

# St. Joseph's National School

October

## Newsletter

2023



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### **Time For a Break.....**

It has been a very busy few weeks in St. Joseph's with everyone adjusting to new classes. Hope everyone enjoys the Halloween festivities and school will reopen on Monday 6th of November.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings.**

Our Parent Teacher meetings will be held on Wed/ Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> of November. Meetings can be booked on Aladdin at a later date.

### **Save the Date :Christmas Concerts.**

Our Christmas Concerts will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December.  
Junior Infants: 5pm.  
Senior Infants: 5.30pm  
First Class: 6pm.

### **Team Hope Shoebox Appeal.**



Our Student Council members have distributed the leaflets which outline clearly how to build your shoebox at home. Every year the Christmas Shoebox Appeal sends thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe and Africa.

***Please return boxes after mid-term.***

### **Dates For Diary.**

#### **October.**

Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> : Midterm.

#### **November**

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>: Parent Teacher Meeting.

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Parent Teacher Meeting.

### ***First Holy Communion.***

The First Holy Communion will take place in the Parish Church on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May at 10.30am.

Enrolment Ceremony for First Holy Communion children in Knockskeagh N.S. and St. Joseph's will take place in the Parish Church on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am.

### ***Parents' Association.***

The AGM was held during the month of October. Chairperson Orla Gallagher opened proceedings welcoming all to the meeting and nominations were taken to elect a new committee for 2023/2024. This year two Parents, Jenny Ejim and James O'Brien were also elected to serve as Parent representatives on the new Board of Management which will serve for the next four years. Thanks to all Parents who have volunteered on the new committee.

Newly elected members of the board.






Chair: Orla Gallagher/ Sarah Nolan.

Treasurer: Agnieska Hernon.

A class representative for each class will be elected shortly.

# What's on in St. Joseph's during

## October

<p><b>Monday</b></p> 	<p>Playball with Lorna ( Junior and Senior Infants) Irish Dancing in the school hall. ( 3-4pm) Gardening / DIY Club ( 3-4pm)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>  	<p>Swimming Lessons in the Leisure Centre- Fifth Class.  ( 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> )  Violin: Third and Fourth Class.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>   	<p>Violin : Fifth and Sixth Class. Creative Keyboards. 2-3pm: Junior &amp; Senior Infants. 3-4pm: First &amp; Second Class. 4-5pm: Third- Sixth.  Camogie Training.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p> 	<p>Drama With Pam Golden.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>  	<p>Rugby Coaching. ( Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Third and Fifth).  Football Coaching with Conan. ( First, Second, Fourth and Sixth) Playball with Lorna : First and Second Class.</p>

# Walking Bus in St. Joseph's

We were so delighted to welcome back the 'Walking Bus' on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Parents, Staff and girls gathered at the Parish Centre before setting off on their walk through the town. Despite the inclement weather the girls were so delighted with this new initiative. Many thanks to Parents, Staff and Girls who supported our 'Walking Bus' and not forgetting the assistance from a member of An Garda Síochána. This is an initiative which is organised by our Green schools Co-ordinator, Múinteoir Anna and the Green Schools Committee. The theme for this year is sustainable Energy so we look forward to lots of new ideas and activities this year.



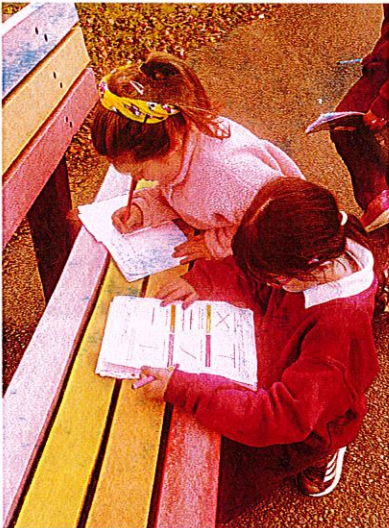
# Maths Week in St. Joseph's

Maths Week Ireland took place this year between the 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of October. In St. Joseph's each class participated in fun and enjoyable activities which helped the girls to challenge themselves and improve numeracy.

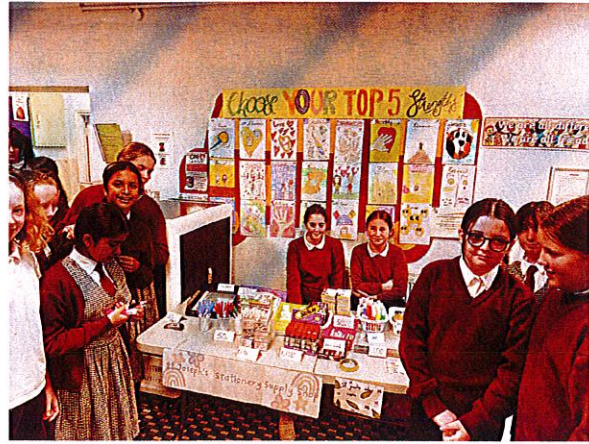


**Third Class develop problem-solving skills using the Izak Cubes.**

*Lines and Maths Trails.*

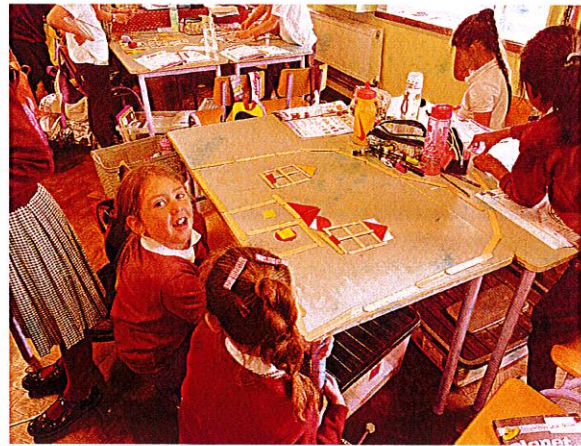


***St. Joseph's Stationery Supply Shop.***



Our pop-up stationery shop has been a great success. Many thanks to Múinteoir Sarah who sourced the supplies and to Fifth Class girls under the supervision of Múinteoirí CarolAnne and Edel who ensured that all transactions were in order. It was a great opportunity for the girls to count out money and check change. The girls learned to be prudent with their money and make choices .

***Investigating 2D Shapes.***



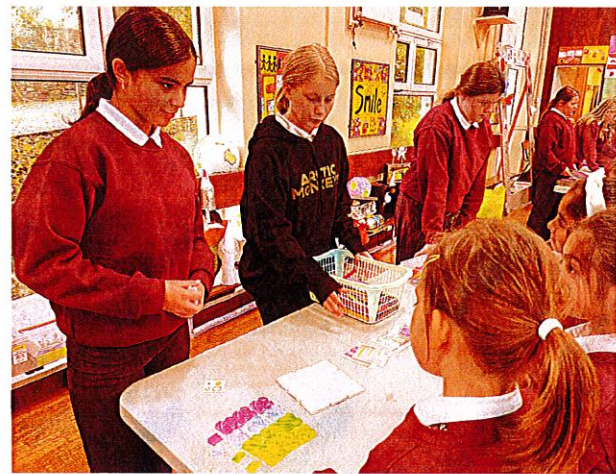
Well Done to our Second class girls who made great discoveries creating lots of 2D Shapes using lollipop sticks and tangrams.



Other classes engaged with the Izak Cubes, Maths Trail, Maths Eyes , Activities on Seesaw which helped to develop problem-solving and observation skills without even trying too hard.

# Maths Stations in St. Joseph's

Maths stations which were set up in the hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of October were a great success. The girls enjoyed a range of activities including Pattern, Number, Data, Estimation Stations, Board Games etc. These activities were differentiated for all classes. Many thanks to Ms. Sarah Geaney, Ms. Sarah Shortall for setting up the activities in the hall. Thanks also to members of Class Seven and Sixth Class girls who manned each station.



Well Done to Kate who guessed the correct amount of lollipops and won a prize of a lollipop for all of her classmates.

# Literacy in St. Joseph's

## **Concern Primary Debates.**

We are delighted to participate in the Concern Primary Debates again this year. This is a fun educational programme aimed at senior primary students. These debates are run in conjunction with Education Support Centres across Ireland and this year the debates will run both online and in person. We are very thankful to the West Cork Education Centre for their assistance.



## **Congratulations.**

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of October, a team from sixth class participated in the first round of the competition. Their opponents were 'The Model School from Dunmanway and the girls were proposing the motion 'Homework should be a thing of the past'. Many thanks to Múinteoir Anna for guiding the team and to team members for their excellent delivery. Not forgetting the background team who help out with research.



## **Newsflash!!!!**

Members of our Student Council have brought forward their own motion to Mr. Mulcahy: No written homework on Wednesday afternoons. Therefore all classes will trial this initiative after mid-term.

## **Caint Agus Comhrá.**



Girls from our senior classes have teamed up with First, Second and Third Classes and engage in a spoken Irish activity, once a week. We hope this will help to develop fluency in the Irish Language.



# Fun Activities in St. Joseph's

## Chess Workshops.



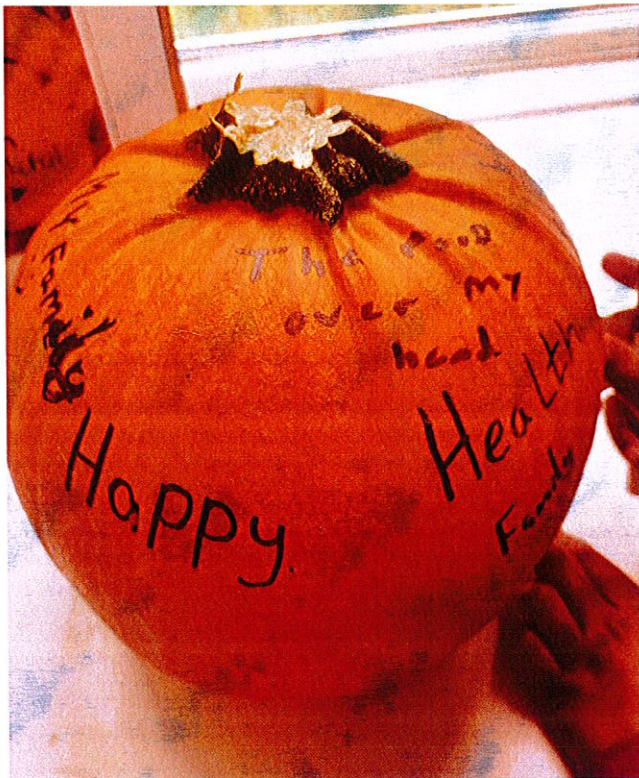
Chess workshops with Múinteoir Anna are well underway with third class girls. The girls look forward to learning new chess moves each week.

## Entry for Leap Scarecrow Festival.



We are delighted to participate in the Leap Scarecrow Festival this year. The festival opens on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and ends on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>. We hope some of the girls might get an opportunity to visit during the midterm break.

## Gratitude Pumpkin.



Girls in third class are using a pumpkin as a 'gratitude Journal'. They are jotting down all the items for which they are grateful every day.

Second Class girls have been busy checking out which drink contains the most sugar. Water is the best option so we ensure to remind every girl to hydrate with water every day.

## Science Experiments.



# News from the Rooms

## News Letter

This month in 6<sup>th</sup> Class we started debating, Space week, Science experiments, wild works, Maths stations for maths week, Rugby & GAA, Map Work, Recant and we wrote a song.

In our debating we had to research facts why homework should/shouldn't be a thing in the past. We then had to audition for the debating. On our debating team is Thea, Sidra, Alice, Julia, Mimi and Sophie. Our motion is homework should be a thing of the past. We are proposing the motion on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October.

We did mini projects on the planets of our Solar System. For our weekly homework we did individual fact files on the moon. On Monday we all dressed up in a Space themed costume.

Every week on Thursday two girls will perform a Science experiments for the class. Every girl has to come up with an experiment and write a project on it to hang up in the hallway by the stairs.

We did maths stations in the hall for the younger classes. We had eight stations including Data, Estimation, patterns, Shapes, Darts, Sensory and more.

On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October our class walked to the library and met two song writers, Aine and Vicky who helped us write a song about Rugby and cheese.



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of October, Sixth Class Girls were invited to Clonakilty Library to participate in a Song-writing workshop with Áine O'Gorman and Vicky. During the two hour workshop a song was created which featured items of interest to the girls. We are looking forward to hearing the recording in mid- November

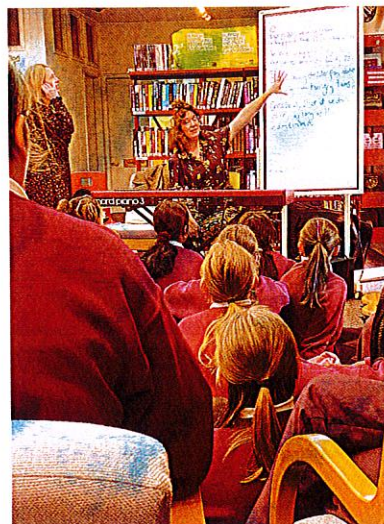
## Presentation of Projects.



Well Done to girls in Fourth Class who have been very busy presenting their projects in class. Lots of research and wonderful presentation.

## Gardening/DIY Club.

Girls in Fifth Class have worked very hard, under the supervision of Múinteoirí Noemi and Geraldine. The fence in the 'Fairy Garden' has got a well-deserved makeover !!



Second Class Girls are busy on an Autumn Trail.



# Congratulations

*Second Class.*



Very Well done to Ella Forristal ( Sixth Class) who competed in a Horse-jumping Competition at Maryville Stables recently. Ella competed on her pony 'Bandit' in the clearing challenges.

*Second Class.*



*Fourth Class.*



*Third Class*



*Fifth Class.*

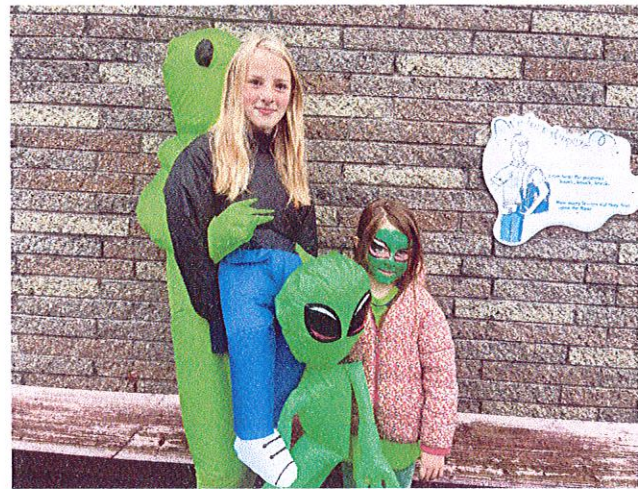


# Space Week in St. Joseph's.

Space Week took place this year from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> of October. The girls take a huge interest in this topic and the standard of the exhibits presented by girls in Second to Sixth were exceptionally high. This was an onerous task for Múinteoir Orlaith and members of the Student Council who had to choose three winning items for each class. Our 'Dress Up For Space Day' was great fun and delighted to see so many outfits created from recycled materials. The highlight of the week was the parade in the playground.



*A trip in a Spaceship.*



*The Aliens have landed.*



*Very well done to everyone for making such a great effort supporting 'Space week in St. Joseph's.*



*Four – in – a – Row.*



# Visitor to St. Joseph's

## Internet Safety.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of October we welcomed a 'Zeeko' presenter to speak to the girls from third to Sixth class on how best to navigate internet usage and online safety. Zeeko Education recommend a community based approach to reduce risks so both Staff members and Parents were made aware and given a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities facing children online. Some of the issues addressed included Cyber-bullying, Inappropriate Content, Stranger Danger, Digital Footprint and Social Media/ Excessive Internet Usage. The girls engaged very well with the presenter and we hope that we are all empowered following this presentation. As our midterm approaches and the girls will have more opportunities to spend on their devices we might all remember one important rule.

**STOP, BLOCK, TELL.**

Reinforce the risk of strangers online,  
Encourage the girls to block strangers,  
Emphasise the importance of accounts on private and to ensure that you tell an adult immediately.

## *Drama in St. Joseph's.*

Our Drama teacher, Pam Golden commenced her classes on the first week of October with 'Space' related games and activities. Girls in Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class will shortly start work on their Christmas Plays. In the second term girls in Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth classes will focus on the Feis Maitiú Competition. Not forgetting Sixth Class who will produce their annual show .

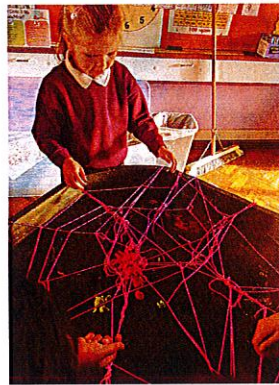
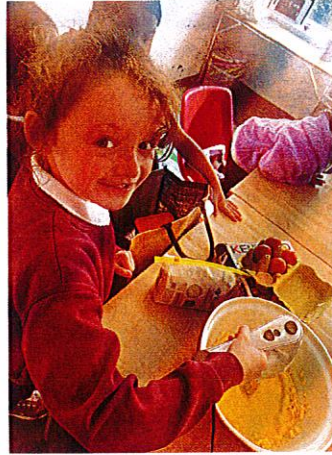
## **Playball returns for Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second.**

We were so delighted to welcome Lorna O'Regan from Feel Good Health & Fitness to St. Joseph's on the first week of October. It is envisaged that Lorna will focus on the fundamental movement skills and fun games for the next six weeks.



Aistear is a framework for learning through play. During Aistear time each group moves to a new station daily. Stations include Role play, Investigation/Exploratory, Literacy (including iPads for phonics /letter formation etc.), Construction/Motor skills and Creative Station (e.g, Junk/Recycling Art). During the month of October, Junior Infants have been busy collecting leaves and learning about Autumn. Senior Infants have been busy exploring shapes and building with Lego and Polydrons. Our First Class girls are testing out new recipes ahead of the Halloween Season.

### Stirring Up New Recipes.



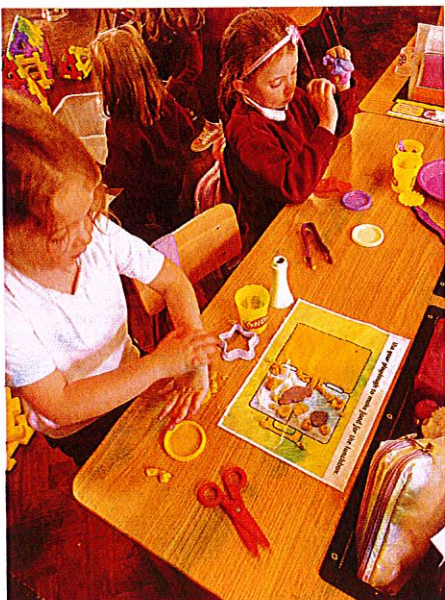
Great Fun Creating Webs.



Junior Infant Girls are busy collecting the variety of leaves from the playground.

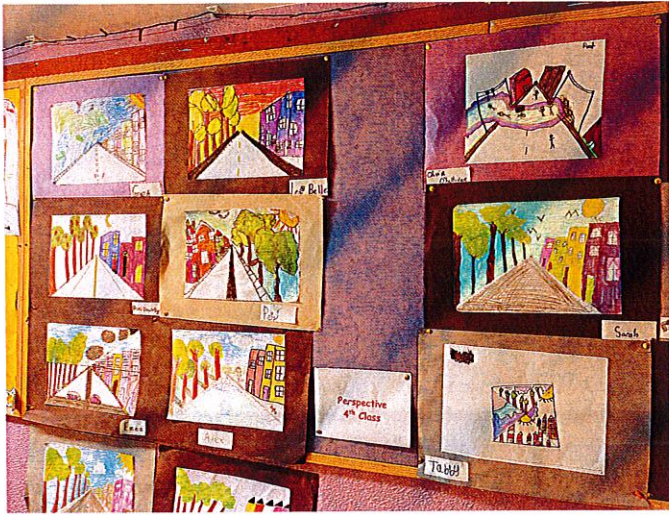


Art Station.

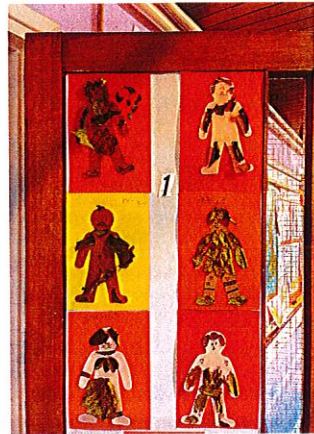


# Art Exhibition in St. Joseph's

## Fourth Class



## First Class.



## Third Class.



## Second Class.



## Senior Infants



## Junior Infants



# Inter Schools Camogie Blitz and Orienteering

## **Camogie Blitz in Ardfield.**

A group of girls from 4th, 5th and 6th took part in a camogie blitz in Ardfield on Monday 23rd of October. They played Ardfield NS in the first game in terrible weather conditions. After a great performance, the girls were unlucky to come out on the losing side by just a point. The girls played Ballinacarriga NS in the shield final. This was a very exciting game which ended up going to extra time. Unfortunately, Ballinacarriga ended up winning after a very sporting game. Thank you to Ardfield for hosting the blitz. Well done to all our girls who represented our school so well.

## ***Orienteering in Tramore Valley Park.***

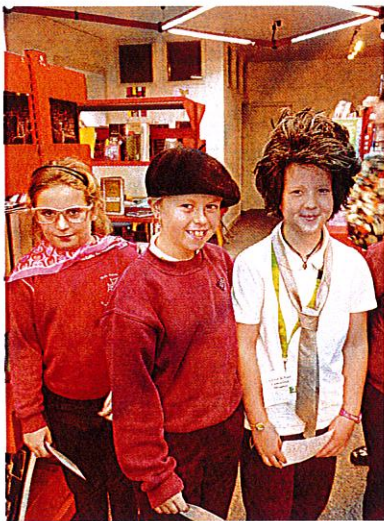
Fifth Class girls enjoyed an introduction to Orienteering in Tramore Valley Park on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of October. The girls were delighted to utilise their skills and enjoyed the course. This was a non-competitive event but the girls competed against each other to reach the finish line.

## **Camogie Blitz in Ardfield.**

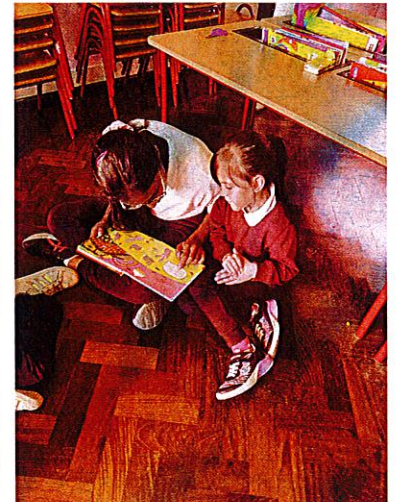
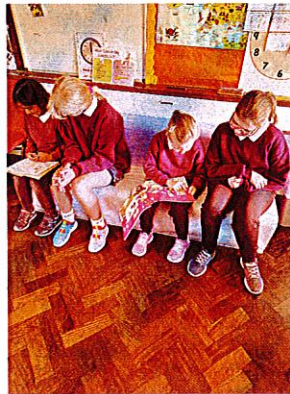


# Workshops in Clonakilty Library

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Girls in third class enjoyed a very interactive workshop with Cork author, Leona Forde. Leona is an English and history teacher and the author of the 'Milly Mc Carthy books. The girls could easily relate to the adventures of the fun-loving 'Milly' and engaged in some short drama and Readers theatre.



## ***Buddy Reading.***



## ***Our Favourite Author.***



The 'Isadora Moon' Series is proving to be a very popular choice with our Second Class Girls. We have just invested in 17 of these books and not forgetting the adventures of 'Mirabelle.

Well Done to our Fifth Class girls who buddy up with girls from First Class twice a week. The senior girls have developed a lovely rapport with the younger girls and lots of interesting conversations and reading takes place.

## ***Our School Library.***

Our school library has now relocated to the foyer. Sixth Class girls operate a mobile system this year. Each month they visit each classroom and exchange books from the class libraries.

# The AMAZING



Tuesday  
 On tuesday morning, 6th class did protractor work. We learnt how to find the angles in many shapes such as squares, triangles e.t.c. We did many sums such as p37 A 1, 2, 3.

Wednesday  
 On wednesday, we ran the maths stations. There were many stations such as patterns, shapes, estimating and puzzles. One of the stations had things called feely tubs full of marbles

and coins, you pulled out some things from the tubs and you have to find out the answer. answers

## Thursday

On Thursday, we started by doing more protractor work in the morning. first we drew some triangles by reading the intel they gave us such as angles and cm. There were many angles to draw in school and it was a great experience. We did mental maths in the morning. we had a difficult question at the end but our teacher explained it! Thank you!

