



# News @ School

Scoil N An Chroí Ró Naofa

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Nollaig 2024

Dia Dhaoibh Gach Duine,

As we reach the end of Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements and experiences we have shared at Scoil N An Chroí Ró Naofa.

This term has been filled with exciting activities and events. From our successful sports activities, creative schools' initiatives, digital learning to STEM activities, it has been wonderful to see our students' talents and enthusiasm shine through.

The BOM of the school would like to wish all our staff, parents, wider school community and especially our pupils a very merry Christmas. We hope you have a happy and peaceful holiday and thank you for the continued support given to the school.

As we look forward to the holidays, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break. This is a time for our students to recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for another term of learning and growth.

Our Christmas service took place in the church on Tuesday, December 17th . It was a very special community event and was really enjoyed by all in attendance. Thank you to all the teachers involved and to Fr. Fintan also.

A special word of congratulations to our 3rd class pupils who performed the nativity for us all. Maith Sibh go léir!

The school will close for Christmas holidays on Friday 20th of December, at 12.00 p.m. and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2025. On behalf of everybody who works in the school I would like to wish every family a happy and peaceful Christmas.



*Nollag Shona dhaoibh agus Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise dhaoibh!*

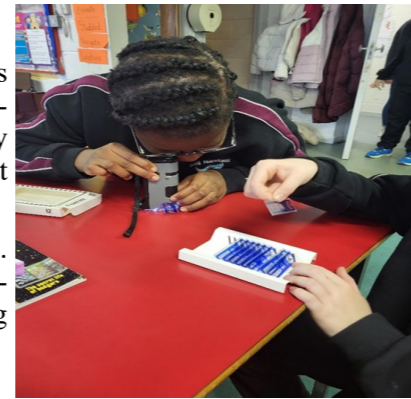
Le Meas

Gerry Diver

Principal

## Fourth Class 'Try Five' Science Workshop with TU Dublin

Fourth Class had their first Try Five science workshop with scientists from Technological University Dublin. The workshop was called Becoming a Scientist. The children learned all about being scientific by conducting fair trials. They finished with an experiment to find out what plants need to grow in space.



Over the rest of the year, they will have four more exciting workshops. They will make terrariums to learn about ecosystems, build star projectors while studying light, create wind turbines, and finish by building rockets. We can't wait to see what they discover!

## Fourth Class Bake with a Chemistry Twist!

Fourth Class had a fantastic time baking cupcakes with Maryanne, a Chemistry Lecturer from Maynooth University. Maryanne explained to the children the chemical changes that happen when heat is applied to baking ingredients. The students also put their maths skills to good use, measuring flour and sugar accurately with the weighing scales and using fractions to calculate the right amount of butter to use. It was a fun and delicious way to combine science, maths, and teamwork!

## 5th Class visit to town

On Monday 10th of December some of Ms. Maye's and Ms. Murphy's group went on a trip to town. We got the Garda community bus into The Moving Crib on Parnell Street.

Here we saw the beautifully crafted Nativity scenes and enchanting animatronic characters that the children loved seeing.

We then went into the Garden of Remembrance where we saw the magnificent sculpture by Oisín Kelly, based on the legend of the Children of Lir.

The children had a lovely day.

Ms. Maye and Ms. Murphy



## SportsNews

We started training for our school GAA teams the second week back in September. We trained every Tuesday after school with 4th, 5th and 6th class boys and girls. There was a great turnout which was amazing to see.

Both teams played 3 matches each. We could see the improvement each week and especially after each match. The children did their school and most importantly themselves proud.

We would like to thank Ms. Quinn and her family for her kind sponsorship for our new jerseys. We looked so smart!!!

I would like to thank Mr. Finnerty and Mr. O'Meara who helped out each week for our training and also coached for our matches. It would not be possible without their expertise, advice, words of encouragement and support. The children were lucky to learn from such experienced players.

Also a big thanks to Ms. Greene who organised buses and Alan Gibbons who provided them. Thanks to everyone involved.

We had a brilliant time swimming this term also. We learned a lot of new skills and made great progress over the 8 weeks. It was so much fun and we are now more confident swimmers after it!



## Green Schools Committee

The Green School Committee have been very busy this year. They have been making sure that their classes recycle properly and take great care in looking after the bins each day. Thank you to all of our members in 3<sup>rd</sup> (Callum Doyle, Declan Deans, Jack McGarry, Holly D'Arcy), 4<sup>th</sup> (Lillie Mannix, Mandiyat Adesina, Darci Murphy, David Rau, Ruby Kinsella, Layla Gordaon), 5<sup>th</sup> (Molly McGarry, Kara Redmond, Nevaeh Wynne, Braxton O'Neill, Kinza Shafaqat, Lilly-Mae Byrne) and 6<sup>th</sup> (Kaelynn Davis, Myah Phoenix, Dylan and Jordan).

At the end of November the committee was invited to the official opening of the newly upgraded Killinarden Park. They had a lovely time meeting the mayor and getting a chance to try out the wonderful facilities. Thanks to all of the members for their hard work and commitment to their roles.

## Student Council

Our newly elected Student Council representatives for 2024-2025 are Kayleigh, Hannah, Lexie, Cian, Sam, Charlie, Ollie, Lily, Chloe, Kai and Lacey.

We have been busy this term so far and have had meetings to discuss different things going on in our school. Some members also got to present at a Board of Management meeting about what we are most looking forward to this year and some plans that we might have for our school.



We organised Halloween and Christmas competitions and got to judge entries for the whole school.

On the 27th of November, we were invited to attend the official opening of Killinarden Park with the mayor of Tallaght. We were delighted to attend.

## History Comes To Life !

Our classroom was buzzing with excitement when Majella from the Museum of Childhood Ireland visited us with a fantastic collection of old-fashioned toys! The children were eager to explore everything she brought, from beautiful wooden dollhouses and classic spinning tops to yoyos and a traditional wooden tic-tac-toe set. It was like stepping back in time as the students had the chance to play with these toys, discovering how different and just as fun they were compared to the tech-filled gadgets we use today. It was a truly hands-on history lesson, and the children couldn't get enough of these timeless toys.

What made this experience even more memorable was the opportunity for the children to talk to their parents and grandparents about the toys they played with when they were young. We sent home surveys to gather stories from families, and the responses were amazing. Many parents and grandparents shared memories of playing outdoors for hours, with games like Kick the Can, Hopscotch, and Rounders. Others talked about the fun of making their own music tapes or playing simple games like Red Rover. It was wonderful to see the children connecting with the past and hearing first hand stories about how children had fun before smartphones and video games.

This history lesson not only gave the children a glimpse into the toys of the past but also reminded us of how playtime has remained so similar over the years. Whether the toys are wooden or plastic, battery-powered or hand-operated, it's the creativity, imagination, and shared fun that make them so special. The visit showed us that, while the toys might look different, the joy they bring is timeless.

We're incredibly grateful to Majella for bringing this incredible collection of toys to life in our classroom and helping us make history come alive. We also want to thank all the parents and grandparents who took the time to share their stories with us. Your memories made the experience even richer and more meaningful. We can't wait to continue exploring history in such fun and engaging ways, and we look forward to more exciting lessons ahead!

Ms. Diciolla's 3rd Class.

## Recent History Subject Evaluation

Our whole school had a recent History Evaluation. The Inspectors that came to visit the school were so impressed by the children and the warm welcome they received. The Inspectors from the Department of Education have sent an evaluation of their visit. We are very pleased to report that the teaching and learning that goes on within the school is *very good* and most importantly the children's experiences of learning is *very effective*.

Not surprising when you read the above account, which is a sample from one of our grades. Well done to all the staff and children!



**Digital Learning Club**

Digital Learning Club is held every Wednesday after school for one hour. Children from all year groups are giving opportunities to experience some of the digital technologies we have and use here at Sacred Heart. Children have tested out our Oculus and our virtual reality kits to explore the world. We have received certificates for completing Hour of Code and we practice our computational skills using scratch and other coding programmes. Children use their creativity in Minecraft to build, complete challenges, recreate famous landmarks and add to our map of Tallaght. We have tested our knowledge using Pro-Bots, Lego Wedo, and Microbits. We improve our brain functioning and memory skills using DS's and we have used our 3D printer and design software to print out our creations. We are so proud of all the children who participate each week and develop their digital skills. They are able to share these skills with the rest of our school and we look forward to working with our next lucky group of students



It's been a busy and productive time in HSCL!

We had an eight-week Wellness Programme for parents facilitated by Siobhan in our Parent's Room.

We welcomed our 3<sup>rd</sup> Class parents in September with our coffee mornings and all parents were invited to a coffee morning in the school hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

Christmas Crafts have kicked off and children in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> invited a parent or guardian to attend a crafts session with their children. Thanks to those who were able to come along! We also had a small group of parents attend our Christmas Cupcake Decorating class.

Some of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Class children participated in a four-week Lego & Us programme with their parent/guardian.

Ms Gleeson and Ms Murphy ran a very successful Parent & Child Cookery course with some of our 5<sup>th</sup> Class children.

The children designed some beautiful Christmas cards which will take pride of place in many homes this year. Thanks to all who got involved. The school made almost 500 euro which our Student Council will allocate towards a project/activity of their choice.

We look forward to more parent's activities, Maths For Fun, Lego activities, Family Games, First Aid training and parent's trips in the new year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Karen, HSCL



This November we completed a joint attendance drive with the Junior School.

The goal was to promote attendance, create awareness about good attendance at school and increase our attendance % stats for November week on week.

We ran a poster competition in all classes and children were asked to design a poster to promote good attendance at school.

We had 'Be In To Win' days and anyone attending school on the 'Be In To Win' days received a small prize!

Overall the attendance in school is very good and we encourage everyone to keep up this great effort!

**Official Opening of Killinarden Park**

On Wednesday 27th November 2024, the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan officially opened the newly improved Killinarden Park. The Mayor was joined by local Councillors, Mr Colm Ward, Chief Executive, Ms. Teresa Walsh, Director of Services, and staff of South Dublin County Council. Children from The Sacred Heart National School, members of the Croí Ró Naofa GAA Club and Sacred Heart Football Club and members of the local community were also in attendance to celebrate this event. It is such a wonderful facility to have in our community . The school is looking forward to using more of the parks facilities in the future . It is up to us all in the community to make sure our park is an area that is maintained and kept neat and tidy for all members of the community to enjoy



**Attendance In Our School**

We are working together to help improve school attendance.

We encourage coming to school every day as this has a positive impact on children's learning.

Every Day Counts!

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!**

8.50 am School gate opens

9.00 am School starts

Any child arriving after this time is recorded as late and the minutes are recorded

2.40 pm Home Time

Any child collected before Home Time is recorded as collected early and the minutes are recorded.

**MISSED MINUTES ADD UP TO MISSED DAYS!**



## STEM Updates

Since September the school has been a hive of STEM related activity. All classes took part in Maths and Science Week while 4<sup>th</sup> class completed their first Try Five workshop with Technological University Dublin. This is a fantastic opportunity to try out different Science, Technology and Engineering experiments with real life scientists and we have been very lucky to take part!

Many classes have also participated in the robotic and coding workshops in THINK BIG SPACE in Tallaght. These are amazing sessions that give children a chance to explore coding and robotics using Lego and we are very grateful to have this resource on our doorstep.



Finally the whole school has been very involved in 'Mathletics' this term and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children for their hard work and their parents/guardians in supporting your children's learning. If you need your child's username and password please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

<https://login.mathletics.com/>



## Gardening

We are delighted to be taking part in the GIY (Grow it Yourself <https://giy.ie/>) initiative which has delivered a set of raised beds, soil and seeds to our school with the aim of teaching children all about where food comes from and how to grow your own vegetables. Thanks to Ms.Healy and Ms.Moloney along with the children from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class who have been working hard to get our raised beds ready for spring planting!

## Creative Schools

We couldn't be prouder of the 6th class children who took part in the Stepping Stones production in The Civic Theatre recently. They were amazing!! Thank you to all of the children for their hard work and commitment. Our ceramic artist Christien Van Bussel has started working with the children again. Her plan is that every child will make their own ceramic tile which will be painted, glazed and then fired in a kiln. Christien will then make some permanent sculptures using the tiles which will be displayed around the school. These sculptures have begun already on the school grounds, we are all looking forward to there completion in 2025



## Christmas Progress Reports

The Christmas Progress Reports were uploaded by class teachers to pupils' class dojo accounts. On the progress report parents/guardians are encouraged to look at their child's e portfolio and celebrate the great work they do in school. The report itself is brief in nature and gives the opportunity for a snap shot of teaching and learning. A more detailed report is provided to parents in end of year reports and parent /teacher meetings in February.



## Our School DEIS Plan Targets 2024-2025

We are all working together to achieve our targets this school year in accordance with our School DEIS Plan.

### Literacy

1. We will all work hard with Words Their Way Spelling Programme.
2. We will all do Oral Language daily in our Literacy Lesson.
3. We will all learn new words in 'Talk Time'.
4. We will all work at improving our reading skills.

### Numeracy

1. We will all use 'Maths Talk' in our Maths lessons.
2. We will try our best to use maths language in maths lessons.

### Attendance

1. We will all continue to strive for 5.
2. We remember that Every School Day Counts

## **Corkagh Park Positive Behaviour Trip with Joanne from Dublin Bus**



Yesterday we went to Corkagh Park because we went on our second positive behaviour trip. We went on the bus with Joanne from Dublin Bus.

The first thing we did was we fed the swans. And then we played in the snowy grass for 5 minutes. Then we went to the playground and everybody ran to the slide. Me and Oscar went down the wet slide and Oscar got soaked and I told Oscar not to do it. We stayed in the playground for an hour.

Finally, we played a game of frisbee golf. After a few rounds of that we all went on a walk around the park with the park ranger.

We looked at some of the oldest trees like the Big Red from California.

Then we went to the little fairy park and had our lunch. We got back on the bus and came back to school. We had a fun day!

Thank you Joanne!

By Meadow and Oscar

