

URLINGFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL

Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa

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Nov/Dec Newsletter 2019

New School Building

Great news! The school is now moving forward to the planning permission stage and will be applying for planning in the next week or two - watch the gate for the planning notice!



Peace Proms

On 14th Nov, 60 children from the school choir attended Peace Proms practise in the Waterford IT Sports Centre. The show will take place on Sunday the 8th March in the same venue. Tickets for the event are already sold out!!

BOM Parent Elections

We would like to extend our congratulations to Tina Dowling and Shane Ahern, who are the new Parent Representatives on the school Board of Management. These parents are two of eight people on the BOM who together manage the school. We wish the entire BOM every best wish in their charge for the next four years. Our thanks to all parents who offered themselves for election to the BOM.

Annual Christmas Coffee Morning & Cake Sale

The annual Parent Association Coffee Morning and Cake Sale will take place on 6th December. Everyone is welcome so spread the word. Admission remains at a staggering low €3, including entry for the door prize! We are asking parents to donate some baking for the coffee morning. Items will be taken in from 8.30am on the morning.



We would also remind parents that the Jumble Sale is exclusively a children's event and adults are asked not to be in the yard during the Jumble Sale.

Christmas Raffle

The Bumper Christmas Raffle will take place on 18th December in the school after the School Carol Service. This year we have some amazing prizes including hair, food and fuel hampers, bottles of wine and spirits and lots and lots of vouchers; with over 35 prizes in all there are plenty of chances to win. Children are being given raffle cards to sell. Each raffle card costs €10 (€2 per line). We would ask each family to try to sell at least one raffle card. This money goes directly back into your children's school activities.



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School Carol Service

The School Carol Service will take place on 18th December. The whole community is welcome to attend. There may also be a certain man in red in attendance. As usual he will be hoping to bring some hope and good cheer to the sick children in Temple Street Hospital over the Christmas period. We hope that parents of Urlingford NS will support his endeavours generously.

Memorial Tree & Community Gathering

Takes place in the Old School at 6.15pm on 7th December. This is a lovely occasion that allows the community to remember together loved ones who have gone before us. The tree blessing is at 7.15pm. Mrs Claus will be present throughout the evening to entertain the children. There will be a treat stall, tea/coffees, cakes etc available on the evening.

Parish Carol Service

The Parish Carol Service will take place on Friday 20th December at 7.30pm. This promises to be a festive affair and is the perfect way to kick off the Christmas School holidays. The children are busy practising on their performances. There will also be other local singers and musicians there on the night.

Ursuline Show: Sister Act

5th and 6th Class attended a matinée showing of the Ursuline Musical Show, Sister Act, on 23rd October. The children thoroughly enjoyed the show.



Bee Bots

In October, 1st and 2nd classes paid a visit to 6th class where the 6th students showed the children how to programme the little robots. Everyone had fun, 1st 2nd and 6th class alike. This is part of the 6th Class coding programme in conjunction with Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown.



Parent Association AGM

The PA had their AGM on 21st October, details of which went out in a letter to all parents. Thanks to everyone who attended on the night, to those who went forward to the committee and to those who volunteered to help out with PA activities whenever the need might arise.

Second Level School Visits

The students in 6th class are looking towards next year when they will be embarking on a new chapter of their school careers. In early October they visited Coláiste Mhuire, Thurles where they had some sampler sessions of the subjects on offer in the school.

On 11th October the children spent the day in Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown where they got to see what student life will be like at 2nd level, moving from class to class, trying out the subjects on offer and getting lunch in the canteen.

Other schools have visited Urlingford NS and spoken to the children about what they offer.

Thanks for the Memories Henry!!

Enjoy your retirement

News from around the Classes

Junior Infants have settled well into Scoil an Chroí Ró-Naofa. We have been very busy learning letter sounds and doing great work with rhymes and songs every day! As part of our 'Ready, Set Go' Maths programme we are using our new sorting trays and we are also enjoying Aistear as part of our daily routine. Our Aistear theme in November was the Three Little Pigs and our theme for December is the Christmas Post Office. Ms Tynan joins us for Aistear. We are really looking forward to our first Jumble Sale!

Senior Infants have been doing 'Literacy Lift Off' since Hallowe'en and have been working hard to improve our reading and writing!

We are excited about Christmas and have lots of Christmas songs, poems and art to do! We will soon be learning the story of the First Christmas.

We made a lovely poster called "Be Kind" and we all put our names on it and we will try to be kind to everyone!

First Class are looking forward to Christmas and will enjoy the break after a great term's work! We started the term off with six weeks of 'Literacy Lift-Off'. This involves having 5 teachers in our room for an hour twice a week to help us with our reading. We have also really enjoyed learning lots of facts about spiders, owls and India! 6th Class invited us to their room to play with games and activities they had devised using Beebots (robot bees!). It was challenging but fun. We also visited Urlingford Library on 21st November when author, Valerie Sheehan read us some wonderful books she has written about Tony the Turtle!

Second Class are very busy at the moment doing paired reading with 4th/5th Class. We are enjoying reading a variety of books. We know that reading out loud every day helps to improve our fluency and vocabulary and becoming more expressive readers! During 'Bookville' we visited Urlingford Library and listened to the author Emer Conlon read a story from her Vroom-Town series! We were very impressed with the characters and illustrations and are looking forward to her new book at Christmas. Maybe Santa will bring it to some of us!!

We were also lucky enough to be invited to 6th Class to use the beebots to do some fun games and interesting challenges. Over the next few weeks we will be getting into festive spirit doing Christmas art and learning Carols!!

All the children in Third Class have worked hard in the first term. We are getting very excited about Christmas and constructed Winter Villages in art! We are really looking forward to making Gingerbread Men for Art and Craft in the next few weeks and we are learning some lovely new Christmas songs!!

Fourth Class had Ms Hayde on Teaching Placement for 3 weeks and enjoyed learning many things especially about BEES!

We have done lots of work on handwriting and have 3 competitions. We are looking forward to our Christmas Competition!

We have also looked at Climate Change and been inspired by the speeches of Greta Thunberg, writing and delivering our own!!

Ms MacGabhann's Fourth and Fifth Classes have been working hard with 2nd Class this term as they supervise and support the children in paired reading. This involves lots of one to one time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays where the older children listen to and help the younger children with reading.

We have been learning all about the effects of homelessness in Ireland, especially coming up to Christmas. We decided to organise a Pyjama Day in school, where the children wore their pyjamas (and lots of onesies!) to school and we raised much needed funds for Focus Ireland. All the classes joined us!

All the pupils in 5th Class have been working hard in term one. A few things we have enjoyed are: completing projects in groups based on the French Revolution; making monsters from clay; learning lots of lovely songs from the upcoming Peace Proms.

We also enjoyed a visit to Urlingford Library and met the children's author Helena Duggan. We were also fortunate to be invited to see the Ursuline show 'Sister Act' and we had great fun at a hurling blitz in Coláiste Mhuire, Thurles!

Sixth Class are very busy this term. We took part in the Bebras Online Challenge, which is part of our Stem Cluster project. It involved lots of logical thinking and problem solving.

We completed projects on Australia in groups. We learned lots of interesting facts about the land down under and the Aboriginal people.

We are collecting and sorting lots of toys, teddies, jigsaws and books at the moment for our upcoming Jumble Sale. It takes place next Friday, 6th December. We are really looking forward to it and have lots of fun activities ready too!!

Football

The boys' and girls' football teams took part in the schools' leagues and INTO Mini-Sevens. No silverware to show but as is usual with our teams they gave their very best at all times. The boys were second in their group and reached the Northern semi-final. They also played in the county semi-final of the sevens and gave a great account of themselves. The girls played in the shield final in Freshford!

Social Activists!!

The Green Schools' Committee held our second 'Show Racism the Red Card' Day this year and the children and the school was awash with colour as the children celebrated the twenty different countries represented in our school!

The school also held a Pyjama Day to support Focus Ireland in their fight against homelessness. The brainchild of Ms MacGabhann's Class, the whole school joined in and raised approx. €550 for the charity. As it was a Friday, they also had great fun doing the Kilometre Challenge in their PJs and Onesies!!

The Health Promoting School and Ms Delaney organised the Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year in co-operation with Anne Marie Quinlan, who organises in our area. Over 100 shoeboxes left the school bound for children in disadvantaged areas of the world!

AU REVOIR!

After 30 years working in our school, caretaker Henry O'Grady hung up his keys on September 26th 2019! A huge thanks to Henry for his time, care and love of our school! We won't say goodbye, just au revoir!

