

Scoil Eoin Phóil
Christmas Edition

2021





Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Christmas is here!!! 😊

Lalita Darlington Art Competition 2021: Well done to all the pupils entered into this year's competition. The posters and models were incredible! The amount of effort and thoughtfulness that went into their entries was so nice to see. I promise next year I'll give more notice! All models and posters were put on display for all classes to see and winners were presented with a small prize to celebrate their achievement. Please click on the link in this email to see a video recording of all the amazing entries.

Cards for the community: On Friday, Postman Bert collected up all our Christmas cards made by the children and has delivered them to the more so elderly in our community. We hope they enjoy them! Thank you Bert!

6th Class: Both 6th Classes enjoyed their Wellbeing Walks down to St. Catherine's Park over the last week or so. Luckily the weather was great and they had some clean fresh air and fun to finish up for Christmas. Ms Tierney's class have been very creative recently as they used clay, art supplies and i-pads to create freeze-frame stories called "Claymations". We can't wait to see the final editions! Well done to Mr Mulcahy's class also who, along with supporting SVDP, raised €150 for the Dublin Simon Community. Another great cause!

St Vincent de Paul: We are very proud to announce that our Student Council organised, sorted, boxed, wrapped and gifted over 30 boxes which were collected by SVDP yesterday. Our donations were delivered to the foodbank in Leixlip and distributed out to local families in the area. Thank you once again to all involved. We are delighted to support our SC with this initiative and all the great work they do for our school. Please be sure to check out our Student Council page on our website to keep up to date with all their goings-on throughout the year.

PTA Christmas Raffle: Thank you to our PTA for organising and hosting this year's Christmas raffle. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and it is very much so appreciated by all of us on the Green Lane. This year's fundraising reached € 5,600!! We are sincerely grateful to everyone who donated prizes, purchased tickets, and helped in organising what has been a very successful fundraiser for the schools.



Heritage Ireland: Outdoor learning took place on Monday 20th December as Goska from Heritage Ireland came to give a workshop on Biodiversity, climate change & Irish mammals to a range of classes. The students learned so much about how to take care of our wild national mammals, birds and flora and fauna. A lot of interesting questions were asked in

relation to biodiversity and climate change in our environment. Students will be writing reports on what they found out in the new year! Thanks to Goska, we will be on the look out with our 'ecologist eyes' over the winter holidays to protect our national wildlife habitats.

And finally, one last thank you to all! Our first term of the school year is over, and for me, personally, it has flown by so fast. I cannot speak highly enough of the staff we have here in Scoil Eoin Phoil. Everyone has done their very best, through very difficult times, to ensure the boys and girls learn, laugh and enjoy their school day.

Thank you also to all the families of Scoil Eoin Phoil for all you have done over the past few months. With so many new changes, your kindness and support has been greatly appreciated.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everybody back through our gates in the new year!

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

Seán O'Boyle

3rd Class

Mrs Gaffney / Mrs Stokes



This term has been such a busy, exciting and happy one for us all in Room 15. We cannot believe it's almost the end of the year. The best thing to happen for us this year was the celebration of our First Holy Communion, after months of preparation! We really enjoyed learning all the new prayers, readings, songs and responses for our special day in October.

We have been involved in so many new activities this year...here are some of the highlights of this term:

GOAL Jersey Day - when we all dressed up in our county jerseys and sports tops to raise money for the charity.

Creative Writing Fun - we all love writing stories and have become better storytellers this year, writing scary stories at Halloween to lovely wintery Christmas tales.

Projects on Mexico - we learned lots about this country and the Aztec tribes. We were very good at presenting our projects to the class and sharing the fun facts we learned while writing the projects.

Gardening Activities - we are all developing 'green fingers' and enjoy working in the school garden. We planted tree saplings, spring bulbs and bedding plants but our favourite gardening activity was helping Mr Reilly with gathering the leaves and squashing them into the trailer to make compost - we will have a beautiful spring garden in Scoil Eoin Phóil now!

Bio-diversity - we have learned about how to care for our local environment and the importance of keeping our areas happy places for plant and animal life. We love to take a wellbeing walk to the biodiversity garden on the green lane and look forward to Heritage Ireland coming next week to teach us more about biodiversity in our school.

Our favourite games in PE this term were hockey and rounders. We love having PE outside! Tug-of War day was amazing!

We have had a great first term back to school and hope you all enjoy watching our Christmas Performance as we had a brilliant time making it! Some of us want to be film makers and actors now when we group up!

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir ó Rang a 3!

**Christmas Art – by Josh, Khloe
and Fiadh**

“In Second Class we have been enjoying making a variety of Christmas themed art pieces. We made Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer hanging ornaments from hessian material. We also made Snowman from recycled shredded paper. We also made Angels from doilies. It was lots of fun making these art pieces!”

2nd Class

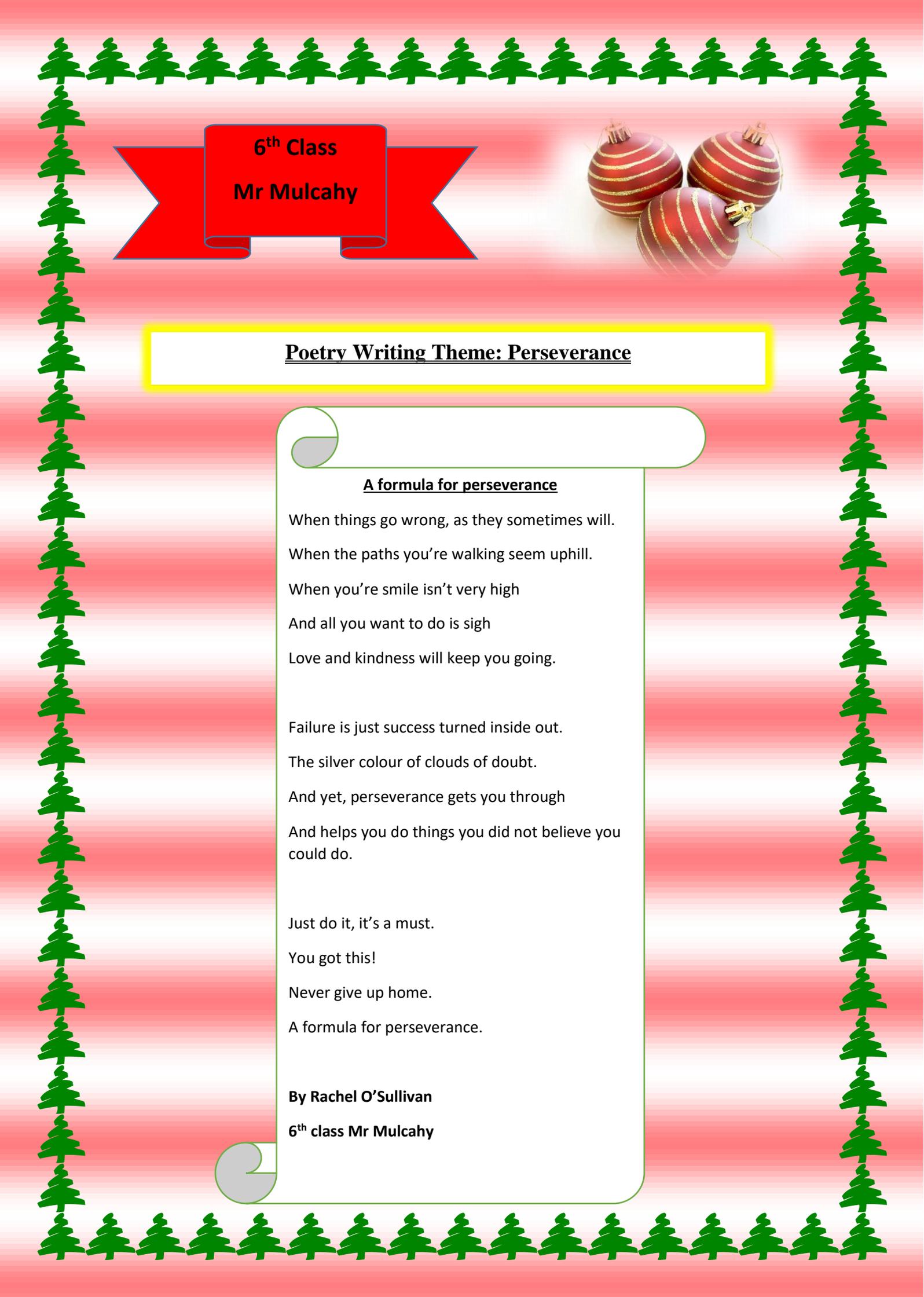
**Ms
O’Connor**



Recounts – by Henry and Lucy

“In Second Class we have been learning about Recounts. Recounts are when you write about things you have done in the past. In recounts, you usually answer the questions ‘when, where, what and why.’ It is also good to explain how you were feeling. We wrote recounts about watching the Late Late Toy Show. We used a lot of details in the recounts. For each sentence we also made sure to use words like ‘first, next, then, finally.’ We wrote up our recounts in our best handwriting and put them on display for everyone to read. We hope you enjoyed!”





6th Class
Mr Mulcahy

Poetry Writing Theme: Perseverance

A formula for perseverance

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will.

When the paths you're walking seem uphill.

When your smile isn't very high

And all you want to do is sigh

Love and kindness will keep you going.

Failure is just success turned inside out.

The silver colour of clouds of doubt.

And yet, perseverance gets you through

And helps you do things you did not believe you
could do.

Just do it, it's a must.

You got this!

Never give up home.

A formula for perseverance.

By Rachel O'Sullivan

6th class Mr Mulcahy

A formula for perseverance

When the challenge is getting harder,
And you're really up to the test,
Let your dreams get larger,
And always try your best.

Always be yourself,
Remember you are worth it.
Don't tell yourself anything else,
And always have some keep your spirit.

Sometimes we all feel down,
It happens to us all.
Make sure to never frown,
And stand back up when you fall.

A formula for perseverance.

By Lucy Dalton

A formula for perseverance

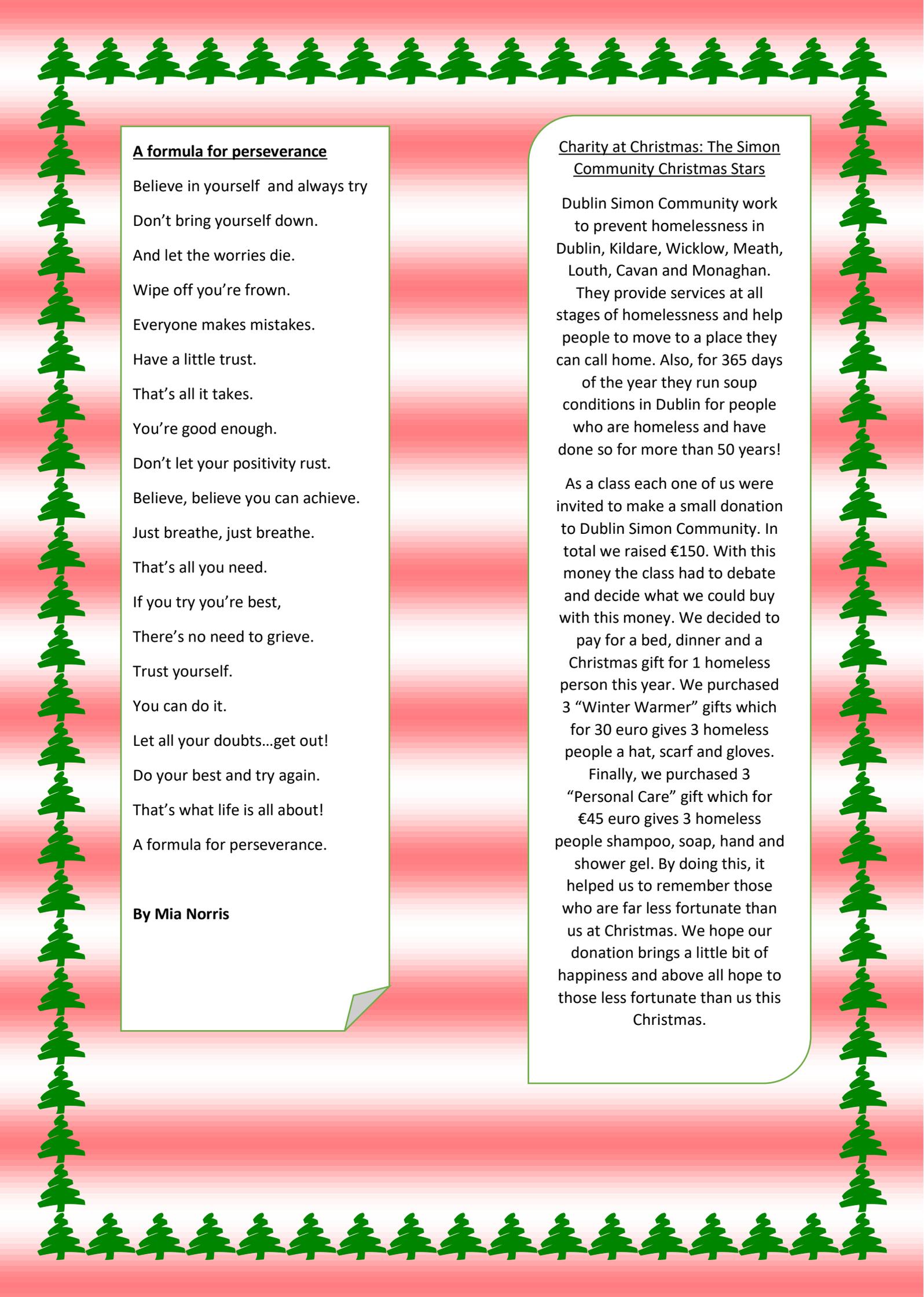
When times get unimaginably tough,
You may think you've had enough.
But with a little bit of hope in your heart,
All your troubles will quickly depart.

Remember, failure is just a bruise,
When all you want to hear is good news.
When things pull you down,
Get right back up!
Just like Malala,
In her new book.

With a little determination,
You will be a sensation!
Believe!

By Alannah Browne





A formula for perseverance

Believe in yourself and always try

Don't bring yourself down.

And let the worries die.

Wipe off you're frown.

Everyone makes mistakes.

Have a little trust.

That's all it takes.

You're good enough.

Don't let your positivity rust.

Believe, believe you can achieve.

Just breathe, just breathe.

That's all you need.

If you try you're best,

There's no need to grieve.

Trust yourself.

You can do it.

Let all your doubts...get out!

Do your best and try again.

That's what life is all about!

A formula for perseverance.

By Mia Norris

**Charity at Christmas: The Simon
Community Christmas Stars**

Dublin Simon Community work to prevent homelessness in Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow, Meath, Louth, Cavan and Monaghan.

They provide services at all stages of homelessness and help people to move to a place they can call home. Also, for 365 days of the year they run soup conditions in Dublin for people who are homeless and have done so for more than 50 years!

As a class each one of us were invited to make a small donation to Dublin Simon Community. In total we raised €150. With this money the class had to debate and decide what we could buy with this money. We decided to pay for a bed, dinner and a Christmas gift for 1 homeless person this year. We purchased 3 "Winter Warmer" gifts which for 30 euro gives 3 homeless people a hat, scarf and gloves.

Finally, we purchased 3 "Personal Care" gift which for €45 euro gives 3 homeless people shampoo, soap, hand and shower gel. By doing this, it helped us to remember those who are far less fortunate than us at Christmas. We hope our donation brings a little bit of happiness and above all hope to those less fortunate than us this Christmas.



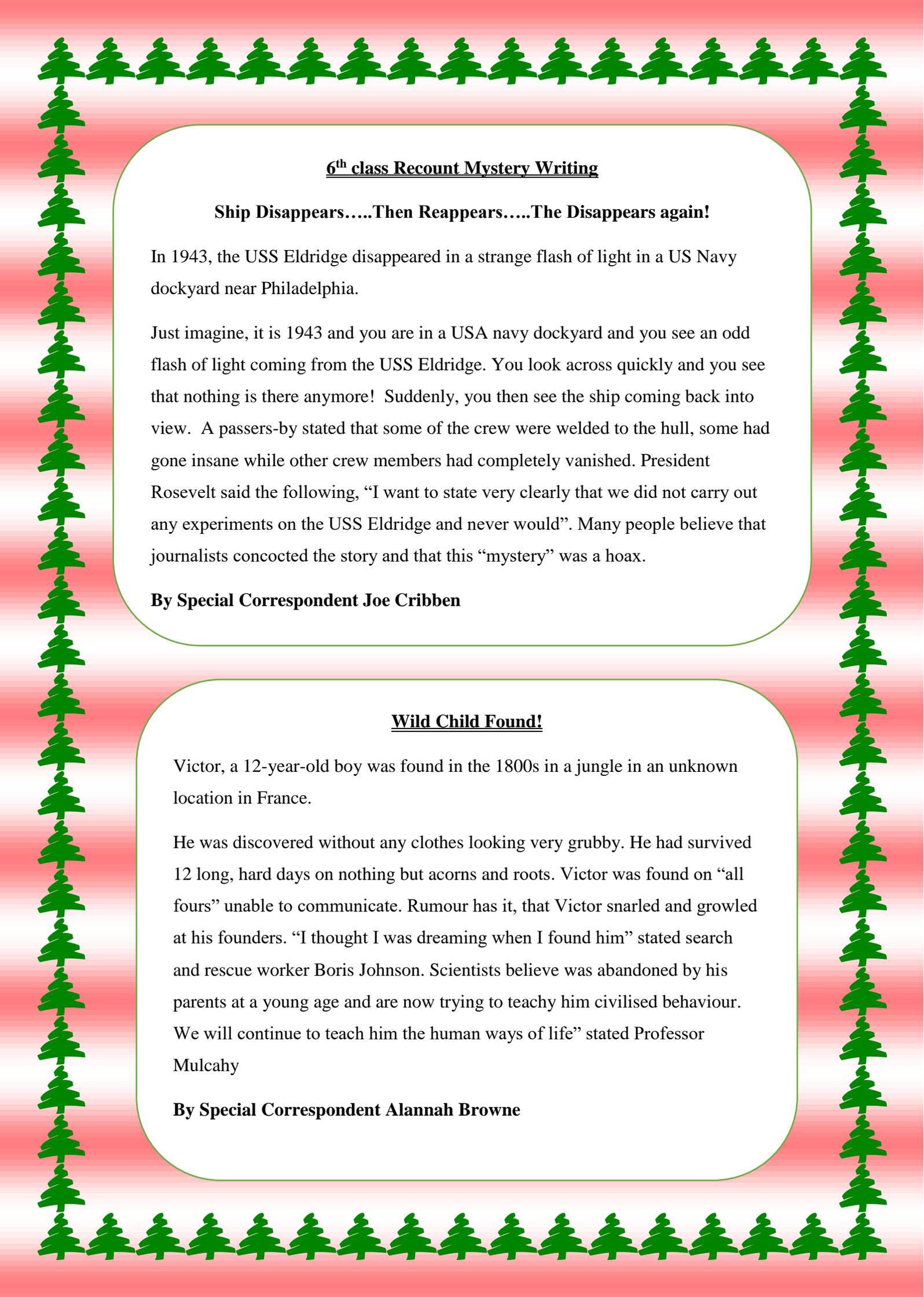
World Maths Week: Mathletics

Mathletics is a maths programme where we can practice 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 177 hours online carrying out maths activities earning 83 certificates as a class.

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 17th of October we are ranked 1st in Ireland, 1st in Europe and 3rd 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.

6th class Mr. Mulcahy





6th class Recount Mystery Writing

Ship Disappears.....Then Reappears.....The Disappears again!

In 1943, the USS Eldridge disappeared in a strange flash of light in a US Navy dockyard near Philadelphia.

Just imagine, it is 1943 and you are in a USA navy dockyard and you see an odd flash of light coming from the USS Eldridge. You look across quickly and you see that nothing is there anymore! Suddenly, you then see the ship coming back into view. A passers-by stated that some of the crew were welded to the hull, some had gone insane while other crew members had completely vanished. President Rosevelt said the following, “I want to state very clearly that we did not carry out any experiments on the USS Eldridge and never would”. Many people believe that journalists concocted the story and that this “mystery” was a hoax.

By Special Correspondent Joe Cribben

Wild Child Found!

Victor, a 12-year-old boy was found in the 1800s in a jungle in an unknown location in France.

He was discovered without any clothes looking very grubby. He had survived 12 long, hard days on nothing but acorns and roots. Victor was found on “all fours” unable to communicate. Rumour has it, that Victor snarled and growled at his founders. “I thought I was dreaming when I found him” stated search and rescue worker Boris Johnson. Scientists believe was abandoned by his parents at a young age and are now trying to teachy him civilised behaviour. We will continue to teach him the human ways of life” stated Professor Mulcahy

By Special Correspondent Alannah Browne





4th Class

Ms. Hallissey

Minecraft Education Edition

"Fourth Class, Room 1 had a wonderful time playing Minecraft Education Edition this year. We learned how to code and use this to build various things. We learned how useful coding is. We also learned how to use commands. Using commands X,Y,Z we were able to make our own islands and build different habitats there. We learned about Space and built our own Mars Rover. We learned about Antartica and the polar bears and we then built our own log house. We really enjoyed our six weeks of Minecraft Education Edition and we are now preparing for a big competition assigned to us."

Seán Flannery & Olive Kingidila





GAA

"For the past few weeks we have been playing GAA with our coach Ciarán. On the first day we played a great game where we were all in a line in the centre of the field. When the coach called a fruit we ran to one line and back to the centre. When he called a vegetable we ran to a line on the other side of the field and back to centre. It was fun warm up! The next week we practised hand passing. One week we brought in our football boots and we played a match in the G.A.A. It was great fun!"

Tadhg Mallon



Stop Motion Art

"We had a great time making stop motion art this month. First, we came up with a theme in our pods, we all brought in boxes and painted them with our Christmas scene. We also added decorations to make them more life like. Some pods brought in characters from doll houses and others made their characters from cardboard and paper. We made furniture using leftover pieces of cardboard. We then wrote our scripts. Once we were finished, we took pictures on our tablet and made it look like everything was moving. We all had great fun making our Stop Motion art. I hope we can make it again."

Ailbhe Kelly



Christmas Fun

Here are some of the few fun things 4th Class are doing for Christmas.

Advent Calendars: We decorated our own class Advent calendar. We all were given our own number door for the calendar - which was perfect because we have 25 in the class! Ms. Hallissey then put little messages inside them. They were acts of kindness for us to do like helping Mr. O'Reilly or writing Christmas cards for people in nursing homes or they were treats for us like extra play time or hot chocolate afternoons.

Art: We made the Northern Lights and snow globe art using chalk pastels. We also made individual Advent wreaths using green paper and pompoms.



Music

"We learned a Christmas cup song over December, it was called 'Christmas in my heart'. We also listened to a collection of Christmas songs and had to rate them out of ten. We created our own Christmas album, decorating the cover and listing our top ten Christmas songs.

Santa: On the 6th December Santa Claus came to Scoil Eoin Phóil. To Welcome him we wore our Christmas jumpers and hats. He brought us all sweets. Thanks Santa!"

Beibhinn Silke and Penny Duff



Christmas Jokes

What kind of pictures do elves take? *Elfies*

Gabriel: Who is Santa's favourite singer? *Elfis Presently*

Dylan/Alex/Beibhinn: Why can't snowman get angry?
If they get het up they'll have a meltdown

Ailbhe: Why didn't the cat climb up the Christmas tree?
He was afraid of the bark

Conor: What would you call Santa if he was a detective?
Santa Clues

Isabel: When is Santa's birthday? *Snowvember*

Tadhg: What's furry and minty? *Polar mints*

Olive: What do elves learn in school? *The elfabet*

Penny: What game do elves play at Christmas? *Bob for the bauble*

Seán: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Snowflakes

By 4th Class, Ms. Hallissey



Ms Murray's 4th Class

"In fourth class, room 8, we have been working really hard and having lots of fun over the past few weeks.

First, during Science week, we carried out a science experiment called the 'Skittles Experiment'. For the experiment we used hot water, skittles and plates. We put the skittles around the edge of the plate, forming a colourful circle, next we poured hot water over the skittles.

After that, we watched the food colourings fade from the skittles and dissolve into the water forming a colourful pattern. We recorded our experiment and our findings.



We had a hot chocolate party last week. We had this because we got 20 points for our secret student points jar. We had hot chocolate with lots of delicious toppings. We had whipped cream, cocoa buttons, marshmallows, cookies and chocolate. It was delicious.



We also created a Christmas door display. We used many bright coloured pieces of paper and we traced our hands onto the paper. We then cut them out and put them onto our backing paper to create a Christmas tree. We then tore pieces of cotton wool to create a blanket of snow at the bottom of the tree. Ellie made the star for the top of the tree."

By Jasmina Krumina





1st Class
Mrs Reynolds

The children in Mrs Reynolds' First Class have been working very hard all term and Mrs Reynolds is so proud of them. Some children in our class would like to share their highlights from the term.

Liam O'Reilly: I liked learning basketball skills in PE.

Mark Chris Philip: I liked dressing up for Halloween.

Nicolai Tabacaru: I really enjoyed learning about animation in Science Week. I made my own cartoon!

Cillian Neville Moynihan: I really liked going on the nature walk and finding out about trees. I remember that the oak tree is used to make furniture.

Isabel Jones: I liked learning about Antarctica and the penguins. I enjoyed learning Irish and playing games in Bua na Cainte.

Maebh Cassells: I liked learning about blubber because we did an experiment all about it using butter, water and ice.

Joshua Philips: I liked learning about Oymyakon in Russia. It is coldest town on earth. It's so cold even the toilets freeze over!

Daniel O'Sullivan: I loved dressing up at Halloween and going on our nature walk. I also really enjoyed doing sums in Maths.

Bobby Tone: I liked learning all about shapes in Maths. I love learning my tables. I also liked doing PE.

Tommy Kiely: I liked learning about Antarctica.

Ashley Krumina: I loved when we found out all about penguins.

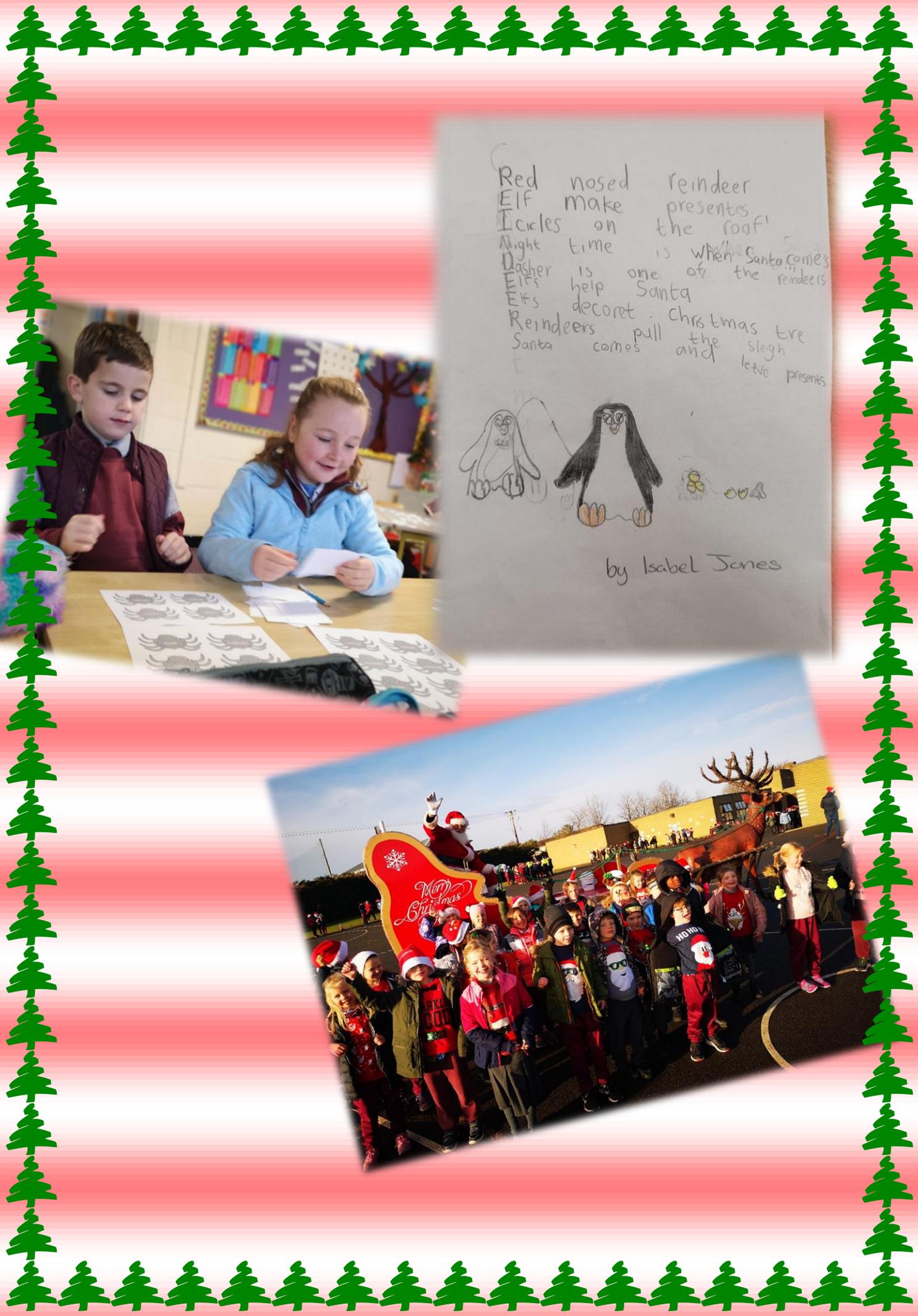
Chloe Campbell: I liked learning about teeth. I know that if you get too much plaque on your teeth you will get a cavity so you have to brush your teeth twice a day.

Ibrahima Barry: I liked learning how to draw penguins in art.

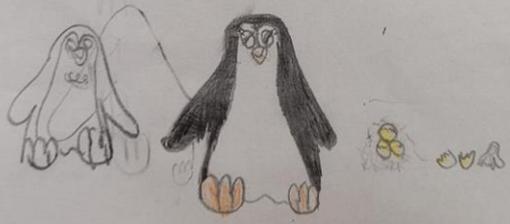
Sophie Keegan: I liked learning all about the explorer Tom Crean.

David Vancea: I really liked learning about light in science. I liked testing things to see if they are transparent, translucent or opaque.





Red nosed reindeer
make presents
on the roof
Night time is when Santa comes
Dasher is one of the reindeers
Elves help Santa
Elves decorat Christmas tree
Reindeers pull the sleigh
Santa comes and leave presents



by Isabel Jones



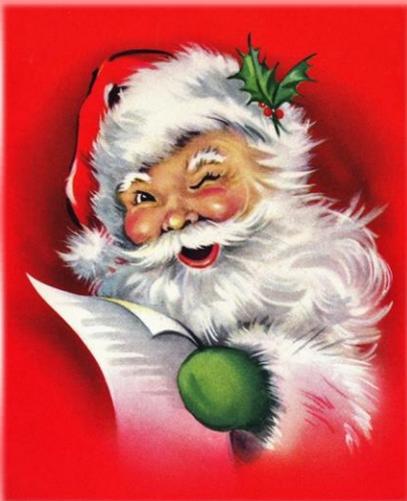
*Children playing having fun
Have a happy Christmas
Red nosed reindeer
Ice skating on the snow
Santa is coming to town!
Toy Show fun.
Merry Christmas everyone!
After Breakfast – toys!
Snow falling from the sky.*

*By Laoise Blount and Liam
O'Reilly
1st Class*



*Children celebrating
Have a great Christmas
Red nosed reindeer
Icicles on the roof
Santa on a sleigh
Toys being delivered
Mass on Christmas
morning
Antlers on a reindeer
Stockings are being filled*

*by Cillian Neville
Moynihan, Chloe
Campbell,
Mark Chris Philip and
Maria Creelman
1st Class*



Ms Fadian's
Senior Infants





Junior Infants Christmas 2021

We have had a busy few months in room 16!

- In November, we turned our classroom into a mini hospital each day at 1pm. We were learning all about doctors, nurses and hospitals for Aistear! We dressed up as hospital staff and took care of patients by using stethoscopes, otoscopes, blood pressure monitors, slings, a doctor's hammer and lots of medical equipment. Patients had to clearly tell the doctors/nurses their symptoms and then they were examined and given prescriptions. It was so much fun.
- The boys and girls are working so hard on their sounds in Jolly Phonics. They can now blend sounds to make words!
- We are doing terrific counting in Junior Infants. Last week, the children made it to 119 when counting the stickers on their sticker charts.
- Everyone has been doing fine motor skills each morning by playing with activities that help our grip and strength. The pupils are working so hard on their cutting and making jigsaws too.
- We have learned some new songs and enjoy singing every day. Our favourites at the moment are 'The Bare Necessities', 'Ceann, Gualainn, Glúin is Cos', 'It's a Rainbow', 'Daidí na Nollag', 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'.
- The pupils are doing so well in PE lessons. We are working on our balance, aim and being a team player. They really enjoy bowling, using the balance boards and aiming to throw the ball into the net.
- In November, we went on a cool autumn science/nature walk. We investigated the bugs at the Bug Hotel and walked to Squirrel Wood. We found many different leaves there and some conkers, pine cones and helicopters! We noticed the bright colours of autumn and that some leaves were still on the trees, but most were on the ground.
- We have been busy preparing for Christmas too. We now know the story of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem and Jesus being born.

We have completed lots of lovely art too and enjoy telling each other our news about our pesky elves at home!

- Dara's dad is visiting Lapland this week and offered to bring letters to Santa for us! We are so excited. We thanked Santa for all of his hard work and wished him a Happy Christmas.
- On Friday, we went on a winter walk. We noticed that the leaves had now fallen off the trees completely. We saw some frosty patches on the ground too. We walked to the church and said a prayer at Mary's statue and then saw two men setting up the crib. We told the men all of the people and animals that were in the crib with Jesus for the First Christmas.
- Happy Christmas to all of our families, from the super boys and girls in room 16!





Mrs Black's Senior Infants

Senior infants have worked so hard this term. We now know all of our Jolly Phonic sounds and have become great readers. We love Aistear and have been "in" the café, the post office and the school secretary's office throughout the term. We are very good at sending parcels, taking messages from parents and even firing lazy waiters! We loved Maths week. We did a super Maths scavenger hunt at home and played loads of great Maths games in school. Science week was also a highlight. We loved doing experiments especially sticking our hands in the ooblek. We explored procedural writing in our Café themed month and made Rice Crispie buns and funny face biscuits. Our favourite bit was eating them. We were so excited when Santa visited our school. His sleigh was very advanced, we thought- it had a steering wheel and tires- great for getting round the school yard but we are not sure about how fast it would be getting to the North Pole!! We did the Fairytale Land Nativity show for our Christmas play this year. We were fantastic at all our lines and our songs. We produced some beautiful art too. We loved our Christmas elves and our hanging Christmas trees. We had fun painting our hands brown for our Winter Robins. We made some lovely cards for the elderly to remind them of the Christmas Spirit.

Some Senior Infant jokes to make you laugh!

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: Because he wasn't peeling well.

Q: What is the cleanest poo?

A: Shampoo.

Q: What makes music on your head?

A: A hairband

Q: Who delivers presents to the fruit on Christmas Eve?

A: Banana Claus

Q: Who delivers cat food on Christmas eve?

A: Santa Claws

Q: What did the elves learn in school?

A: The Elfabet

Q: Why did the boy throw the clock out the window?

A: To see time fly-



Mrs Malin's
5th Class

3D playgrounds

Mrs. Malin gave us the task of designing our own 3D playgrounds. Keep an eye out for photographs of our work on the school website!



Anti-bullying

This term, we had a speaker called Pat, talking us through what bullying is, what steps we take if we are being bullied and how to support someone who is being bullied.

We also created a class agreement to promote kindness, respect and responsibility, within our class.



Christmas!

We had a special visitor from the North Pole last week! We have been doing Christmas art and even a Christmas play to spread some festive cheer!

Science Week

During Science Week, we did experiments at home and posted our videos on Seesaw. We worked in our pods making electrical circuits and became detectives in analysing finger prints!



GAA coaching

We have a new GAA coach this year, coach Ciarán. Our GAA skills are improving each week. It has been great fun using the GAA pitches for some sessions!



GAA



Mr
Matthew's
3rd Class



Christmas Art:

For our Christmas art this year, we created Christmas cards, Santa drawings and reindeer portraits. For our reindeer art, we drew a close up of a reindeer and added snow, decorations and clothes to them. We designed different Christmas cards that had Santas, reindeers and Christmas lights on them. Instead of using brushes, we created the pictures using our fingers. We really enjoyed it.

Water rockets

We were learning this year about the Space Race between the USA and USSR. We were also doing our Science week so we had to make water rockets and launch them! We brought our water bottles and cardboard. Then we all designed fins to place on the side of the bottles. We had to decide on how much water to fill them with it and see what happened. Mr. Matthews connected them to an air compressor and then we launched them! Some of them went only a little bit but some of them flew really high into the sky. Rhys's rocket even landed on the roof. We learned that too much water and there wasn't enough air pressure to launch it high.

Watch our rockets on the school website.

Science week

We learned about a special mixture called Oobleck or Non-Newtonian liquid. This was a special liquid that you could pick up once you squished it but it went back to a liquid when you stopped. We also made dancing fireworks in oil and water.

Planting

Third Class got to plant lots of spring bulbs in big plant pots. Spring bulbs are bulbs that will grow and turn into flowers in spring. Two of the bulbs are daffodils and tulips. We are looking forward to seeing them grow.



Senior Infants Ms. Kelliher

The boys and girls in Senior Infants have been very busy this term. We explored Science Week in school and at home. We performed many spectacular experiments such as making exploding volcanoes, amazing ooblek and goeey slime. We explored procedural writing to make rice crispie buns and funny face biscuits, they were delicious! Our classroom has transformed from 'The School Office', 'The Witches Den', and 'The Café' to 'The Post Office' throughout the months as part of our Aistear themes.

In December Senior Infants learned about the Post office. They learned about how the roles in a Post Office work, how to post a letter, and the journey of a letter. They even got to pretend they worked in a Post office during Aistear Role Play. We decided to bring this experience to life by making Christmas cards, following the steps to post a letter, to post a letter home to our families. We walked to the post box across the road from our school to post the letter, and then waited patiently for them to arrive home!



Senior infants took part in their first ever school nativity play. The play told the story of Jesus's birth, with a fairytale twist. We saw characters from traditional fairytales such as; Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears etc. act out the nativity play. The pupils all rehearsed so well and put on a fantastic show that they can be so proud of.



Christmas jokes:

- "Why did the tree cross the road?
To get a haircut!"
Tyler
- "What is an elf's favourite picture?
An elfie!"
Rebecca
- "Why did jingles cross the road?
Because bells called him"
Lily



Daniel O'Connell - The Liberator

" This year, we have been learning all about Daniel O'Connell. Daniel O'Connell was born in 1775 in Co. Kerry. He lived with his uncle who sent him to France to study. While he was in France, he witnessed the French Revolution and this made him hate violence. Ireland in the early 19th century was not a place of equality. Daniel O'Connell wanted everyone in Ireland to have equal rights. In 1811, he set up the Catholic Board to try and gain opportunities for Catholic people. To join it only cost 1 penny per month. This was so anyone, poor or rich, could join. In 1841, Daniel O'Connell had a monster meeting in Meath that 500,000 people showed up to. British forces arrested and imprisoned O'Connell for conspiracy, right before his meeting. He was sentenced to one year in prison but was released after three months. Daniel O'Connell died in Genoa, Italy in 1847 on his way to Rome. He was 71. His body was returned to Dublin and buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. Sackville street, the scene of much of the 1916 Easter Rising, was renamed O'Connell Street in 1924."

By Lauren Coburn

**Ms Tierney's
6th Class**

North America and the U.S.A:

This year, we have been learning all about the continent North America in Geography. Some of the countries in North America are the USA, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua. We learned about all the different states of the USA and we even learned a fun song to help us remember the names of all 50 states! Alaska is a beautiful state in the USA but it is not connected to the USA. Alaska is the biggest state and Rhode Island is the smallest state in the USA. The capital of the United States of America is Washington D.C. and that's where the President Joe Biden lives in the White House. Missouri River is the longest river in the USA. Some famous landmarks in the USA are the Statue of the Liberty in New York, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the Grand Canyon in Arizona. We created projects in pairs based on different USA states. We also did loads of map work on North America. It has been so much fun learning all about North America!

By Vanessa Marrone

Christmas Art:

“This month in Art, we have been doing loads of creative Christmas art to get us into the festive spirit. One of my favourite art activities was making the Northern Lights using chalk pastels. Every single one is beautiful! As well as that, we drew some Christmas lights and used chalk to make them look like the light bulbs were flickering. We drew the Grinch and made Winter silhouettes which were really fun to do too! We have also been working really hard to create Claymation movies. This has been so much fun creating and designing the backgrounds and making clay characters. We are making a small stop motion movie using the clay figures. We have been doing this project in pairs. Some pairs have created settings of cosy sitting rooms, snowy outdoors and some have even created a setting of the moon. We created scripts to narrate over our movies in pairs. It has been so fun learning how to create stop motion videos whilst also getting to watch some professional stop motions movies in action too! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!” 😊

By Faye Flanagan



Figure 1. Christmas Claymation Northern Lights Scene and Clay Snowmen by Amelia and Vanessa

The Native Americans:

"In 6th Class, we have been learning all about the Native Americans in History. The Native Americans arrived in America 30,000 years ago. There were hundreds of different tribes but the tribe we learned about was the Sioux Tribe. These Native American tribes lived in an area known as the Great Plains. We also researched and did a project on a tribe of our own choice. Some examples of different tribes are the Cherokee tribe, the Apache Tribe and the Choctaw tribe. During the Great Famine in Ireland, the Choctaw Tribe gathered together at a meeting in Oklahoma and offered 5000 euro to help the Irish people. A sculpture of the Choctaw Nation, called Kindred Spirits stands in County Cork. We also created Native Americans villages in pairs and made teepees using recyclable material and junk art."

By Ciara Thornton



Kris Kindle in 6th Class

"In 6th class, we decided to do a Kris Kindle gift exchange in the classroom. Everybody picked a name out of a hat and we then told our teacher who we got. Then, we had to go buy a small gift for our chosen Kris Kindle. We brought in the presents and we did the gift exchange and opened the presents together! It was so much fun! J Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

By Aaron Carey

Well-Being in 6th Class:

This year, our school has been promoting well-being and positive mental health. One of the things that you have probably heard of is Wellbeing Wednesdays. Now, every Wednesday, we have less homework as the school wants us to have more family and friends time! On Mondays, we take time at the end of the day to do some mindfulness. We have been also coming up with some ideas on how to make the yard more fun keeping wellbeing in mind! In our hall, we have made a WELLBEING display and everyone in 6th class designed a poster to promote positive mental health. We hope to achieve the Amber Flag this year so we created some flags to display with positive phrases like 'Wellbeing Matters' or 'It's ok not to be ok'. As you can tell, our school has done a lot to help and promote wellbeing and we can't wait to do more in the new year! Stay Safe!

By Ellie Doyle



Figure 1. Winter Themed Silhouette Painting by 6th Class



Figure 1. Merry Grinchmas!! by 6th Class



Figure 1. Christmas Claymation Scene by Branna, Liam and Luke



Figure 1. Christmas Lights by 6th Class



Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

The PTA would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We thank everyone for their support this year. Once more we were blown away by the fantastic ticket sales for our online Christmas raffle. It was an extremely successful event with in excess of €5,500 being raised for the schools. Congratulations to all the winners. The winning names can be found on our Facebook page - [PTA Facebook Page](#)

Merry Christmas

Leixlip National School PTA

Thank you for your wonderful support of the raffle.

