

*Seoil Eoin Phoil  
Times*



**2019**



**School re-opens Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**



# Mid Term Message



Mid term break is here (so soon!) and the children are looking forward to a break from studies (but not reading!)

The term has been busy with many activities to fit in - Maths week, yoga, visits to the fire station, the library, Castletown House, Maynooth Castle, Squirrel wood, hurling, lunchtime league, U11 boys and girls' leagues. WOW days, lunchtime meditation, calendar photos, debating, Student Council elections and of course lots of work on the 11 subjects of the curriculum.

The children have worked well and are to be praised for their enthusiastic approach to their studies.

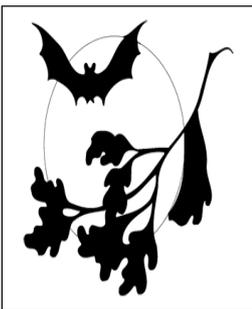
Thank you to you the parents / guardians for supporting the work of the school so diligently.

A gentle reminder that our Christmas Fair is on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December and if you would like to help in any way - volunteering, donating, buying tickets etc we would be so grateful.

We wish you all a restful mid term.

I.Lohan and staff.

## Prayer for Halloween



**Keep all our children safe  
As they go on their Hallow'een revels  
Light their way through the dark night  
And enfold them in your love**

**May the real treat in their lives  
Be the grace and goodness that multiplies  
As they grow older  
We pray this with all the saints in Heaven  
Amen**

**Halloween**

## Information from around our school

### History - Our trip to Castletown House

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes went on a trip to Castletown House. We got split up into groups of four or five. We started off the trip by putting our bags into a stable to keep our possessions safe. Once in our groups, we then each got a tour guide. When 5<sup>th</sup> class got inside Castletown House, we entered the dining room. We learned that when the ladies finished their dinner, they would go into the drawing room and sit in quietness. The men would play poker and have a great time. They used chamber pots instead of toilets as they did not have the plumbing that we have nowadays. We heard an interesting little story while we were there. A boy called Tom lived in Castletown House. Every day, Tom Connolly would race his friends on horses. One day, a man in a black cloak saw the races and he challenged Tom to a race. Tom accepted the challenge because he was so confident that he would win but unfortunately he lost. Tom raced against the man time and time again but could not beat him in a race. He was a puzzling, talented figure. One night, Tom invited the man in black to the House for dinner. When the ladies left to go to the drawing room, the mysterious man in the black cloak kept winning the poker games. It was one of the many mysteries of Castletown House many years ago!

By **Aisling Killeen**, 5<sup>th</sup> Class

### History and Sport - Lev Yashin

My name is David Ibrahimovic...just joking! It's David Ibrahim. I am a very good goalkeeper. I really enjoy playing football and goalkeeping is my favourite position. I would like to tell you about my favourite goalkeeper ever. He has gone down in history.

My idol is Lev Yashin. He is one of the best goalkeepers of all time. I really want to be as good as him one day. He was born in 1929 and passed away in 1990 so I never saw him play but I have watched many videos of him. He was known as the "black spider" or the "black panther" because he always wore black. He was so good that the Dynamo Moscow Stadium was named after him and he had many statues made of him. He was the first goalkeeper to win the "Ballon d'Or" (best player in Europe trophy). Lev Yashin played for a club called Dynamo Moscow 326 times and for his country Russia 74 times. This amounts to exactly 400 appearances. He also saved over 150 penalties in his career.

Did you know that the name Lev means 'Lion' in Russian? This is a perfect name for such a strong person.

By **David Ibrahim**, 5<sup>th</sup> Class

### Maroon Day

You may have noticed recently that our school was decked out in maroon and white. Ms. Fadian, Mr. Reilly and I decorated the whole school with Leixlip posters, flags and bunting. Some other sixth and fifth class children helped too.

This year, both our women and men's senior teams were in county finals. We thought that it was very important to decorate the school and show our support. The women's team played against Confey in the league final on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October so we got our decorations up before that. Hard luck to the team on a hard fought defeat.

Leixlip senior men's team also got to a final. They were playing in the intermediate championship final against a strong Monasterevin team. Leixlip had not reached the men's final in 33 years so it was a big occasion for Leixlip. The women's team have played in many finals over the years. We really tried our best to support these great teams so we had a 'Maroon Day' on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Every child and teacher wore maroon to show our support. We even had an assembly to support them and sang a song that we wrote called 'Up Leixlip'. Unfortunately, the men also lost their final so we really hope that they can be victorious next year. Let's keep the support going. Come on Leixlip!

By **Jake Morris**, 6<sup>th</sup> class



### Halloween Decorations

Pumpkins here and pumpkins there,  
Unlikely, but you might get scared.  
My own house is scary and can make  
you scream,  
Pumpkins painted white, red and  
green.  
Kind of like an autumn tree,  
If you love colour, look and see.  
Never give up and try your best,  
Save your decoration, put it with the  
rest.

By **Maja**, 6<sup>th</sup> class

# School News

## Maths Week: Junior Infants: Room 12

### Ms O' Gorman

We have had a super time this week completing lots of fun and exciting activities for Maths Week. Each day we worked in groups sorting and classifying many objects in our classroom. We had to sort the building bricks, food, cutlery, socks, teddy bears, farm animals, links and shapes. We organised all these objects into colour groups and then sorted them according to size and shape. During team-teaching we learned all about pattern. We were divided into five groups and had to use cubes, Lego, beads, links and pegs to make patterns. We had to look at our picture cards and make the patterns. We needed to see what colour came first, second and third in the pattern. After we learned all about pattern we could make our very own patterns. It was lots of fun.

We played many Planet Maths interactive games and tried our best to solve all the puzzles. We learned two Maths songs called 'Five Little Speckled Frogs' and 'Once I Caught a Fish Alive'. Our number rhymes this week were all about numbers. They were called 'One, Two, Buckle My Shoe' and 'Five Elephants Went Out to Play'. We did lots of counting this week and played number games for homework we learned to play 'Snakes and Ladders' with our parents. We love Maths Week in Junior Infants!



## Junior Infants: Ms O' Gorman: Room12

### Autumn

In Junior Infants we have been learning about Autumn. We love to sit in front of the autumn notice board and explain the signs of autumn. We have learned about autumn fruits, autumn weather, autumn leaves and animals that search for food during autumn season. We went on autumn walks with our families and collected many wonderful things for our Autumn Table in our classroom. We now have an excellent collection of beautiful colourful leaves, conkers, acorns, berries, nests and sycamore seeds. We enjoy comparing fir cones and pine cones and had great fun watching sycamore seeds fly and seeing why people call them 'helicopters'! We learned about the farmer harvesting crops and why scarecrows are needed to frighten the birds away. We read autumn stories and learned autumn poems. We enjoyed creating autumn trees and printing with leaves. We used our Autumn PowerPoint to learn what senses we use in Autumn. On Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October we went on our very own nature walk to Squirrel Wood in Leixlip. We loved listening to the birds in the trees, searching for squirrels, collecting leaves, conkers and pine cones. We even walked to the bridge and got to see the river Rye. We waved to all the local people and brought back lots of leaves to make our hedgehogs for art. Autumn really is the best time of year!



## **Senior Infants - Ms. Healy's class**

Our first term back to school has been filled with lots of learning and laughter! Now that we are in Senior Infants, we are working hard, making sure we have lovely writing and Gaeilge iontach!

In Senior Infants, we have been busy learning all about Autumn. We went for a nature walk and collected leaves, conkers and acorns. We love watching the trees change colour! Every week we have been practising yoga. Our yoga teacher, Rose, helps us to act out stories like 'Goldilocks' with yoga poses. It is so much fun!

During October, we have learned all about the fire station and how fire fighters work. This week, we walked to Leixlip Fire Station. Firefighters Sean and Jason showed us all of their equipment and we had a tour of the station. All of us had a turn to sit in the fire engine, use the water hose and try on the fire proof uniforms. The firefighters showed us how they help people in emergencies and we heard their loud siren. We had a fantastic trip!



# Class Room Activities

## October Newsletter Senior Infants Room 4

We have settled in well to Senior Infants since returning to school after our summer holidays. We have been learning all about Autumn and adding different items to our Nature Table such as conkers, acorns, pine cones and leaves. We have also learned about hibernation and we even have our very own 'adder snake' hibernating in our classroom! Each week we have added to Sound Town in our classroom, with two new sounds moving into Sound Town each week. We have also been busy building our word wall. We have developed a sense of responsibility for taking care of and improving the environment. In our classroom we now know how to recycle and how this can care for our environment. This month we have also actively participated in Maths Week. During team teaching we played different maths games and used tangrams to create different pictures. We used iPads and our 'Maths Eyes' to search for maths in our classroom. We also collected data and made our very own bar charts. We really enjoyed Maths Week in Room 4! In Aistear we have been learning all about the different types of homes and we have also been learning about the fire station and preparing for fire safety during Halloween. We look forward to returning to school after our midterm break feeling refreshed and ready to learn!

### Collecting and Interpreting Data from a story.



## Halloween 1<sup>st</sup> class, Ms Smyth.

My name is Paula and I am in First Class. This year we are learning to do new things. I like our Thankful Jars. A thankful jar is when we take a piece of paper and we write our favourite thing on it. We write one thing each week. We will fill our jar. I wrote I love my mom.

Paula Domenco,

My name is Bobby. I am in first class. We painted stones for mindful art. Each person in the school is doing one. We painted them because we wanted our school to look bright. I painted a Minion on mine.

Bobby Healy,

My name is Thomas. We learned how to play a new game at PE. It is called bench ball. You start by making teams. You play by throwing and catching a ball. You score by throwing it to the person on the bench. If you don't pass the ball to your team the score does not count. It is a fun game.

Thomas Lloyd,

My name is Leah. We started our Thankful Jars. To do our thankful jars we each get a piece of paper and write what we are thankful for. When you are finished writing you put it in your jar.

Leah Audley



Mrs Reynolds 1st class

We have been learning all about autumn trees. We went on a nature walk. We collected leaves from different types of trees. We matched the leaf to the seeds. We learnt all about the parts of a tree and what each part does. We have been learning how to write instructions. We wrote 'How to Paint an Autumn Tree' instructions and 'How to make a leaf rubbing'!

by Caoimhe Roche

Thomas McCabe Adam Berry.

How to paint an Autumn Tree

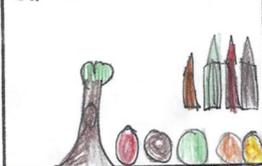
You will need:

- colouring pencils
- paint
- scrunched paper
- A picture of a tree trunk

Steps:

1. Colour the tree trunk brown.
2. Dip the scrunched paper in the paint.
3. Tap the scrunched paper on the tree trunk to make leaves.
4. Leave to dry! then shade the background in red or orange.

You will need:



An Autumn Tree



Jessica Kead

My leaf is from a Sycamore tree.

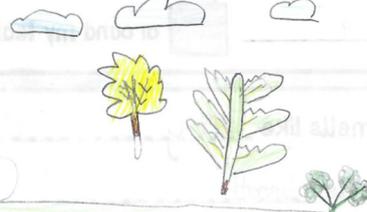
I can fit 5 cubes across my leaf.

My leaf is 4 cubes long.

The seed that goes with my leaf looks like this:



Other leaves I found look like this:



Name Jessica Kead

All About My Leaf

A Picture of My Leaf



A Close Match:



Colors I See:

- red
- orange
- green
- yellow
- purple
- brown

I can fit 12 cubes on top of my leaf.



I can fit 9 cubes around my leaf.



My leaf smells like Earthy

My leaf feels Smooth

My leaf is Sycamore



My leaf is from a <sup>Angel</sup> Sycamore tree

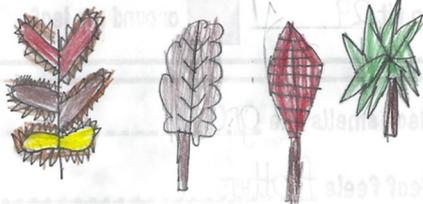
I can fit 7 cubes across my leaf

My leaf is 7 cubes long.

The seed that goes with my leaf looks like this:



Other leaves I found look like this:



Name Angel Potso

### All About My Leaf

A Picture of My Leaf



A Close Match:



Colors I See:

red orange green  
yellow brown purple

I can fit 19  on top of my leaf.

I can fit 29  around my leaf.

My leaf smells like grass

My leaf feels feathers

My leaf is sycamore

### Maths Trail 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Miss O'Connor

We got a Maths Trail booklet and it had a lot of questions in it. There were some questions about tens and units and 2D shapes. We also had lots of active questions like estimate the width of your class and then measure it using your feet. We also estimated and measured the yard and counted our heartbeat before and after jogging for a minute!

Ronan Aitcheson and Gabriel Molina -  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class Miss O'Connor

### Communications in History

We were learning about old things like type writers, walkmans, phones, radios and record players. We read about them in our book and also got to look at and touch old records, type writers and phones in our classroom. It was fascinating and we had fun.

Dylan Yaverbaum - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Ms O'Connor

### Autumn Art

We walked around the school and collected leaves that had fallen from the trees. We noticed colours like, red, brown, orange, gold and yellow. We learned about mixing colours and we mixed the colours to match the leaves. Next, we are going to cut the pages up into leaf shapes and stick them on to a bare tree we painted.

Beibhinn Silke - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Miss O'Connor

## Second Class - Ms. Dolan

We have all been working very hard here in Room 15 since we returned after the summer holidays. We have been very busy since September with activities such as Maths Week, World Mental Health Day, as well as discussing the Rugby World Cup and Autumn.

For Maths Week we carried out lots of activities such as maths trails, maths games and maths eyes. Ms Dolan encouraged us to design a maths eyes poster and share it with our class to show them where we found maths in our environment. We also became mathematicians and created our own maths word problems. Some were quite tricky to solve!

For World Mental Health Day we read a lovely book called "Under the Mask" which taught us lots of ways to cope with our emotions. We loved the three superheroes Blaze, Rustle and Crash who showed us what superhero powers they use when they feel sad, angry or worried. It was really helpful to hear their tricks!

We have also been discussing the Rugby World Cup in our class. We each got to pick a rugby team out of a hat and we designed a flag and a rugby jersey for our teams. We also learned a lot about Japan and designed posters including all the new facts we now know! Lauren even brought in her Big World Atlas Book so we could see exactly where Japan was in the world.

We have also really enjoyed discussing Autumn and taking note of all the wonderful changes that come with this lovely season. We have made a nature table to examine the different colours of the leaves, the conkers, the acorns etc. We have also learned a beautiful poem called "Autumn is Here". We have learned lots of new vocabulary on the topic of Autumn so we put it to good use and composed our own Autumn acrostic poems! It was very exciting being a poet and reciting our own poem in front of the class.

We are so delighted with all we have achieved so far this term and we hope to continue working this hard for the rest of the year!

Happy Halloween!

## Happy hallow'een



2<sup>nd</sup> class: Ms Dolan

Here are some examples of our Autumn acrostic poems that we wrote ourselves!

### Autumn

Awful weather all around  
Under the tree, leaves you can see  
Trying to gather cracking conkers  
Using coats to defend us from the cold  
Many birds trying to migrate  
Now making yummy pumpkin pie  
*By Cian Carey*

### Autumn

Amazing coloured leaves, falling and  
swirling down  
Under the hedge are hibernating  
hedgehogs  
Tumbling apples all around  
Under natures blanket  
Mostly picking pumpkins  
Nature has come to brighten up our days!  
*By Elizabeth Urbaniak*



## Confirmation Preparation

This year is an exciting year for both 6<sup>th</sup> classes. We are making our Confirmation in February. To prepare for our Confirmation we have to try to go to mass every Sunday. Last Sunday, we had our Commitment Mass. It was an exciting day as we have now officially signed up for our Confirmation and are committed to following the word of God. We are looking forward to learning more and focusing on our upcoming Confirmation.

*By Patrick Ryan, 6<sup>th</sup> Class*



## School Life



3<sup>rd</sup> class: Room 14 Mr Matthew's

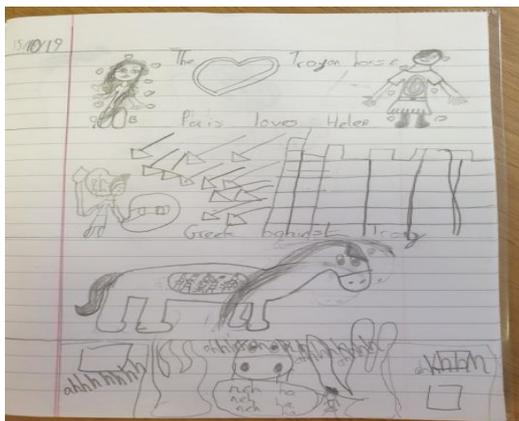
We would like to tell you about some of the things we have learned this term

### History - The Trojan Horse

We learned the story of the Trojan Horse. It was set in Greece and Troy. We have decided to tell you the story in a shorter version:

- Paris and the Goddesses were settling an argument.
- They gave him a choice between being a hero in war, ruling the biggest empire or having the prettiest girl in the world.
- Paris and Helen fell in love.
- King Menelaus became very angry and a war started.
- Greece attacked the city of Troy but they could not get over the wall.
- The Greeks had an advantage because they had a very smart leader called Odysseus.
- They left a 'gift' of a huge wooden horse for the Trojans.
- The Trojans thought they had won but the soldiers were hidden inside.
- At night the soldiers got out and they opened the gates for the army. The city was destroyed.

We also drew comic strips to show the story. Take a look!



By Charles Mc Donagh, Nicole Milejczyk and Annabel Lucas



### Science - The Human Body

We had lots of fun learning about the human body and its organs. We looked at our bones and did movement experiments to see what bones we use when we move in different ways. Then we cut out real size skeletons and connected them together using pins and glue. We cut out organs too and stuck them onto our skeletons. Our favourite fact was that we have a bone called a humerus which people call a funny bone! Can you guess why?!

By Olivia Coffey, Simon Smyth and Tadhg Friscic



### Music - The recorder

This year we started to learn how to play the recorder. Mr. Gaskin comes to our room every Tuesday morning. We learned how to hold our recorders and the notes A, B and G. We learning how to play 'Mary had a Little Lamb'. For Halloween we are practising scary music and sounds! We cannot wait! I hope we scare Mr. Matthews and Mr. Gaskin!

By Shauna Cribben

### Hurling with Coach Michael

We had our first training session with Coach Michael this year. We wore helmets and got to use hurleys! We learned about dribbling, tackling and hitting the sliotar. We had a lot of fun and cannot wait until our next training!

By Ethan Michelland

### English - Story writing

We read about pirates and a young pirate called Sam. We decided to create our own stories based on masked pirates stealing treasure. We introduced our main character, side characters and our setting as a class. Then we began to write our own versions of what happened!

By Saoirse Brilly, Eoin Roche and Saoirse Harrigan.

## 4<sup>th</sup> class : Ms Casey

### Hallowe'en Jokes by Daisy Healy

1. What do witches put on their hair?  
Scare Spray
2. Why didn't Dracula have any friends?  
Because he was a pain in the neck!
3. What kind of shoes does a ghost wear?  
Booooooots!
4. What did the ghost put on his ice cream?  
Whipped scream!
5. Who won the skeleton beauty contest?  
No body
6. Where do movie stars go on Hallowe'en?  
MaliBOO!
7. What is a mummy's favourite music?  
Rap
8. What does a vampire take for a bad cold?  
Coffin drops
9. What do witches get at hotels?  
Broom service

### My half term report by Ellie Doyle

We are having a great time this year with Ms. Casey. We started the year revising topics from last year and then quickly moved on to lots of exciting new work.

In maths we have learnt how to multiply bigger numbers and are getting faster every day at our times tables. We had lots of fun working on bar graphs and tally charts. We did a survey on the most popular eye colour in 1<sup>st</sup> class. We went in to both Mrs. Reynolds and Ms. Smyth's classes. The most popular eye colour was blue...like mine!

In drama we used story cards to make up small dramas. We also played 'Emotion Party'. Last week we got into pairs and chose a word to act out for the class. Then everyone had to guess what our word was. It was SO fun!

Is maith liom Gaeilge. D'fhoghlaim na briathra agus fóclóir nua. Rinneamar drámaí beaga agus léigh mé scéalta as Gaeilge. In SPHE we loved drawing feeling Emojis. This week we got the chance to write compliments about each other on our name posters.

All of room 3 are now experts at naming the counties of Ireland and can recite a cool poem too.

For history, we got a chance to compare toys from the past with our own toys and found out lots more information from our parents and grandparents. We are very lucky to have such a super choice of things to play with.

Mr. Gaskin has us again this year for recorder and we are working on some spooky music for Hallowe'en. We are all having an incredible time in 4<sup>th</sup> class and love our teacher Ms. Casey. We can't wait to learn lots more!

### Under 11 girls and boys lunch time leagues by Lauren Coburn

Mr. Mulcahy has set up an under 11s girls team. Our team captain is Ava and the vice captain is Varvara. They are very good captains. Mr. Mulcahy and all of the subs cheer us on. Ms. Casey goes to all of our matches and at half time Mr. Mulcahy and Ms. Casey tell us if we're doing a good job or if we can improve in certain areas.

Right now the boys have a lunchtime league but the girls league will be starting after Christmas. We are all very excited. Mr. Matthews has set up a boys under 11s team too.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who is putting all this hard work into football.

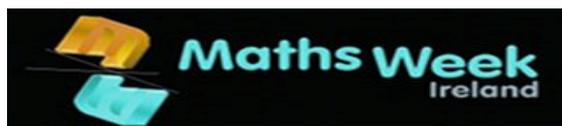
### Room 3 Art lessons by Faye Flanagan

For art we have done lots of fun things. At the start of the year we made t-shirts with lots of different sections on them like, our favourite food, colour and pictures of ourselves. We also have done self portraits but only drew half of our faces. We had space on the paper still so we filled the other side with colour and decoration. Then we wrote our names in big bubble letters. They all look so pretty. The final piece of art we have done was my favourite. We gathered leaves from outside and we left them to dry for a few days. When they were dry we painted the leaves and printed them on to our pages. We had to wait for the paint to dry before we smudged chalk pastels on the paper. After we did that everything looked really colourful.

### Hallowe'en poem by Vanessa Marrone

Down in Kerry  
it is very scary  
On Hallowe'en night  
You might get a fright  
But it is worth the sweets  
Hallowe'en is full of treats  
A witch on her broom  
Flying across the moon  
I see more witches  
Flying over ditches  
The ditches are deep  
I'd love lots more sweets  
I see costumes that are hairy  
Some are very scary





### World Maths Week: Mathletics

Mathletics is a maths programme where we can practise what we have learned in school through hundreds of online activities. We can also challenge children all over the world on Mathletics Live. So far, we have spent 182 hours online carrying out maths activities earning 54 certificates as a class.

1 week ago the class finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Europe and 1<sup>st</sup> in Ireland. We were delighted! We finished 1<sup>st</sup> in Ireland on one day earning over 10,000 points.

For Maths Week, Mr. Mulcahy set us the challenge of being the top class in Europe. With thousands of other classes online, this was a big challenge! Everyone did their very best and as of the 17<sup>th</sup> of October we are ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Ireland, 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World! This is a great achievement, especially during Maths Week. Mr. Mulcahy is very proud of the whole class in what was a team effort by everyone in the class.

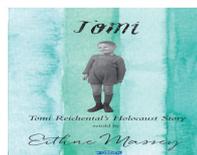
**4<sup>th</sup> class Mr. Mulcahy**

### Leixlip Trail

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, the class went on a Leixlip trail through Leixlip village. We answered lots of history, geography and maths questions. Along the way we passed by the Insect hotel, Our Lady's Nativity Church, the Old Hill, The Boat House, The Scouts Den and The Old Well. We went on the Rye River walk stopping just outside the Courtyard Hotel where we saw a family of ducks swimming. On the way back to school, we spotted a red squirrel climbing up a tree and a heron perched on a rock on the Liffey. Upon completing our trail, Mr Mulcahy asked each one of us to take a photo of a place we love in Leixlip. Everyone took beautiful photos. We are proud to be from Leixlip.

**Johanna Fotso**

**4<sup>th</sup> class Mr Mulcahy**



### Tom Reichental

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, Tomi Reichental visited the school. Tomi was born in Slovakia. At age 9, Tomi and his family were sent to a concentration camp. Life was very hard there. There was little food or clothes. Many people died. For the last 15 years, Tomi has visited lots and lots of schools. He feels that we should never forget the past but we should learn to not hold hatred in our heart. Tomi received a huge round of applause at the end and planted crocuses in the school garden to remember all those who died in World War 2 from the Jewish community. He is a very special man and we will fondly remember his visit.

**Alannah Browne**

**4<sup>th</sup> class Mr Mulcahy**

Our Locality - Leixlip

My name is Natan Banka and I want to write today about a football club that we are lucky to have in Leixlip. Leixlip United is a football club based in the Amenities Centre in Leixlip. It was founded fifty years ago in 1969. The club colours are red and white. There are teams from under 4 (academy) to adults. I play for the under 11 team. There are top class facilities in the club, including all-weather pitches and an indoor hall.

One of the highlights of the season is the Mini-Leagues, which take place every June Bank Holiday. It is open to children from the ages of 4 to 11. There are many coaches who put players together to form teams. These teams are filled with experienced players and boys or girls who would just like to try the game out. The teams then play one another. A win is worth three points, a draw is one point and a loss is no points. Last June, I was on the Bayern Munich team. We won every single game and won out the competition. I scored in each game, including the final. I won the best player trophy.

At the end of the day, everyone gets a medal and a goodie bag. I would recommend for all children to give it a go. It is free to enter. There are bouncy castles, face paints, entertainment and a hamburger truck there on the day. It is a good way to improve your skills and enjoy this great club in our locality.

By Natan Banka, 5<sup>th</sup> Class



## 5<sup>th</sup> class: Ms Hallissey

### Yoga

5<sup>th</sup> class started yoga on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Junior, Senior and First Class did it too. Rose is our yoga teacher. We have learned multiple poses and stretches such as the double boat pose, the pretzel pose, the warrior pose and the double dog pose. She also taught us how to focus by putting one of our fingers on our chin and moving our thumb from side to side and up and down. Rosa taught us poses that helps us trust each other. We go back to back and join arms, then one person leans forward and then the other person is lifted onto their back. Thank You Rose for doing yoga with us.

**By Kate, Ben, Dennis, Leona, 5<sup>th</sup> Class, Ms. Hallissey**



### Maynooth Castle

On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 5<sup>th</sup> class went on a school trip with Ms.Hallissey and Ms.Fadian to Maynooth Castle. We left at 10:50 and when we got to the train station we had to wait 20 mins for the train to come. We arrived at Maynooth train station at 11:20 and we saw the first ever school in Maynooth. It is around 750 years old. We had our small break outside the school. After we had our small break we walked to Maynooth Castle . When we got there we were split into 2 groups and we were given a tour of Maynooth Castle . After the tour, we had our big lunch in the castle grounds. We then played in the playground and as an extra treat we got sweets from teacher. After we finished playing we took the train back to school We had an amazing day. Thank you Ms.Hallissey.

**by Kamatou , James, Roisín and Aisling, 5<sup>th</sup> Class, Ms. Hallissey**

### Maynooth Castle Facts

Here are just a few of the facts we learned about Maynooth Castle:

- The castle is 850 years old.
- The Fitzgerald Family owned the castle.
- Maynooth Castle was once painted pink on the exterior. The pink paint was created by mixing white paint mixed with cows blood!
- The spiral stairs in the castle were different sizes so soldiers would have to take their time.
- On the Fitzgerald crest there is an ape because their pet ape once saved their baby from a fire.
- Silken Thomas' daughter Aoife had to marry a Norman called Strongbow.
- Silken Thomas thought his father had been killed by the king and so started a rebellion against the king of England and lost. He and his five uncles were beheaded in England and all power was taken from the Fitzgerald family.
- When the enemies tried to get into the castle, the people in the gatehouse would drop things like hot stones on them.

**By Kate, Natan, Sofiia, Darragh, 5<sup>th</sup> Class, Ms. Hallissey**

### Walk on Wednesday

We've had a very busy start to the year setting up the Walk On Wednesday committee. In September, we held an assembly during which we told the school about our WoW plans. Every Wednesday, Jake and I go around to all of the classrooms and ask how many people walked, cycled or used a scooter to travel to school. Once we've collected the data, we add it up and see which class has the highest percentage. Then we announce it on the intercom and the winning class get the 'Golden Boot' trophy and ten minutes of extra playtime that Friday. We've had a great response from the pupils so far.

Classes who have won so far:

- 6<sup>th</sup> class, Ms. O'Keeffe
- 4<sup>th</sup> class, Mr. Mulcahy
- Senior infants, Ms. Brophy

Well done to all of the winning classes. We are delighted with the effort across the school and aim to keep improving as a whole school.

So come on everyone... WALK ON WEDNESDAY!!

By Ella Hannaford, 6<sup>th</sup> class

## 6<sup>th</sup> class: Ms O'Keeffe

In our Racing Ahead, we read about Florence a young girl who worked in a matchstick factory at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We wrote diary entries on what conditions were like in the factory.

Today was just a regular day at the factory. I got up and got ready at five, left at six and arrived at six thirty. When I entered the building, it smelt like rusty metal and burning coal. The foreman was bellowing at workers as usual so without hesitation I started working. For lunch, I got a small bowl of stew. The bowl was the size of a small cup. The stew smelled like dirt and tasted like fish. My stomach was aching after. I am pretty sure I got food poisoning. At 11p.m. I strolled home because I was really tired and was anxious to lie down in bed. Hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.



By Noellee Lavrov, Room 8, Miss O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Today is my fifth day at the factory. When I came in, the first thing I always smelled was the damp air filled with sulphur. The only thing you could hear were loud footsteps, wood clanging with metal and the odd screeching sound that hurt our ears. The matchsticks are difficult to make because of the dim light and smoke that gets into my eyes. They are also hard to make because they are tiny and it makes our fingers hurt. We worked and worked until we couldn't feel them anymore. When I was walking out, I saw a few workers on the ground that had passed out from inhaling clouds of smoke. I was glad to go home to have something to eat and to look after Annie.



By Seán Hyland, Room 8, Miss O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

We have been  
poem "Blackberry



studying the Irish poet Seamus Heaney and are learning his  
"Picking". Have a read of Lidia's facts about the famous poet:

Seamus Heaney was an Irish poet, playwright and translator. His most famous poems include "Death of a Naturalist", "North", "The Spirit Level" and "Beowulf". Seamus Heaney has received the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, Nobel Prize in Literature, E.M. Forester Award, The Golden Wreath of Poetry and Saoi of Aosdána. He was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1939 in Castledawson, Northern Ireland. He was married to Marie Devlin and had three children called Michael, Christopher and Catherine Ann.

By Lidia Monaghan, Room 8, Miss O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Both Sixth Classes visited Castletown House to take part in a History tour there and to do a nature walk. Have a read of the accounts we wrote after our trip there:



I enjoyed Castletown House because it was nice to learn how the house was built. I really liked the chandelier. There were lots of secret doors in the house. The doors were used so the servants could get around the house without getting in anybody's way. In one of the rooms, there was a window that was actually a door. It is said that the person who lived there at the time would ride his horse through the door. He did this because it was quicker to get to his horse out than going to the stable and then having to go around the house. The tour was really enjoyable and I would like to go again.

By Jake Molloy, Room 8, Miss O' Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

## More from 6<sup>th</sup> class: Ms O'Keeffe

### Tomi Reichental

I really liked when Tomi said that one person didn't eat any bread so that they could keep it for the party. The one thing that made me sad was when one of the block supervisors hit one of the women in the camp. The most heart-warming story that Tomi told was when one of the officers put her hand on one of the children's heads. It was very sad how everyone was like a live skeleton in the camp because they were given so little food. It was so sad that Tomi had lost thirty five relatives from his entire family. I really liked how people had stolen potatoes for more food to eat. It was horrible to see how they acted with the people in the camp. I had really liked how they would take one piece of wood.

By **Aurimas Satkauskas**, Room 8, Ms O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Castletown House is situated in Celbridge, County Kildare. It was built two hundred and ninety years ago for William Connolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. Castletown House has over one hundred rooms and is built in Palladian fashion which was an Italian design. My favourite room was the dining room. The tour guide told us a story about the devil that was witnessed by Thomas Connolly. He invited a stranger into his home and decided to play cards with the stranger. The stranger kept winning and when Thomas dropped one of his cards, he bent down to pick it up and noticed that the stranger had taken off his shoes and had hooves instead of feet. Thomas jumped in shock and told his wife Lady Louisa to go and get the local priest. When the priest came, he threw the Bible at the devil; it deflected off the devil's shoulder and cracked a mirror. Then the devil ran over to the fireplace and disappeared. A crack was left in the mirror and it remains there to this day.

By **Ava Coburn**, Room 8, Miss O' Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

D'éirigh mé ar a hocht a cholg. Shiúil mé síos an staighre. Rinne mé tae agus d'ith mé tósta. Scuab mé mo fhiacla agus chuir mé m'éadaí orm. Dúirt mé slán do mo mhamaí agus chuaigh mé go dtí an margadh bia i lár an bhaile.

Nuair a shroich mé an margadh bia, chuaigh mé go dtí an stalla torthaí. Cheannaigh mé cúpla sútha talún, oráistí agus úlla. Chuaigh mé go dtí an stalla glasraí. Cheannaigh mé cairéad, ceann leitíse, brocaílí, cuirséad agus meacain bhánna. Chuaigh mé go dtí an stalla idirnáisiúnta. Chonaic mé Seán ag an stalla. Dúirt mé "Dia duit" le Seán. Cheannaigh mé pasta agus cáis. Chuaigh mé abhaile.



Nuair a chuaigh mé abhaile, ní raibh aon duine sa bhaile. Thosaigh mé ag déanamh an lón. Fuair mé prátaí. Scamh mé agus ghearr mé na prátaí. Líon mé crocán agus ghearr mé oinniúin. Dhoirt mé ola lus gréine sa sáspan. Chuir mé na gearradh prátaí agus oinniúin sa sáspan. Chuir mé pasta sa chrocán. Rinne mé sailéad. Bhí leitíse, trátaí, meacain bhána agus piobar sa sailéad. Chuir mé sailéad i lár an bhoird. Chuir mé plátaí ar an mbord freisin. Líon mé dhá phlátaí le ghearradh prátaí agus óinniúin. Líon mé dhá phlátaí le pasta freisin. Chuir mé citseap agus cais i lár an bhoird. Tháinig mo chlann abhaile. D'itheamar an lón.

Le **Paul Golodnik**, Rang a 6,  
Iníon Ní Chaoimh, Seomra 8

We researched some facts about the Rugby World Cup. It was very interesting to learn about the history of the World Cup and about its location this year.



The Rugby World Cup is in Japan and is every four years. Australia's 142 - 0 thumping of Namibia in 2003 remains the biggest World Cup victory margin ever. Canada is the only team to have received two red cards against South Africa in 1995. South Africa scored five drop goals against England in 1999 which is a World Cup record. Jannie de Beer scored all the drop goals in the South Africa versus England game. Marc Ellis has scored the most tries in one World Cup match against Japan with six tries. Jonny Wilkinson remains the top point scorer with 277 from one try, 28 conversions, 58 penalties and 14 drop goals. England's Jason Leonard has the most World Cup appearances between the years of 1991 and 2003.

By **Cillian Carey**, Room 8, Miss O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

-----Tomí Reichental visited our school recently. We really enjoyed listening to him speak about his time in Bergen-Belsen. Have a read of our reports:

Tomí Reichental is a Bergen-Belsen Holocaust survivor. He was nine years old when he went to Bergen-Belsen. Tomí's life changed when all the Jews from the neighbouring villages were deported. Tomí's sister died one month before they were released. Tomí was almost ten when he was released. The police started to take his friends and family away. Tomí kept his secret for over fifty years. Tomí said goodbye to his relatives and didn't see them again. Tomí was almost ten when he was released

By **Shareen Issa**, Room 8, Miss O Keeffe, 6<sup>th</sup> Class

# Halloween



## 6<sup>th</sup> class: Mrs Black / Mrs Gaffney

### Grandparents Project-6<sup>th</sup> Class Mrs Black/ Mrs Gaffney

This month in Mrs Black's and Mrs Gaffney's class, we have been doing our grandparents' project. We were so interested in doing a good job that we asked for an extension- it took us forever to complete. In this project, we had to include a booklet with an interview with our grandparents, a slideshow and if we wished, we could bake one of their recipes. Every day 3 people presented their projects to the class. Some days people brought in cakes, buns and pastries. The class said that all the baked goods were delicious. We learned so many new things about everyone's grandparents. Sean's grandparents even came in to the school. His grandad told us all about his work as a fireman and his granny made yummy apple pie!!! Áine brought in medals her great great granny won during the Irish rising of 1916. Isabelle made delicious pastries from Moldova, where her grandma is from. Jake Morris, Connor and Áine all had connections to Dublin Bus! It was so interesting to learn how our lives are so different to our grandparents. Families were so big back then and yet they still lived in small houses. They often didn't leave Ireland until adulthood and even to this day some have not left our shores. We still have a few grandparents to learn about in the coming days and cannot wait. We loved this project as we love our grandparents very much!!!

### **6<sup>TH</sup> Maths Trail**

**This is a report on our Maths Trail during Maths week.**

First, we split into groups of three with a variety of students from both 6th classes. Once in our groups, we were given a maths sheets with maths challenges that we had to complete around the school. We set off to the PE hall to count windows and calculate the perimeter and area of the spacious floor.

Secondly, we walked outside to the school yard and timed each other running the width of the yard, then we calculated the average time.

Thirdly we headed inside to the foyer and spent two and a half minutes watching the road and recording the amount of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and other modes of transport which passed by within the timeframe. Then we constructed a bar graph to demonstrate our results.

Finally, we travelled back to our classroom to locate shapes and angles around the classroom and then illustrated what we had found.

We really enjoyed participating in this maths trail. It was fun and it got us out of the classroom to stretch our legs and exercise our minds at the same time. We hope we can do it again sometime soon.☺  
By: Rosie, Erin, Owen and Seán

### Confirmation Commitment Mass

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at 9:45am, we made our way to the church for our commitment Mass. This was our first formal step in our preparation for our Confirmation. We have a new priest preparing us for our Confirmation. His name is Father O'Brien. At this Mass, we came to the altar to make some promises and to profess our faith in God. Before the Mass, we prepared certificates. We had to write three promises that we would take on and then we decorated the sheet. At the end of the Mass, Father O'Brien said that in his thirty years career, we were one of the best classes for announcing our promises aloud.

We have also been preparing our Saints' project. We all chose a new name for our Confirmation-it had to be a name related to a saint or someone close to us whom we admire. Jake Egan's Confirmation name is John-after John the Baptist. It is also his great grandad's name. Esther took Faith- after Saint Faith as she inspired Esther by sacrificing herself for God. Ella chose Rose as she was inspired by her life story and her love of the poor.

We look forward to the rest of our preparations for Confirmation.

By Jake Egan, Ella Hannaford and Esther Oluwadiya

HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



## Leixlip National Schools' Parent Teacher Association

Scoil Bhríde, Scoil Eoin Phóil, Scoil Mhuire

### Christmas Fair 2019

#### Save the Date

Sunday 1st December 1pm – 4pm

Scoil Mhuire / Scoil Bhríde hall & corridors

The day will include a raffle, bric-a-brac,  
face painting, nail bar, glitter tattoos, cake  
sale and much more besides!

The big man himself has confirmed so  
remember to bring your Santa letters!

All proceeds will go directly to our three schools funding much needed equipment and school  
supplies. We look forward to welcoming you.....



**Rainbows Ireland**

Supporting Children with Bereavement  
and Parental Separation

Rainbows Ireland is a free peer group support service that provides support for children from the age of 7 and in 1<sup>st</sup> class, who may be experiencing a loss as a result of bereavement, parental separation or divorce. Rainbows provides group support for children of a similar age and loss experience. Meeting others in a similar situation can be very supportive for children. The programme has a long tradition in Leixlip. Approximately 3,000 children attend a Rainbows programme each year nationally. Rainbows is not a counselling group or professional therapy.

The Rainbows programme will start in Leixlip on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm every Monday for nine weeks in Scoil Bhríde, Green Lane, Leixlip. If you would like your child to attend the programme please contact the Rainbows Co-ordinator **Maeve O'Connor** on **087 391 4373** or email [maeverainbows@gmail.com](mailto:maeverainbows@gmail.com). If you would like to know more about the Rainbows service you can visit their website on [www.rainbowsireland.ie](http://www.rainbowsireland.ie).