carry what I learned here,  
With me for life!

P.S Teachers too,  
I'll always remember you!

### **Local History Projects**

Pupils in 6th class have been very busy this past term researching and exploring about the local history of Ballingarry. The class divided into groups of 3 or 4 and each took a local history topic of interest to them. Pupils used the school iPads and an app called Keynote to produce wonderful presentations. Some groups also created posters and folders to present their information. Each group presented their project to their classmates using the Interactive Whiteboard. It

was wonderful to see how confident and competent pupils were presenting this information to their peers. It was a great learning experience to make such a presentation.

- \* Michael Russel, Owen Lynch, Brian Sheehy & Philip Byrnes presented “The Grove Workhouse”
- \* Dylan O’Sullivan Kelly, Calum O’Sullivan and Reece Kelly presented ‘Knockfierna’
- \* Phoebe Sheehy, Anna Mullane & Aimee O’Keeffe presented ‘Knockfierna’
- \* Raonaid Ruddle, Molly O’Connell & Emma Kelly presented ‘The Mustard Seed’
- \* Aisling Irwin, Brett Shanahan & Sophie Lee Bourke presented ‘The Townlands of Ballingarry’
- \* Michael Sheahan, Pádraig McKenna, Robbie McEnery & Jack O’Keeffe presented ‘Knockfierna’
- \* Cian Moore, Todor Aleksandrov & Daniel Anderson presented ‘The Mustard Seed’

### **Parents Council Summer Newsletter 2016**

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the Summer holidays again! Where has the year gone? Since our last newsletter we have held two more fundraising events and hosted the new Junior’s parents reception. Our jumble sale in April was another tremendous success and raised over €1100. A month later we raised €400 in our second clothes drive. This means that from our cake sale, jumble sale and two clothes drives we raised over €3000!! Thank you to all of you for your support in raising this money.

It was lovely to meet all the parents of the new juniors at the tea/coffee reception we hosted on June 22nd, 2016. We secured 12 new signatures expressing interest in joining us so let’s hope we see lots of new faces at the AGM in September.

We would also like to thank the school staff and management for considering favourably our request that children can wear plain navy shorts on tracksuit days in the rare hot weather.

Finally on behalf of the Parents Council I would like to thank all our fellow council members who assisted in all our fundraising activities throughout the year and for all the help and support we received from parents, pupils and school staff.

Aisling Frawley,  
Secretary Parents’ Council



## Infant Helpers

Each year pupils in 5th and 6th class volunteer to help the boys and girls in Junior and Senior Infants at lunch time. This is such a big help for the small boys and girls and also to Mrs McHale and Ms Tangney. Pupils in 5th and 6th class help with opening lunch boxes, zipping up coats, peeling bananas etc. When it is raining and we have to stay in our classrooms, the 5th and 6th class pupils put on a DVD for the Infants or else read them a story or play fun games. We really appreciate the kindness of our Infant volunteers and they will be presented with a special certificate and a treat for their hard work at our Summer Assembly on Thursday.

Goodbyes are not forever.  
Goodbyes are not the end.  
They simply mean  
I'll miss you  
until we meet again.

**The Staff and Board of Management would like to wish all pupils and parents a very safe and enjoyable summer break. The school will re-open, full of energy and enthusiasm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of September at 9a.m. Best of luck to our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils as they begin the next chapter of their lives and remember, life is what you make it, so do your best.**

