

Nuachtlitir na hAthbhliana

New Year's Newsletter

All at Curraglass National School have had a busy few months and despite COVID 19 and the worry it brings we have used our outdoor spaces as much as possible when learning tin whistle, doing our science experiments, dance classes, French lessons and playing with our toys. Soon we will see the installation of HEPA (high-efficiency particulate absorbing) filters which will help reduce airborne contaminants including viruses in our classrooms. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our school community, Parents' Association and Board of Management in supporting us in our efforts to remain safe in these times. Many thanks to our staff, Lesley, Pat, Aidan, Angela, Nikki, Clotilde, Seánie, Ms Baker, Ms Frisby, Ms McCarthy and Ms Grant for all that you do all year round. We hope all our neighbours enjoyed a happy and holy Christmas and new hope as 2022 dawns. Below are a few stories and reports from Team Curraglass since Hallowe'en:



Languages Connect

Our pupils 3rd-6th class are currently enjoying a taster module of French from Languages Connect. Once a week Clotilde visits the school and the classes partake in hands-on and activity based French lessons. 'Les enfants' love to see her each week and the experience of a third language will no doubt be an asset to them in the future. Très Bien!-Our final lesson will take place in early January.



Parents' Association

A huge thank you to all our sponsors who contributed to this year's calendar. The colourful and professional finished product was printed and ready for Christmas. Well done to our amazing PA for organizing this. Our Late Late Toy Show Goodie bags went down a treat for young and old. This initiative was extremely well supported and again many thanks to all who assisted in the compilation, ordering and purchasing of them.



We are Writers and Book Fair

During the first term our pupils were busy composing pieces for our very own school publication-We are Writers. This was ready for sale at the Book Fair during the week of 16th November.



Although we endured a delay of 12 months in facilitating the book fair, our online booking system worked a treat in enabling families to visit and purchase in their 'bubble'. Lots of reading can now be enjoyed by our children through the long winter months. Go raibh maith agat to Ms Grant in coordinating this project across the school and to all who supported the fair.



Curraglass Kitchen

The Curraglass Kitchen has been very productive over the last few weeks. The pupils in our infant room have made beautiful pizzas to integrate with their Aistear Learning theme 'The Restaurant'. These busy little people have also made delicious pancakes and scones, all working towards a 5 star rating no doubt. Many thanks to Ms Frisby, Angela and Nikki for their expertise.

Science Week

During November we celebrated Science Week by conducting fun and interesting experiments throughout the school. Balloons were popped, raisins danced, cola fizzed and paint separated. We learned that science is all around us to be explored and enjoyed.



Cork Mental Health

Susan from Cork Mental Health Association paid us a visit in early December and had a chat with our 5th and 6th Class students. This beneficial visit included the value of looking after ourselves and others' mental health and wellbeing. Sharing our problems and recognising when we need to reach out for help in difficult times. This was an open and inclusive discussion with the children and all participants came away with a greater understanding of how important our mental health is.



Laya Super Troopers

Our Senior Room has been enjoying the Super Trooper programme (not to be confused with the famous ABBA hit!) throughout last term. This programme is designed to promote health and wellbeing in children and their families. It emphasises three particular areas- Food and Nutrition, Exercise and Movement and Mental Health and Mindfulness. Health Homework and Super Trooper TV with 10 min episodes of fun activities are included, all of which contributes to a positive change in our lifestyles and habits.



Picker Pals

Ms McCarthy's are being very proactive about maintaining the beauty of their environment through the Picker Pals Programme. Taking it in turns, children take home the Picker Pack of high visibility jackets, rubbish sack and pickers and lead their family on a litter-picking adventure in their local area. This is a fun bonding experience making a real difference on the ground. Some of our children went to the local GAA field while others picked the rubbish around their locality. Their parents send in a photo of the hard work being undertaken - Hats off to our 2nd and 3rd class pupils.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

This year we welcomed the return of Team Hope's Shoe Box Appeal. We spent our Mid Term filling our shoe boxes for those less fortunate than ourselves. A huge effort was made by our school community which will brighten up Christmas for many. Our tally of 51 boxes arrived in The Ukraine just in time for Christmas!



Congratulations

We would like to wish our neighbour, Michael Mulcahy, good health and happiness on his recent retirement as principal of Conna National School. Michael always took a united approach with our school in parish events and at the other end of the phone when needed. Well done on your trojan work through your many years in educating the children of Conna and of Tallow beforehand. Of course, following on from Michael's departure we would like to wish Claire Flynn every success in her new role as school leader at Conna NS. Although she has big boots to fill, Conna NS is in good hands. Go néirí a Cháir!

Christmas Greetings!

Well done to the children in the Middle and Senior Rooms on their beautiful Christmas Cards for our friends at Conna Nursing Home. We hope our artistic creations brought a smile to their faces over the festive season. Hopefully next year we will be able to visit in person and entertain the residents with some music and song.

Santa Visits Curraglass

A few days before the holidays, a very special guest popped in to say hello and deliver some delicious chocolate santas. He brought along Spot and Smokie to chat to and keep an eye on proceedings! It was great to have a chance to make some last minute changes to our lists for Santa. We hope he is enjoying a peaceful January up north after his busy few weeks. Many thanks to Sam and Emily for letting their ponies keep Santa company on the day.



Our Virtual Class Performances

We hope you enjoyed our recorded Christmas Performances which were available to watch through the website. Of course, nothing beats a live show and we hope to be live very soon when we finally wave slán to Corona!



Christmas Jumper Fundraiser

Many thanks to all the buachaillí and cailíní for supporting our Christmas Jumper Fundraiser. The school was vibrant with glitter and tinsel on the day and the proceeds will be put towards teaching resources in the Special Education Room.

Digging for Gold!

On our return from the Christmas break we were greeted with machinery and gravel heaps in the playground. Although we were on the lookout for hidden treasure underneath the old concrete we've had no luck. A smooth topping of tarmacadam will be applied in the coming days and we are very excited about this new look to our little school. Many thanks to the Board of Management for making this happen for us.



We are now accepting enrolments for September 2022. Please contact the office for a pre enrolment form.

Dates for Your Diary:

- 13th Jan. (Thur)- School Closes @ 2pm for staff meeting
- 24th/25th Feb (Thur/Fri) Mid-term break
- 1st Mar to 5th Apr (Tues) 10:45am Swimming Lessons, Aura Youghal- 1st-6th Class
- 17th/18th Mar (Thur/Fri) Closed for St. Patrick's Weekend
- 8th Apr (Fri) School Closes @ 12noon -Easter Holidays
- 25th Apr.(Mon) School Reopens for 3rd Term

Please Note: Curraglass NS is a Pistachio and Cashew Nut Free Zone. For the Health and Safety of pupils it is best to omit all types of products containing nuts from your child's lunch. Míle Buíochas