



# Nuachtlitir na Nollag



Mí na Nollag 2016

Dear Parents,

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your co-operation and support throughout the first term. As a school we do not take this for granted and we are grateful for the very positive relationship that exists between parents and the school. I would also like to thank the Parents Association for their support and hard work during the term.

I wish all our pupils a very joyful and peaceful Christmas and I hope that they will all have a good rest over the holidays so that they will be in good form to face the second term in January.

Finally, I would like to wish all the staff a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing holiday. I would like to thank them for all the work and effort they put in to ensuring that the children get the best out of their years in St. Conleth and Marys.

School closes at 12 noon on Thurs. 22nd Dec and re-opens on Mon. 9th of January.

Nollaig Shona daoibh.

Sheila O Neill

## A Feast of Bones.

On Thurs. Nov. 10th 5th classes went to the Riverbank Theatre to see the acclaimed play 'A Feast of Bones'. Set in a French café at the end of WW1, it was an exciting mix of song, fun and fright and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Meet the Author.

6th class, Room 4, were drawn out of the hat to go to Eason's on Nov. 9th, where they met Nicola Pierce, author of historical novels for children such as 'City of Fate' and 'Behind the Walls'. They enjoyed a very interesting talk on the writing process and the question and answer session which followed.

## Sacramental Preparation

6th classes have registered for Confirmation and the 5 week Faith Friends Programme has taken place. We wish them well as they continue to prepare for their Confirmation ceremony on March 9th.

### Science Week

The 2016 Science Week was held from 13th-20th Nov. and all our budding scientists were in action for our Annual Science Fair. Each class set up an experiment in the hall and class members took turns to man their table. All classes visited the fair in turn, where the various experiments were demonstrated and explained to them by the pupils on duty. It was a great success.

### Newbridge College Show

On Nov. 25th all classes attended the Newbridge College annual musical. This year's production was 'Les Miserables' and all pupils were very impressed.

### Thanksgiving Buffet

5th class, Rm. 7, marked Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24th, with their annual Thanksgiving Buffet. All children brought in the ingredients for a delicious lunch, which they shared in a very sociable way. It was a memorable experience for all the class.

### Scratch Programme

6th classes, Rms. 4 & 8 have been taking part in the Scratch programme, which involves learning about computer gaming and design. It's an area in which most children have a great interest and the feedback from the classes has been very positive.

### Cookery classes.

Rm. 8 have been having cookery classes every Friday for the past 6 weeks and have really enjoyed the sessions. It's a great opportunity for them to learn how easy and quick it is to produce tasty, nutritious food. Thanks to all the parents who have helped out.

### Winter Football League

2nd class girls took part in a Winter Football League. Congratulations to Kate Dunphy, Ruby Rose Greenan, Emily Quinlivan Nola, Sophie Loftus and Leanne Browne, the winning team. Well done to all who took part.

### Archie Visit

There was big excitement in 2nd classes in the lead up to Christmas at the visit of Archie the Penguin.

### Junior Entrepreneur Programme

Well done to Ms. Gill's 6th class who took part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme last month. In groups, the children came up with ideas such as a reflective helmet with sensors. Two people from the Local Enterprise Office came in to hear their ideas (in a Dragons' Den type format) and were very impressed by all their innovative ideas. All children received a cert to mark their participation.

### 3rd class Christmas Outings

Children from Rms. 13, 14 and 17 went to a Christmas show 'On a Winter's Night' in the Riverbank, where they learned all about Christmas traditions around the world. The following day they went to see the Christmas Crib exhibition in the Town Hall, where they saw cribs from all over the world which were made from a variety of materials. Everyone really enjoyed their Christmas outings.

### Christmas Cake Sale

5th classes, Rms. 1, 6 and 7, were very excited to host a Christmas Cake Sale on Thurs. 15th Dec., which raised almost €500 for charity. Thanks to all parents for your wonderful baking and for your generosity in providing such a lovely variety of goodies. A donation of €800 has been made to St. Vincent de Paul from the proceeds of the Cake Sale and our 'small change' collections in class.

### Debating

Well done to the 5th class teams who took part recently in the Kildare Debating Championship. We were starting from scratch as the children had never debated before but they put in an enormous effort and acquitted themselves very well. All agreed that it had been a very interesting and challenging experience.

### Christmas Carol Service

Thanks to all parents who came to support our Carol Service on Monday. We had hoped to hold it on our new porch and a lot of effort went into decorating it (Thanks Bernard!). Unfortunately the weather let us down and Plan B was put into operation. Thanks to all the children for their patience and co-operation. Thank you too to all who turned up in the Whitewater yesterday to support our Carol Singing. I think you'll agree that the children really did us proud.