

St. Joseph's National School

Nov/Dec

Newsletter

2021



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Focus on Kindness.



Spread kindness everywhere you go!

Be sure to ask a grown up to sign your sheet. Check out the back for inspiration!

Monday 6 th	Tuesday 7 th	Wednesday 8 th	Thursday 9 th	Friday 10 th
Monday 13 th	Tuesday 14 th	Wednesday 15 th	Thursday 16 th	Friday 17 th
Monday 20 th	Tuesday 21 st	Wednesday 22 nd		

As we prepare for the Christmas Season, the girls in St. Joseph's will focus on kindness, both at home and in school. Girls have an option of writing or drawing a picture of one kind act. We observe these lovely kind gestures in school every day and we are very proud of all our pupils.

Thank You.

A special thank you to all who supported the Irish Red Cross Food Appeal in aid of Cork Penny Dinners and Clonakilty Meals on Wheels which was organised by the Clonakilty branch of the Irish Red Cross. During the last fortnight the girls have been busy filling up the boxes with their donations. Thanks to Pádraig O'Reilly who not only organised the fund-raiser but also will collect the non-perishable items next Monday.

A big thank you to the Parents' Association for funding the Helix Panto 'Red Riding Hood' this year. It was a great treat for everyone at the end of term.

Parent Teacher Meetings.

Thanks to all Parents who engaged in meetings during November. We hope that this early communication will enhance the learning of all pupils.

Christmas Card Fundraiser.

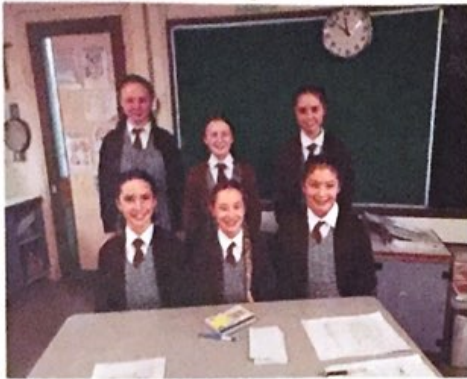


Well done to all the girls who have showed their wonderful creativity once again and designed their own Christmas card. The cards are sold in packs of 10, costing 10 euro. For every pack sold, five euro goes back to the school. Many thanks to all Parents for supporting this fundraiser. The packs have been distributed this week.



Busy Days in St. Joseph's

Primary Debating Competition.



On Tuesday 16th of November, our sixth class debating team competed in the second round of the Concern Primary Schools Debating Competition against Rosscarbery N.S. Our team opposed the motion 'Billionaires should not go to space'. Congratulations to team members: Emily Bell, Méabh Lowney, Liadain O'Connell, Emma Rea, Aisling O'Mahony and Holly Grant who put great effort into the research and delivery of their speeches. The girls advanced to the quarter final of the competition against Schull National School. The girls opposed the motion 'Sports Stars are bad role models'. Unfortunately it was not their day and the girls lost by a narrow margin. Thanks to Múinteoir Sarah who had coached the team. We are very proud of our girls who did extremely well to progress so far in the competition.

Chess Club.



Fire Drill.

Now that all girls are settled back into their new classrooms, Tuesday 2nd of November was an opportune time to participate in a fire drill. Thanks to Ms. O'Mahony for organising the Fire Drill in the school.

Junior Warden Scheme.



The Junior Warden scheme is operated by the 6th Class Girls to promote road safety. Parents please assist them by not parking in the set-down areas and moving the cones. Encourage your child to use the warden crossing.

Picker Pals.



Well Done to girls in First Class who are participating in the Picker Pals project this year. Each weekend one of the girls goes on a litter-picking adventure and shares the experience with her classmates.

Student Council/Amber Flag



Our new Student Council met for their first meeting under the stewardship of Múinteoir Sarah. Thanks to the girls from classes third to sixth who nominated themselves for this position. The girls are all very vocal and enthusiastic and we look forward to hearing all about their new ideas.



The newly- formed Amber Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Scally are all set to embrace the 'AMBER Flag' initiative and have lots of new ideas to empower and encourage pupils to be caring and considerate towards each other. We look forward to working with the committee to create a safe, positive and healthy attitude in St. Joseph's.



Two members of our Amber Flag Committee share the news of a recent initiative to promote positive mental health in the school.

A Kindness box has been distributed to all classrooms. Whenever a child observes an act of kindness being shown to either themselves or others they write down the person's name and place it in the box. Each month one name gets picked from the hat and the recipient receives one item off homework.

Science Week

Science Week is a week-long event in Ireland each November, celebrating science in our everyday lives. It celebrates the fascinating worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The school theme for National Science Week 2021 is **Food: Different by Design**. It honours the United Nations International Year of Fruits and Vegetables and the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.



Second Class Girls explore Static Electricity.



Senior Infants have great fun with the 'Dancing Man'



Third Class have great fun studying reactions.

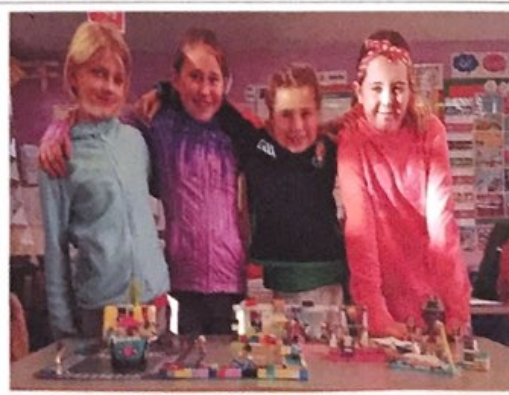


First Class explore Static Electricity.



Science Workshops

Third Class girls are participating in the Engineers Ireland STEPS Young Engineers Award this year. Each group have worked very hard on their innovative idea which would help to improve their local community and presented their project virtually to engineer Saorlaith Ni Dhuibhne recently. Girls from Sacred Heart Secondary School visited Sixth Class recently to showcase the varied aspects of the Science Curriculum.



We Love to Read.

Girls from Second Class enjoyed a trip to our school library recently. The girls got an opportunity to view the lay-out of the Library, observe the range of books and take books out on loan. The girls were very enthused by their visit and encouraged to make return visits. This is a wonderful facility in our school and many thanks to members of the Parents' Association who have sourced a great selection of books for all reading ages. During the month of November girls from 1st to sixth class have taken part in the MS Readathon and continue to raise funds.

Read, Read, Read!



Thanks to members of the Student Council who informed the girls about this initiative in the school. Each girl received a sponsorship card and asked their family and friends to sponsor them. Not only have the girls in St. Joseph's read about lots of amazing adventures but they have raised 800 Euro for MS Ireland.



PM Plus Readers.

We have had great success with our levelled readers in First and Second Class. Each girl receives a book, pitched at their own level, four days a week. We have recently purchased an extra supply of books. Many thanks to all Parents who support their child's reading at home.

The Non Reading Intelligence Test .

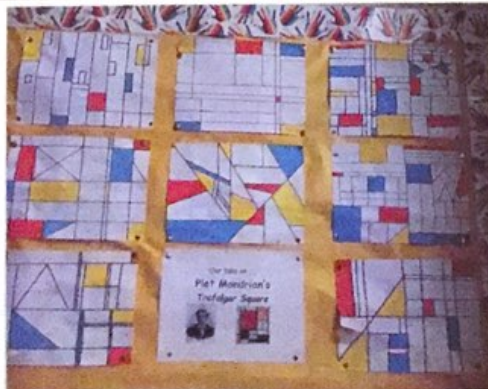
This group test was administered by class teachers to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes recently. This test is presented orally by the teachers and assesses aspects of language and thinking, enables general ability to be assessed independently of reading.

Christmas Annuals.



Folens Christmas Annuals are a firm favourite in all classes.

Art Exhibition



Busy Days in St. Joseph's



Thanks to members of the Student Council who collected the shoeboxes from the classrooms.

All Ready For Dispatch.



Thank You



Thanks to all who supported the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year.

Tree of Hope and Gratitude.



Thanks to the girls in Second Class who have decorated our tree of Hope and Gratitude which helps to brighten the gloomy wintry days. Each girl wrote their own personal note- thankful for their families, friends, pets, cosy homes and fun days at school.

It serves as a gentle reminder to us all.

'Be thankful for all you have and stop looking for the things you don't have'

School Activities

Recipients of the 'Pupil of the Month' Award for November.

Fifi Ahern-Bleakley, (6th), Samantha Chankowska, (5th), Nikola Baraniewska (4th) Lola O'Donovan(3rd), Ayat Tafazzal (2nd), Salma Farrag (1st), Bibiaisha Ahmad (S. Infants) and Maahinoor Akhter(J. Infants).

As an initiative to reward positive behaviour in St. Joseph's a 'Pupil of the Month' will be awarded to a girl from each of the eight classes every month. The positive behaviour during November included working extremely hard, great listener, great contribution in class, kindness, neat work, having a great sense of fun and very caring to all.

Very Well Done and Keep Working Hard.

G.A.A. Timetable.

November/ December 2021

<i>Time</i>	<i>Class</i>
9.15-9.45	Second
9.45-10.15	Fourth
10.15-10.45	Third

G.A.A. coaching with Conan is a firm favourite on Friday mornings. Girls from Second, Third and Fourth have worked on the Handpass, Kicking, Catching and mini football games.

Kindness Elves.



We were all delighted to welcome Mrs. Scally and two kindness elves to our classrooms on Friday 10th of December. Mrs. Scally picked out a name from each 'Kindness Box' and each recipient can use her 'No Homework Voucher' in January.

G.A.A. Coaching.



Great work on the Hand Pass.

Christmas Cards.



The girls in all classes were busy writing letters and creating Christmas Cards last week. We have posted the cards to patients who reside in Carechoice, Bushmount and Clonakilty Community Hospital.

Pupil of the Month



Red and Green Day



Congratulations

INSPA Competition.



Congratulations to Méabh Lowney (6th Class) who won the overall INSPA photography award for her photo 'Our Bubble'. The theme was Accessible Places / Safer Places and the competition took place during lockdown. Méabh was very creative and also very patient. She blew lots of bubbles until the right opportunity presented itself. St. Joseph's is also the national winner and we will receive our positive primary flag for St. Joseph's.



On Friday 10th of December, Mrs. Scally presented the prizes to Méabh. Not only did she receive a framed photo of her exhibit and certificate but also a myriad of prizes. Méabh is also invited on to the judging panel next year.

West Cork's Got Talent.



Congratulations to Róisín Cook and Holly Grant who were finalists in the West Cork's Got Talent which was held in Bandon on Saturday 6th of November. The girls took part in a team dance.

Lisavaird Art Competition.



Congratulations to Cara Ryan (First Class) who won second prize in the Lisavaird Art Competition.

Food Dudes Week

We were delighted to participate in the Food Dudes healthy eating Programme for one week in November. This programme is managed in Ireland by Bord Bia and receives financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the European Union through the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Each child got an opportunity to taste fruit and vegetables for five days which helps to maintain the healthy eating ethos in St. Joseph's. The girls also received a Passport to Healthy Eating which contained a number of fun activities to encourage the healthy eating ethos both at home and at school.

Active Break Challenge.



Many thanks to Múinteoir Marian and Members of the Active Flag Committee, who organised an Active Break Challenge in St. Joseph's. During the week beginning November 15th, each class incorporated a five minute exercise into their day. The girls had a choice of activities which included dance, games, a circuit etc. The week coincided with our Food Dudes week so it was a very healthy week all round.

