



Scoil Iognáid de Rís

Winter
2025

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Scoil Iognáid de Rís
Scoil Náisiúnta





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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

With the arrival of our Christmas Holidays we can all look forward to a well-earned rest after an extremely busy and enjoyable term.

We take great pride in our school and the quality of education we provide for our pupils. I thank you most sincerely for your continued support, co-operation, and commitment to our school.

We are blessed with an exceptionally good staff, Parents' Association and Board of Management who want nothing but the very best for every pupil in our school. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that every pupil in their care is cherished, safe and receives a high-quality education.

I can't speak highly enough of the wonderful pupils we have in our school. It is heartening to hear visitors to our school speaking so highly of you all. We are extremely proud of each one of you. We look forward to seeing you on January 5th. A special word for those pupils who are on the various committees we have in the school. Your contributions are invaluable as we constantly seek to improve our school.

We held our Information Evening in the school in November. This proved to be a very successful evening. We are looking forward to welcoming both Junior Infant – 2nd Class girls and boys to our school next September. We will still enrol boys from 3rd to 6th Class as per our enrolment policy. We will commence accepting applications for September 2026 in January. The admissions window will remain open from January 5th - 30th. Please spread the good word about our school.

As our school continues to grow, so does its footprint. Thankfully, we opened two additional modular classrooms in November last. These additional classrooms have made a huge difference to our school. Building works are also scheduled to take place in the coming years, with a further five classrooms due to come on stream. This project is currently at design stage.

A sincere word of thanks to Tom in the office for producing such a wonderful newsletter. He sets high standards for himself and is constantly raising the bar! I really hope you take the time to read this brilliant publication. It gives you a flavour of the amazing work that goes on in our school.

I take this opportunity to wish all in our school community a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and may 2026 be a happy and healthy year for all.

Nollaig Shonasach agus athbhliain shuaimhneach daoibh go léir.

Le gach dea – ghuí,

Níall Bergin, Principal.





Christmas Jumper Day

There was a huge excitement throughout the school on Thursday, December 11th when we had our Christmas Jumper Day for charity.

A big thank you to our hardworking Parents' Association for organising this wonderful event. We were thrilled to hand over €720 to Santa which would go towards Temple Street Children's Hospital. Ho ho ho!!



The boys and girls were thrilled when Santa called in on his sleigh with one of his elves. Santa had chocolates for every pupil in the school and announced a night off from homework for all.





Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays





Christmas Concert

We held our Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 17th. It was great fun. We had a brilliant performance by the CBS Boys Choir. Each class put on a fantastic show to entertain the audience. The standard was extremely high, and it was evident that pupils enjoyed being on the stage. We have some future stars in our midst!

A very big thank you to the Parents' Council, Principal, teachers, Tom, Michael, Elaine and parents and friends who helped make our Christmas Concert happen and be such a success.





Christmas Club 2025

On Saturday, December 6th, we held a Christmas Club from 10am – 2pm. It was a jam packed day full of activities and fun. We got to play some active games like snowball dash, decorate the tree, reindeer tag and snowball relay with lots of running around. We made some beautiful art pieces like decorations for the tree at home and cute reindeer headbands. We really enjoyed the stations with activities like “oh deer!” where we stacked little reindeer, pin the nose on Santa, stocking search where we spun a spinner to find an object in a Christmas stocking, Christmas tree cup stack game, build Santa’s sleigh and reindeer ring toss.



We drank some delicious hot chocolate with marshmallows and finished the day with ‘Pass the Parcel’ where everyone got a gift. We can’t wait for next year’s Christmas Club!





Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

Ann Kiely from Team Hope was very grateful to receive our donation of over 120 shoeboxes this year. A huge thank you to all the parents and guardians who helped prepare the shoeboxes and to the army who were delighted to collect them from the Senior Infants.



Aquatics

Rooms 7 & 12 have just finished their swimming lessons and Rooms 1 & 10 will begin their lessons on Thursday, 15th January 2026. A letter with more information will be sent out in the New Year.

Extra Curriculum Activities

Our Extra Curricular Activities Programme started in October. Extra-Curricular Activities are hugely popular in our school, and we are very happy with the wide variety of activities available in our school.



and more throughout the year.

A brochure for the next term of Extra Curricular activities will be sent out in the near future.

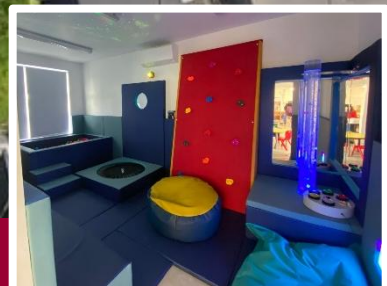
Enrolments 26/27

Enrolment applications for the 2026/2027 school year will be accepted from January 5th – January 30th. Application forms are available from Tom in the office and our [school website](#).

We urge you to spread the good word about our school. Remember, next September we will **welcome Junior Infants – 2nd Class girls and boys and boys from 3rd – 6th Class**. We held an extremely successful Information Evening in November. We look forward to welcoming new pupils to our school.



Welcoming Junior Infants – 2nd Class Girls & Boys and Boys from 3rd – 6th Class in September 2026.



See the **fantastic facilities** that
Scoil Iognáid de Rís has to offer.

Check out our **website, social media,**
or **contact us** for more information.



Enquiries to office@cbsprimarykilkenny.ie or (056) 7761739



Silver Circle

As you are aware, every year we try to enhance the learning experiences and opportunities for your children. This is done through upgrading our school building or adding further to our resources.

With this in mind, we will be having a Silver Circle fundraiser in January. We haven't held such a Silver Circle in many years. As always, we will be counting on your support to ensure this fundraiser is a success.

A letter with more information about our Silver Circle fundraiser will be sent out in the New Year.



Freshtoday Brand Ambassador Cook-Off

Freshtoday have something new this year: a **Freshtoday Brand Ambassador Cook-Off** filmed with celebrity chef and Freshtoday ambassador Kevin Dundon! It's fast, funny, and full of genuine cooking surprises!

The full Christmas special goes live this **Sunday, December 21st at 8pm** across their social media channels, and its an opportunity for families to tune in and enjoy it over the break.

To give you a sneak peek, they've released a short [bloopers reel](#) on Instagram - packed with lighter moments, kitchen mishaps, and plenty of laughs.

Green Schools

Christmas is here and the festivities are near. We are conscious that Christmas can be a time of high waste disposal and additional high energy consumption. There are simple steps people can take to reduce, reuse and recycle. We at Green Schools would like to give some tips on how we all can make the festivities more sustainable and eco-friendlier for the environment.



Top Tips

- When shopping, minimize food waste and avoid unnecessary purchases by making a shopping list.
- Look up recipes for food leftovers.
- Minimize use of disposable plates and cups.
- Re-wear your old Christmas jumper instead of buying a new one.
- Use LED lights - which are safer, don't overheat as much as traditional lights and use less energy.
- Use old Christmas cards to make present labels.
- Don't forget to recycle old batteries correctly.
- Bring used Christmas trees to waste tree collection points after Christmas.

We hope you find some of these tips useful this year and remember we all have a role to play however small in protecting and promoting an eco-friendly Christmas.



Finally, on behalf of the Green Schools committee and Miss Boyle, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and best wishes for a peaceful New Year.

Miss Boyle and all the Green Schools Committee.



Confirmation & First Holy Communion

Our First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes will be following the 'My Faith' programme in preparation for the Sacraments. At a recent meeting Fr. Dermot Ryan outlined the workings of the programme.

Important Dates:

First Holy Communion – 11am in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, May 2nd.

Confirmation – 11am in St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday, March 6th.

Dicksboro G.A.A.

A sincere word of thanks to Dicksboro GAA for providing a GAA coach, Steven Farrell, to our school every Friday. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to take part in GAA coaching. It is great to see all of our pupils taking part and enjoying playing the game.

Hurling coaching will begin in earnest in January. This will involve lunch time coaching and hurling after school also. Hopefully, the weather will be good to us!



Music Generation

As you are aware, all pupils in our school take part in Music Generation classes. Our 4th – 6th Class pupils learn to play the ukulele with Paul Horahan, our 2nd and 3rd Class pupils have samba drumming with Tom Duffy and the junior end of the school engage with the Music Makers programme with Sandra Collins. We look forward to continuing working with Music Generation Kilkenny in the New Year.



We thank Music Generation Kilkenny for their expertise and commitment to our school.





SING OUT Concert

On Friday, December 12th, our 3rd and 4th Class pupils took part in Music Generation's 'SING OUT' concert in St. Canice's Cathedral. Barbara and Claire from Music Generation Kilkenny worked with our pupils for six Mondays in the lead up to the concert. The boys sang superbly in what was a lovely evening.



School Gaelic Football

Our school Gaelic Football team were extremely competitive this year. The boys narrowly lost out to eventual finalists, Rower Inistioge, in the quarter final. Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Farrell and Ms. Cantwell did fantastic work with the team and we thank them for this. Thanks to all of the parents who helped out with transport throughout the year.



School Choir

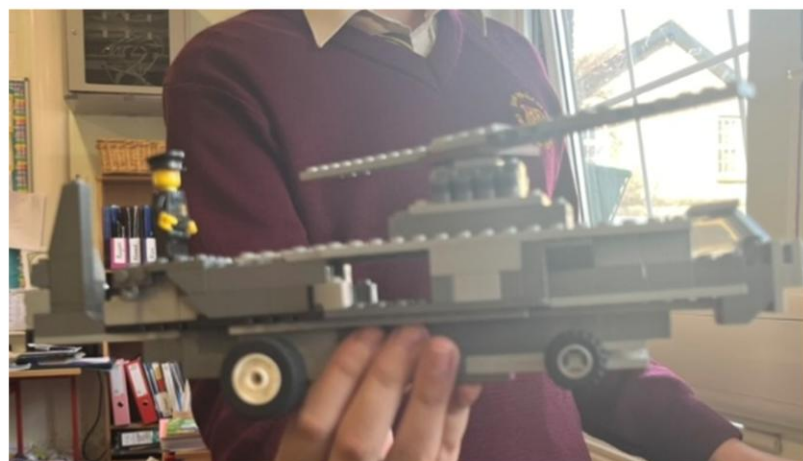
Our school choir under the guidance of Mrs. Bolger and Mr. Leahy have been very busy this term. The boys sang at our Information Evening and they also took part in the AIB Goal Mile, a fundraiser for Aoiibheann's Pink Tie in Loughboy Library and the Lions Club Christmas Concert. The boys sang brilliantly at these events and they also made further appearances at our two Christmas Concerts. We'd like to thank our choir for the commitment they have shown with early morning practices and so much more. A special word of thanks to our choir conductor, Mrs. Bolger and Mr. Leahy for preparing the choir so well.



Lego Construction Club

Lego Club has taken a well earned break for the festive season. Whilst I am sure many of our members will spend their time creating amazing builds over the break, we cannot wait to return bursting with creativity and ingenuity in the new year!!

This term, whilst using many different themes to create builds, an important key focus was on free play. Without instructions or restrictions, members are allowed to experiment, problem solve and learn through trial and error. This builds confidence, self-esteem and encourages independent thinking whilst all through the safety of play.



All members show great interest, encouragement and respect when pupils present builds to their peers. This develops their communication skills and encourages pride in their creations.

We hope members get to experience the joy of building with family members and friends, spreading the magic of play. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas from our amazing lego build community to yours!





Tennis

Twenty-one boys from 2nd to 6th class have taken part in tennis lessons every Thursday. Boys have been working on all of the skills necessary to play the game of tennis. Each lesson focused on specific shot or skill. Our focus was on learning the skills through fun cooperative and competitive games. The boys have worked on their forehand, backhands, serve and volleys. Well done to each and every one of the boys who all made great progress this term. Well done to the boys for their great attitude towards learning new skills and shots. The boys really enjoyed our final 2 lessons which focused on matchplay. It was great to see all of the boys put their skills into action in the matches. Well done boys!





Aladdin Connect

We use Aladdin Connect daily to help keep parents up to date throughout the school year. This has strengthened the link between our school and parents and helps parents to communicate with the school and monitor progress. The school will also use this free app to keep you updated on school events.



School Calendar 2025-26

TERM 1

Friday, 19th December: Christmas Holidays. Closing at 12.30p.m.

TERM 2

Monday, 5th January: Re-opening after Christmas Holidays.

Monday, 2nd February: St. Brigid's Day (School closed).

Thursday, 19th – Friday, 20th February: Mid-Term break (School closed).

Friday, 6th March: Confirmation in St. Mary's Cathedral at 11am

Monday, 16th March: School closed.

Tuesday, 17th March: St. Patrick's Day (School closed).

Friday, 27th March: Easter Holidays. Closing at 12.30p.m.

TERM 3

Monday, 13th April: Re-opening after Easter Holidays.

Saturday, 2nd May: First Holy Communion in St. Mary's Cathedral at 11am.

Monday, 4th May: May Bank Holiday (School closed).

Tuesday, 5th May: School closed.

Monday, 1st June: June Bank Holiday (School closed).

Tuesday, 2nd June: School closed.

Thursday, 25th June: Summer Holidays. Closing at 12.30p.m.

**** The calendar is not complete and may have to be amended from time to time, but due notice will be given of any changes.**

**** PLEASE KEEP THIS CALENDAR FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

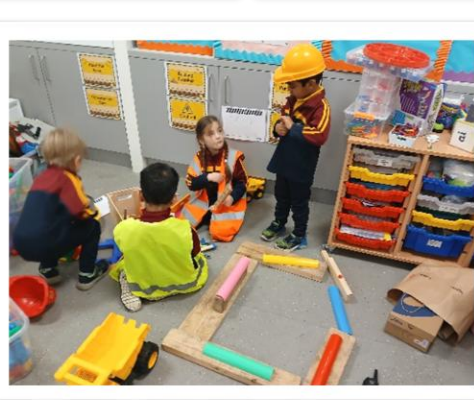
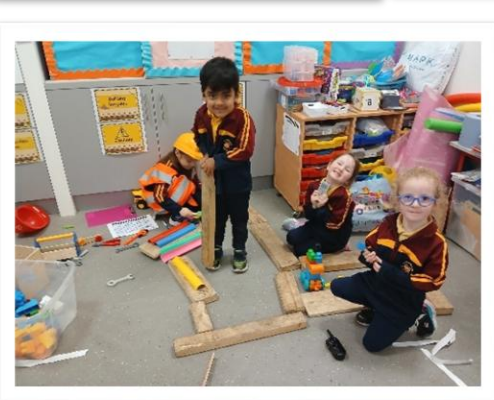


Ms. Condon's Junior Infants Class

Junior Infants have been extremely busy this term. We have been working hard learning our new sounds. So far, we have learned about s, a, t, i, p, n, c & k. We are learning how to blend the sounds together and have been having lots of fun reading our sounds, writing our sounds and making our sounds in sand, paint and using playdough.



In November, we learnt all about Construction and building. We designed buildings and built them with different materials, and we listened to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. We had great fun with puppets retelling the story and sequencing the story.





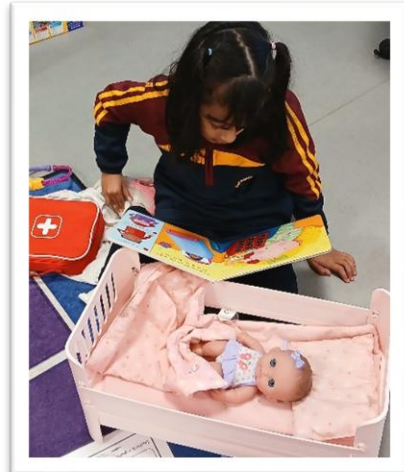
We took part in Science Week and did experiments like making a pinecone open and close. We made an egg float with salt, and we even made our own rain cloud.



We have been working on our numbers from one to five and have been using five frames and number lines. We play lots of games to help reinforce our number knowledge and practice writing the numerals too.



We also learnt all about the Doctors. We loved pretending to be doctors and making our doctors appointments. We enjoyed the rhyme Ms. Polly had a dolly.





Our theme this month was Christmas. We learned all about Santa's elves and how they design the toys, make the toys and then have to wrap the toys to be ready for Christmas Eve. Such busy elves!! We had the opportunity to design, make and even built a sleigh for all of the presents during play time. We even made some reindeer food for Christmas Eve. Would you believe that Santa Claus even came to our school to wish us all a Happy Christmas!



It was so exciting and we all got to wear our Christmas jumpers. We even had time to perform a song and poem on stage for all our families and friends. It was so exciting and the boys and girls were FANTASTIC. It has been a brilliant term so enjoy the break.



Have a happy and peaceful Christmas
and see you all in the New Year.

Nollaig Shóna dhaoibh go léir,
Ms. Condon





Mrs. Larkin's Junior Infants Class

Our class have continued to work hard and enjoy learning through play. We have been learning lots about the doctor's office and what happens there. The children loved pretending to be the receptionist, the nurse/doctor and the patients! We have lots of budding doctors and nurses in our class. In December we had lots of imaginative play in Santa's workshop where toys were designed and built. Presents were wrapped and, of course, Santa himself had to check that the work was up to scratch!

We have continued to work hard at learning our numbers through station teaching, interactive online lessons and plenty of games. The children love to practice writing their numbers on their whiteboards. We have also learned lots about 3D shapes and we checked if they can roll, slide and stack. We have been very busy learning about letters and the sounds that they make. So far we have learned S,A,T,P,I,N, C, K. We love to draw pictures of the things that begin with these letters.



We have also started to do shared reading with our parents at home. This is lots of fun and we look forward every week to getting our new books. A very important story that we learned about was the Three Little Pigs. We made their houses; some straw, some sticks and some bricks. We even learned a song about them with Sandra!





We were lucky enough to have a couple of cricket lessons with Bernard in the yard. This was lots of fun. In our school we are very lucky to have STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) kits. We have great fun playing with these kits. We also love building with Polydrons. We build houses, garages, rockets and pyramids! There are lots of fantastic builders in our class.



On Thursday, December 11th we had a very important visitor to our school. Santa! He came in his sleigh with one elf and his reindeer. We were so excited to meet him. He told us how important it is to be good children and he was kind enough to give each child a chocolate lollipop. We also loved practicing for our Christmas show and performing for our parents and grandparents in the school hall. We learned a poem called Five Little Christmas Trees and a song called The Reindeer Hokey Pokey. We did a great job and everyone was very proud of us!



We are really excited for the Christmas holidays and a well-deserved break from all the hard work! Happy Christmas everyone!!



Mrs. Ryan's Senior Infants Class

Mrs Ryan's Senior Infants have had a busy November and December. Thank you to the parents who contributed to the Team Hope shoebox appeal, it is a very worthy cause and we are proud as a school to contribute every year. Our class designed and created a "Mitten Christmas" tree as part of the Yulefest Christmas tree festival. Our class enjoyed our trip to the festival to see our tree among the 100 other Christmas trees!



We had continued fun in our Music Generation classes with Sandra and even tried some cricket. We also worked hard in class and enjoyed practical maths games. We took a trip to the Post Office to post some Christmas cards as a surprise to Mr. Bergin. The girls and boys were wonderful in their show concert with lots of lovely smiles. Wishing you all a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" from all in Room 6





cbsprimarykilkenny The countdown is ON!!!! Senior Infants ensured letters to Santa were safe and secure at @anpostofficial and were sent on their way! Now for the tricky part... Waiting 🤔📬🎅🎄

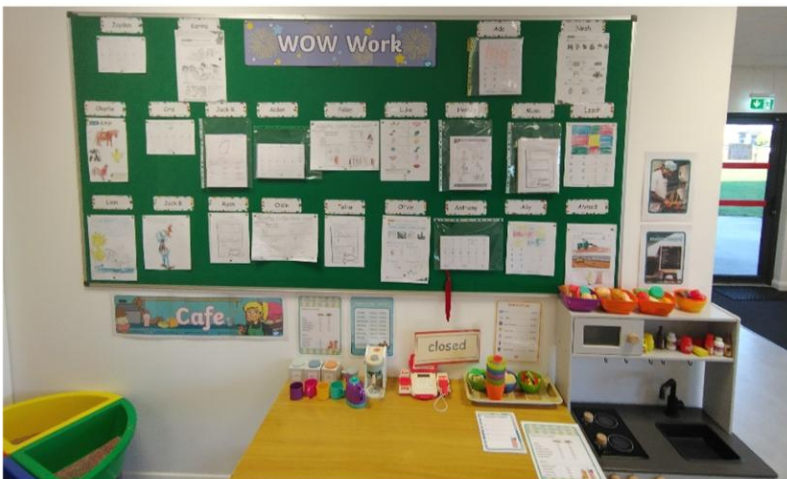
20th





Ms. Walsh's Senior Infants Class

We have been so busy here in Senior Infants for the past two months. After midterm we were excited to move into our brand new classroom which we have been really enjoying.



In November we learned all about the theme of food. We even did some printing using vegetables and paint.





We also celebrated Science Week where we made our own musical shakers with different foods inside. We then tested them out to see which ones were the loudest and which were the quietest.



Bí Cineálta Week was at the end of November. We had lots of fun teaming up with our buddies in 5th class who were super nice and helped us write our acts of kindness on strips of paper to make a chain. They even stayed for a while and joined in on our playtime!



Odd Socks Day was so enjoyable - we loved looking at all the crazy socks around the school that day too.



In December our theme was the Post Office. We wrote some letters to Santa and took a trip down to the Post Office to send them off to the North Pole. We even stopped by the sleigh in Market Cross on the way back for a spin! A huge thank you to Luke's Dad who let us borrow a real uniform from An Post - we had a great time trying it on and delivering parcels around the classroom.





We also took a trip to St. Canice's Cathedral to see the Christmas Tree Festival. It was great fun walking around and picking out our favourite ones.

As always we have been so busy each day at playtime - acting, dressing up, drawing, colouring and building among many other things. This is definitely our favourite part of the day!



A big thank you to all the parents who came to watch our Christmas concert. The boys and girls practiced so hard and did a wonderful performance on the day. Senior Infants have worked so hard this first term and deserve the well earned break. Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Ms. Walsh





Mr. Fitzpatrick's 1st Class

First class enjoyed a wide range of extra curricular activities this term. They had a great time learning about a new sport called cricket while also continuing on with their GAA sessions with Steven on Fridays. They've really enjoyed being active and working as a team.

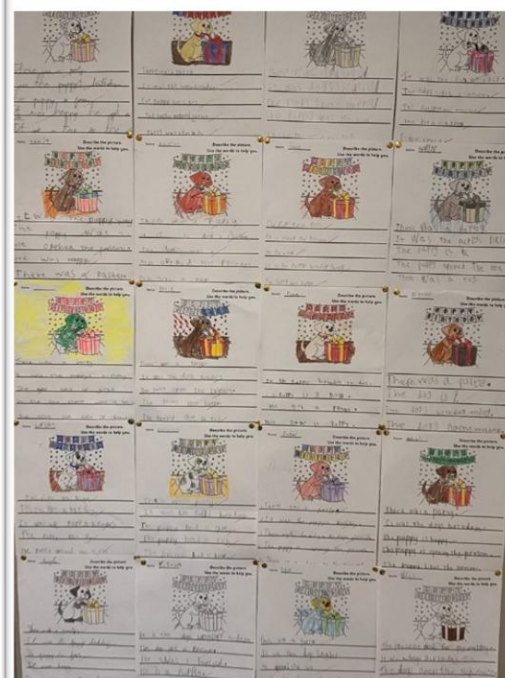
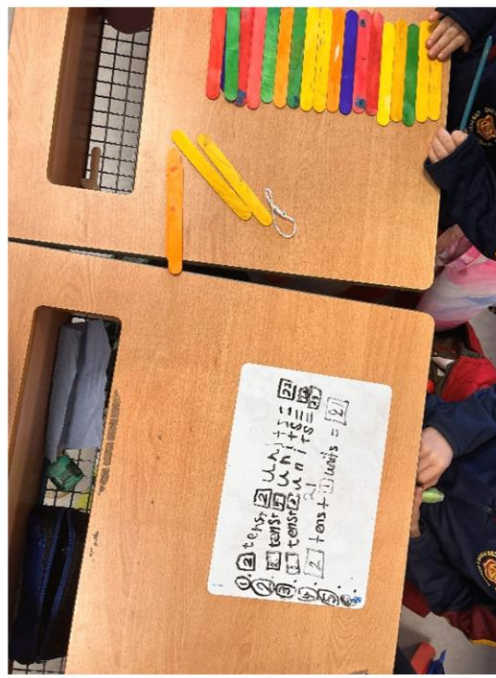
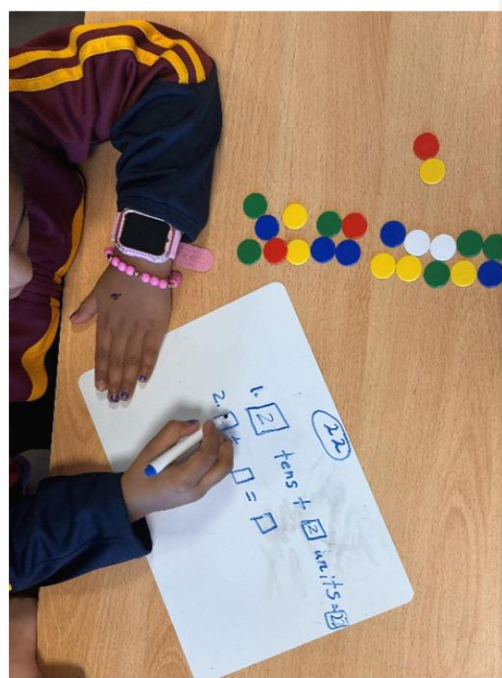
Music Generation

Sandra, our music teacher, has done a great job with first class. They have been learning how to use their body to make different sounds and have been using different instruments to help them sing along to songs in class.



Numeracy & Literacy

The hard work hasn't stopped in Maths and English this term with 1st class! They have continued on with their literacy stations and always have a great time incorporating hands-on activities before they begin their maths work! They have also begun writing some lovely stories based on the picture given to them and have proudly displayed them in the classroom for all to see.





Santa's visit

There was great excitement with first class as they had a special guest visit the school in the run up to Christmas!! They have also enjoyed creating some lovely Christmas art to decorate the classroom with fantastic art. Christmas week they also performed 'Santa got stuck up the chimney' and 'Sneachta Sneachta' to parents and other classes in the school!





Ms. Cantwell's Class

Hi everyone! Welcome to our Christmas newsletter where we will update you all about our most recent activities and adventures.

After returning from our mid-term break in October, we started our swimming sessions in the Watershed. Every Friday morning for the last six weeks, we took the bus to the Watershed and spent some time in the swimming pool as a group. We had great fun each week!

During November, we took part in some exciting science experiments to celebrate Science Week. We worked together to complete the gummy bear osmosis experiment and everyone got a chance to test out the fireworks in a glass activity during our station teaching. The colourful display was very satisfying to watch. We also loved watching the RTE Let's Find Out episodes to explore lots of other interesting scientific topics.



Another exciting adventure for our class this term was a trip to the Watergate theatre to watch the play 'Polar Bear and Penguin' by Paul Curley and John Currivan. This humorous play was about a polar bear and penguin meeting and forming an unlikely friendship, despite living at opposite poles in the real world. It taught lessons about friendship and our changing planet. This gave us the chance to reflect on our lessons about the Arctic and Antarctic regions from last year's SESE topics.



We have been in the festive spirit for a number of weeks now and had lots of fantastic helpers once again this year when it was time to decorate our classroom and Christmas tree. Our classroom has been sparkling ever since!





We were also delighted to welcome back a special guest to our school on Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital. It was a magical morning to support such a worthy cause.



We completed lots of art activities over the past few weeks. One of our favourite art and sensory experiences this month was making puffy snowmen using PVA glue and shaving foam. We loved the feeling once they had dried and every snowman was unique! We also decorated baubles to bring home and painted colourful Christmas trees which were displayed in the hall for the Christmas Concert.

We were very busy preparing for the concert with our classes during December and we were so proud of ourselves for our involvement in the various group performances on the day. Well done to all involved!

Have a fabulous, well-deserved Christmas break boys and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2026!

Ms. Cantwell



A group of boys in school uniforms are sitting on a wooden bench in a gymnasium, playing large red and yellow drums with mallets. A basketball hoop and backboard are visible in the background.

BE THE BRIGHTEST SOMEBODY SMILING TODAY

B' cineálta

Be Kind

Kind Words, Kind Feet, Kind Words

Be kind to everyone

There's a place for everyone at home

Be kind to the people you are learning

Thank you very much!

I am the best!

A person is a person no matter how small

change the world

A large group of children and adults posing with a Santa Claus float. The float is red and yellow, with Santa Claus sitting on top. The children are wearing Christmas-themed clothing, including sweaters and hats. The background shows a street with parked cars and bare trees.

31



Transition Year Students and received a lovely warm welcome from everyone there.



We need a good rest over the holidays after such an action-packed term and we will return with the batteries recharged in January!

Gúimis Nollaig shona shíochánta oraibh go léir.



Finally, we took to the stage this week for our Christmas concert. All our hard work paid off and we gave a tremendous performance!





Mr. Leahy's 3rd Class

Seasons Greetings everyone and welcome to the 3rd Class section of the Christmas Newsletter. The section you've been waiting for! What an action packed few weeks we have had since we were with you last at Halloween. We have so much to tell you about.

In English, along with working on Explanation writing we enjoyed writing a Christmas story all about a Christmas Star.



For Science Week we learned all about our Solar System, and we enjoyed a visit to the Set Theatre for a Science Show entitled 'All About Mirrors'.



In Geography we have been learning a lot about our place in the world. Our lessons have included Irish Provinces and Counties. We used the iPads to help with our map activities which was fun and played lots of memory games in class where the last one left standing won points for their team. We also did several lessons about the types of buildings and homes found around us.





In History we learned about the origins of the Christmas tree. Did you know it started in Germany? Spruce, Fir and Pine are the three types of Evergreen trees used and baubles originated from using dried apples. We're full of totally useful facts about Christmas trees now.

In Geography, we learned about how Christmas is celebrated all over the world. We researched facts and added them to a world map.

SPHE saw us enjoying lessons about friendship, being a good friend, bullying and the effects of bullying. These were to coincide with Anti-Bullying Week.

As Gaeilge, we have been very busy. We have been improving our Irish Comhrá (Conversation), reading scéalanna like Bronntanais Nollag along with learning Christmas spellings and poems.

Wow, have we been busy performing over the past few weeks? Practicing for the Sing Out Concert, performing at the Sing Out Concert in Canice's Cathedral, practicing for our class Christmas Performance in the hall, and giving another stellar performance there. Finally performing for the whole school the next day. We feel like we've been on tour.





In Maths, the class were so excited to begin multiplication and division. It's not as difficult as we thought it would be. Multiplication is just the same as adding over and over, division is just the same as repeated subtraction. We even did some fun Christmas multiplication mosaics.

PE has seen the culmination of our Benchball tournament. Keegan, Igor, Jayden, Darragh and Alex came out on top in our final and received medals for their efforts. Well done boys!

We have been so busy with Christmas Arts and Crafts. We have painted Cú Chulainn, drawn cool winter snow globes and constructed amazing festive Christmas Trees. We'll bring them home for Christmas so you lucky parents can proudly display them all over the kitchen.



We finished off today (December 19th) with a lovely visit to the Christmas Crib in St. Mary's Cathedral with 4th Class and enjoyed some games in class. That's all for now. Until next time, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mr. Leahy and all the boys in 3rd Class!

Ms. Brennan's 4th Class

Welcome to December's news headlines from the pupils of Room 7! It's been a busy and productive few months since our last newsletter. We've learned about the Normans, written in the Recount genre, read 'Matilda' (our class novel), learned vocabulary about school in Gaeilge, practiced long multiplication in Maths and so much more. We will finish off our term with a show in the hall with 3rd Class, a visit to the church to say a prayer at the crib, a hot chocolate party and a lesson about the Winter Solstice! Here's just some of our recent highlights...

We spent the second half of Term 1 learning songs for our 'Sing Out' performance in St. Canice's Cathedral with Music Generation. The concert was a great experience for us to perform with other schools in such a wonderful space!



The weather may have sometimes been poor, but we had great fun playing games with Stephen in the hall on Friday afternoons. We also got to try out Gaelic football when the weather was a little better.





For Science Week, we went to a fun workshop in the SET Theatre, organised by Kilkenny Science Festival. Ahyan brought in a robot that he made at home!

We had the chance to work with Bernard from Cricket Leinster for a couple of lessons.



In SPHE lessons in Room 11, we continued to learn about friendships, relating to others and managing our feelings.



Harry represented 4th Class at our assembly for the launch of Anti-Bullying/Wellbeing Week.

In Drama, we created and performed short dialogues related to our reading about emigration in English. We learned about a girl called Annie Moore and her brothers, who emigrated to America from Ireland.



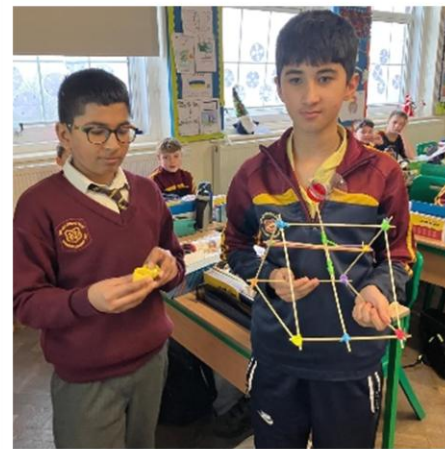
We constructed cool 3-D paper snowflakes in our Art lessons.



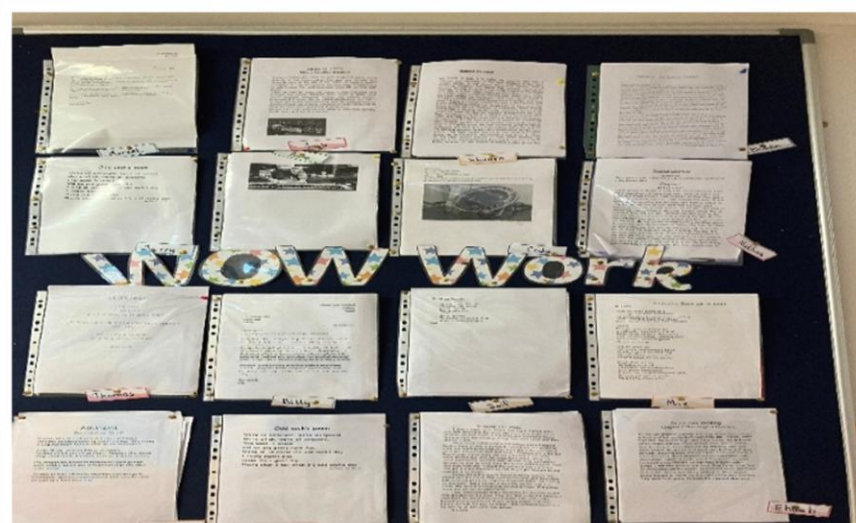
Mrs. Bolger & Ms. Minogue's 5th Class

We had a great first term in Room 12. The boys have put in a huge effort both in the classroom and at home.

The boys are really enjoying all the hands-on activities in STEM. We also had some great designs of simple machines which they worked on independently and in groups.



We have been covering narrative genres in English Writing and the boys have produced top-class work on our Chromebooks. Our writing wall is looking very impressive.





The boys have completed their 6 weeks of swimming lessons at the Watershed. They really enjoyed each less, gave their best effort and their confidence in the water has grown considerably.

In Art we have been busy producing festive displays using print techniques and pastels.



The class continues to make great strides in learning the ukulele. We have been busy perfecting Feliz Navidad and Let It Snow for our Christmas Concert. The boys did a wonderful job on the day!



We really appreciate your cooperation this term. We hope you all have a happy and restful holiday.

Ms. Minogue and Mrs Bolger.





Ms. Curran's 6th Class

Christmas Story Writing Competition

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Story Writing Competition.



Congratulations to the winners of our Poetry Writing Competition.



A Year of Cheer

In the drifting cold, a story's told
Of nights that glow with lantern's bow!
As people eat by fires of heat
And kindly treat all friends they meet!
The Streets ring Jolly, trimmed in holly!
Where Santa sips his frosty fanta
And snowflakes swirl and dances slow
A Winter walls of silver glow!
Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

By Hamdan

Dunmore Caves

Room 8 and Room 9 enjoyed a very educational Geography trip to Dunmore Caves to learn about their formation and features.



Cricket

The boys enjoyed cricket lessons this term. It is always great to try a new sport!



Science Fair

A big well done to all the boys in 6th class for their huge effort researching, preparing and hosting their science fair for 2nd class. The boys demonstrated and answered questions on a range of experiments across biology, chemistry and science. Well done boys!





Buddy Walk.

Our 6th class boys helped to take our Senior Infants on a walk in our locality for Wellness Week. Such kindness and patience shown by the boys and some lovely interesting conversations about what they saw as they walked.



Playground Leaders

Our Playground Leaders are back in action helping out at lunchbreaks in the small yard with our Juniors.

Wonder

The boys have been studying the Novel Wonder by RJ Palacio. This novel is a wonderful story about a boy named Auggie Pullman who was born with a facial difference. When he starts school for the first time in fifth grade, he faces challenges like bullying and making friends. Through Auggie's journey, the story teaches important lessons about kindness, acceptance, and choosing to be kind to others. After finishing the novel the boys enjoyed a hot chocolate and watched the movie on the last day before the Christmas Holidays.



Artists of the Month

Snowman – By Ridhit

Hot Chocolate – By Zach



Freebooters AC

Yet again the boys have been luck enough to enjoy the Astro facilities at Freebooters Ac this Term. The highlight of the Term was Our 6th Class Soccer Tournament organised by Mr. Cunniffe just before our Christmas Break.



Artwork





Mr. Cunniffe's 6th Class

This term we have been very busy working in English, Irish and Maths and making sure that we are ready for 1st year. We have also been regularly attending mass in preparation for our Confirmation in March. The following are just a few of our highlights from a very busy term.

Movie Making

This term we spent a number of weeks making movies. We got the idea from one of our text books. The boys were split into groups with one iMovie expert in each group. The groups had to use storyboards to come up with ideas for their movies and then write up their scripts using the Chromebooks. We spent a number of weeks on this project. We then rehearsed all of our scenes and identified who would play each character. We recorded our movies around the school with the help of different staff members. We then edited the movies, worked on scene transitions, added sound effects and credits. When everything was finished, we had a morning where we showcased our movies to the 5th and 6th class pupils. This was a very enjoyable experience and we learned so much from the project. The movies we made were:

- The Exceptionally Modern School
- The Boys Who Got Double Homework
- A Day in the Life of a 6th Class Boy
- The Day The Field Was Closed
- The "One More Game" Game Show
- If All The Subjects Had A Party

Kilkenny History Tour

Our class had a walking tour on November 28th with local historian Paddy Neary. We learned so much about the history of Kilkenny. In particular, Paddy spoke to us about The Kilkenny Jail Escape and The Friary Street Ambush.



The Kilkenny Jail Escape took place on the 22nd of November 1921 and was one of the most remarkable events in Kilkenny's history. Paddy showed us where the old Gaol stood on Gaol Road and showed us where the exercise yard was. We learned all about how the men escaped and the part played by Fr. Pat Delahunty. We also learned about the Friary Street Ambush on February 21st 1921. Incredibly, one of the boys in our class (James P.) is a great great grandson of one of the men (Thomas Dullard) who died during this incident. We learned so much from Paddy and it was great to hear about events that had happened in our city.





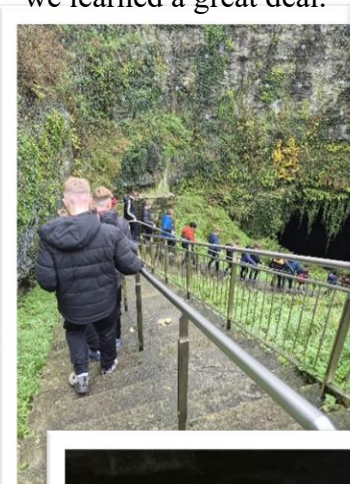
7 Wonders of the Modern World Projects

Our class had been learning all about the 7 Wonders of The Modern World. The boys had a month to create a project at home and then bring it in and present it to the class. The boys produced incredible projects on Machu Pichu, The Great Wall of China, Chichen Itza, The Colosseum, Petra, Christ the Redeemer and The Taj Mahal. We learned so much from listening to each boy present about his project. We also displayed all of our projects in Room 11 and invited other classes to come and see them.



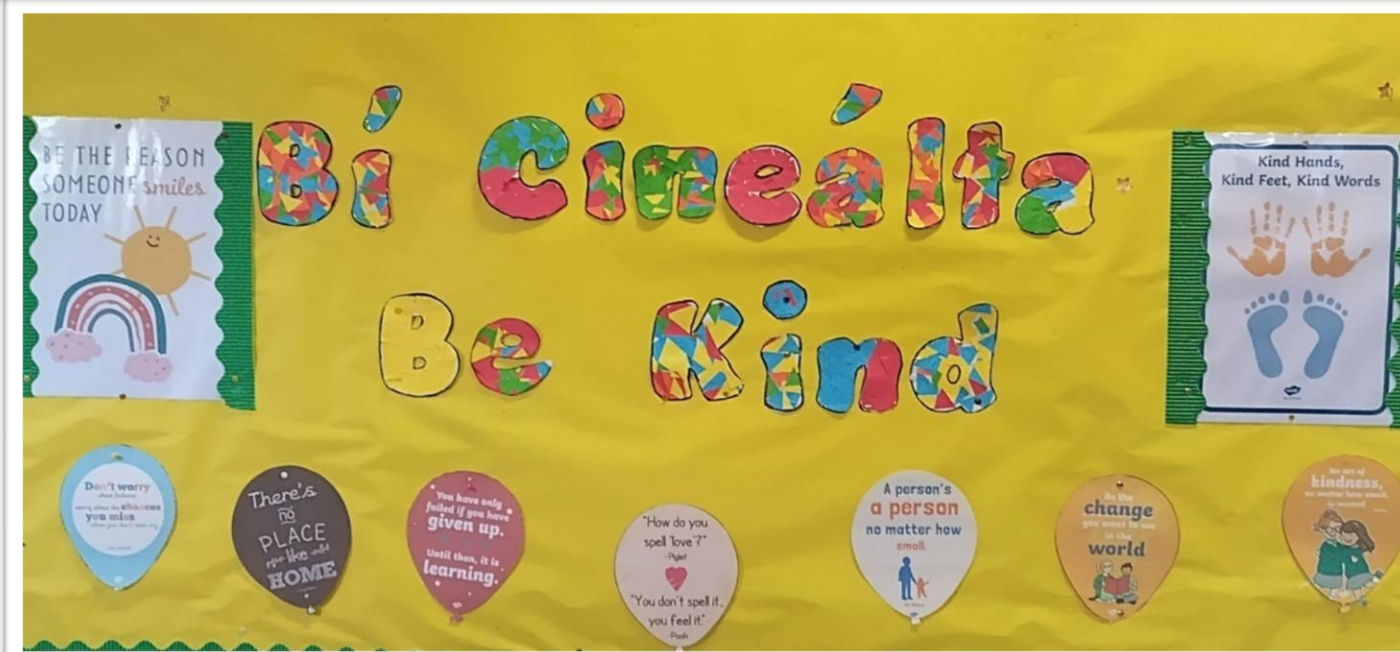
Dunmore Caves

On November 12th, the two 6th classes went on a bus to visit Dunmore Caves. This was a great opportunity to learn about some local geography and history. When we arrived we were shown a 20 minute video explaining all about the formation and discovery of the caves. Then a tour guide led us down over 250 steps into the first cave. He explained to us how the entrance to the cave opened up long ago and also how stalactites and stalagmites are formed over many years. Our tour guide brought us to one part that is considered the 3rd darkest place in Ireland. Here he turned off all of the lights for a moment to demonstrate how dark it really was. You could see nothing. This was a very good educational trip where we learned a great deal.





Awesome Art & Projects









Christmas 2025



**On behalf of everyone in
Scoil Iognáid de Rís,
we wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.**



We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday, 5th January 2026.