

Scoil Mhuire

Glenties

Newsletter Christmas 2020



Since the Hallowe'en break we have been so busy with all of our teachers and children working hard in their classrooms. As you can see in this newsletter it has been jammed packed with learning and fun. We are so pleased that the Junior Infants have settled into school life and we are delighted to have them as part of our school family.

A massive thank you to the staff of Scoil Mhuire, they have exceptional skills and promote such a kind, loving and educational atmosphere in the school. I would also like to thank the Board of Management for their diligence and support in the running of the school. Finally, without the kindness, hard work and caring nature that our children show every day, school would not be such a wonderful place to be, so thank you to the children and their families. I am so happy to work with all of you.

I have been delighted to see all the children using the designated entrances and exits and washing and sanitising their hands. They are keeping the whole school and community safe. We are delighted to have reached the end of this term with all of our families safe and well. A huge congratulations to Ms. Rodgers on the birth of her son Dónall and to Caroline McGill on the birth of her triplets Iarlaith, Ultan and Fintan!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with happy memories, kindness, love, peace and compassion. I hope that Santa is kind to you and remember to be good for your families over the holidays.

Tracey Whyte (Acting Principal)

Christmas Art

Here's a sample of some of the beautiful art displays our classes have been doing in preparation for Christmas! The 3rd and 4th Classes painted magical elves with strong, vibrant colours. The Senior Infants and 1st Classes made wonderful reindeer to accompany a poem they learned!



In this newsletter:

- ❖ Celtic Art
- ❖ Science Week
- ❖ Fun with Shapes
- ❖ Cycling
- ❖ Friendship Week... and much more!

Christmas

In place of a Christmas Carol service this year, the boys and girls had tremendous fun singing their favourite Christmas songs in their classrooms. Each class chose a different song to learn and performed it for the camera before Christmas. We got dressed up in our festive gear to add further sparkle to the day! Many thanks to Ms. Connole who compiled it on to a video for the children to view and enjoy!

Science Week!

The Senior Infants and First Class celebrated Science Week in November and here's a flavour of some of the fun stuff they got up to!



Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone in the Glenties Community Development Group who delivered a selection box for every child in the school before Christmas! They were so impressed with how well all the young boys and girls kept safe throughout the year that they felt they deserved to be rewarded. The children also produced lovely Christmas cards for everyone in the Day Care Centre given that they could not gather as they usually do at this time.



Celtic Art

This term 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes learned about Celtic art. We had a zoom call with two people called Steve and Lissane. We learned about monasteries and the beautiful books they made there. We all learned that the Book of Kells is kept in Trinity College in Dublin. We learned how amazing the Book of Kells is! The Book of Kells was originally made on Iona Island in Scotland before the Vikings raided the monastery. It was made by St. Colmcille and the monks there. The book was made with calf skin. We practised drawing designs the Celts used at that time and then we decorated the first letter of our names. They all turned out beautifully!

By Lucy Morgan, Gina Gonda and Áine Bonner



Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets for our Christmas Hampers Raffle! The draw will take place before Christmas and good luck to everyone who has entered! Thanks to everyone for your help and to all those who supported in any way!



Super Scientists!

The Junior and Senior Infants had tremendous fun experimenting during Science Week! They made beautiful rainbow colours using skittles and hot water! They also put flowers into water dyed with food colouring and awaited the results. Check out the amazing outcome below!



Nature Studies

In November the 3rd and 4th Class had a zoom call with Una Halpin about nature. We learned about trees and the different types of seeds they have. We had a scavenger hunt at school and found some unusual leaves and berries. We took sheets home and looked for a tree and seed to do research on. We took it back in time for the zoom call with Una so that we could ask her the names that we didn't know already. We also had a quiz about trees, berries and seeds. Una told us that ivy is like a ladder on a tree and that birds perch on it. Ivy berries are very important for feeding birds in the winter when there is not much other food for them.

By John McLoone, Joseph Browne and Joseph Sangha.

Marine Explorers

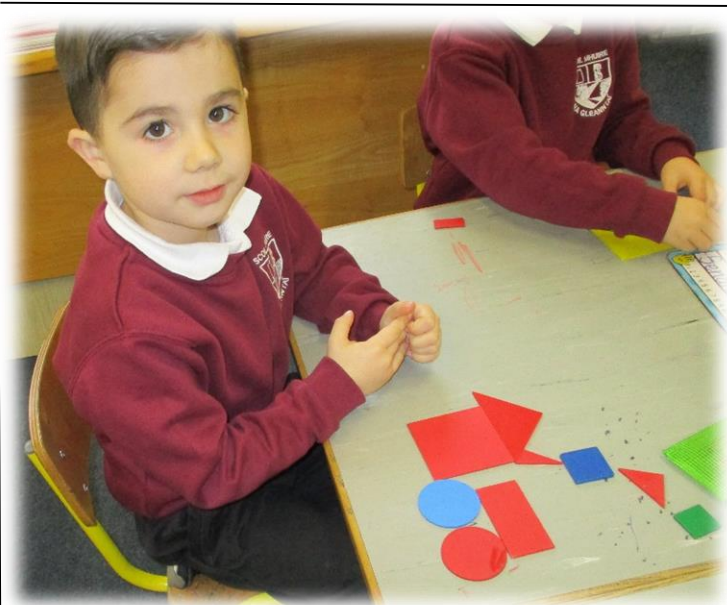
Third and Fourth Classes enjoyed a couple of zoom lessons with Mark from 'Marine Explorers Education Programme'. He was very kind and helpful. He sent us a video about creatures that live in the sea around Ireland that are bigger than us and then we went into groups to find out information for our projects. We used books and information we found on the laptops. Here are some of the facts we found out:

- A grey seal is the most common seal off the coast of Ireland. Sometimes seals come out of the water to escape predators - which are sharks.
- Baby whales are called calves. There are 25 types of whales in Ireland. The biggest animal that can be found in Ireland is the Blue Whale. Whales can live up to 90 years of age.
- A baby dolphin weighs up to 22 or 24 pounds. Dolphins can turn off half their brain. The rarest dolphin is called Hector's Dolphin.
- There are over two thousand types of jellyfish all over the world. Even dead jellyfish can sting.
- There are 71 types of sharks in Ireland. Basking sharks are the most spotted sharks in Ireland.

By Annie Boyle, Sofia McGettigan-Deane, Annie Mc Glynn, Evan Quigley and Jayden Boylan.

Shape Pictures

The Junior and Senior Infants had great fun making shape pictures. They used squares, rectangles, triangles and circles! They got such a surprise when they arrived in to school the following day and saw that Ella the classroom elf was busy making her own shapes while the children were at home! She must have seen how much fun the boys and girls were having and wanted to try it out for herself!



Ogham

Third and Fourth Class have been learning all about ogham. We learned lots of facts about it which we would like to share with you! Ogham dates from the 4th century AD (1,600 years ago). It was used for about 500 years. Ogham is the first type of writing found in Ireland. The language they used was Irish. The alphabet does not have all the letters we use now. Around 400 ogham stones have been discovered in Europe. A man from Wales discovered the first ogham stone. All ogham stones have names of people carved onto them. There are 50 ogham stones in the basement of The National Museum in Dublin. The biggest ogham stone is in Cork and is four metres tall. We made small ogham stones from clay, carved our names onto them and then we painted them.

By Jonathan Kennedy, Sean Óg McLoone, Ellie-May O' Donnell and Lucy Butler.



Dates to Remember

A reminder that Scoil Mhuire will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 22nd December at 11.30am. We will reopen on Wednesday 6th January. The First Holy Communions are pencilled in for Saturday 29th May 2021 at 11am. The First Confessions will take place on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 6.30pm.



Fun with Shapes

The Senior Infants and 1st Class had so much fun this term learning about shapes! For an art lesson with a difference they ventured out to the school yard to make some shape pictures. They constructed castles and houses and even introduced us to a few new creatures they made for the yard! The boys and girls got creative and came up with some marvellous ideas about what they could use as shapes. They used jenga blocks, discs, bottle caps, old paper plates and even Connect-4 pieces! There was lots of great team work taking place while they were working together on their masterpieces! Well done boys and girls!





Christmas Cards

Below is a beautiful poem the 5th and 6th Class boys and girls produced for the Christmas cards they made for the senior citizens of the town. We hope every person in Glenties who receives one of these hand-made cards will receive great joy from them!

This Christmas is certainly a different one,
 You may not have the usual fun.
 In school, we decided to send you a greeting
 Because this year we can't keep meeting.
 We wish you peace, we wish you joy,
 From every single girl and boy.
 We wish you happiness, we wish you health,
 We wish these wishes for you, yourself.
 We pray for you day and night,
 And hope your Christmas is filled with light.

God bless you and a very happy Christmas

Cycling

The 5th and 6th Class boys and girls received cycling lessons from Cycle Right instructors Fergus and Gemma for four weeks this term. We cycled for two hours each Tuesday for four weeks. We were taught what to do when you meet traffic and we learned all the signs to be cautious of. We also learned how to signal. On the last day we got to cycle on the main road. Well done Aoibhinn, Thomas, Jay, Danielle and Oisin for learning how to cycle! We have been taking every opportunity to get on our bikes when the weather has been favourable and we love it! These lessons were funded by Donegal County Council as part of our Green School efforts. We are very thankful for Gemma and Fergus coming to teach us how to be safe on the road.

By Saoirse McDermott & Caoimhe Boyle (5th Class)



Leave No Trace

Last week 5th and 6th Class had a virtual visit from Mark O' Connor from the Leave No Trace Ireland programme. We learned facts about animals and nature and how pollution affects the environment. For example, did you know that a plastic bottle can last one million years? And that otters hold hands while they sleep in case they drift apart from each other? We were also fascinated to learn that a seal's whiskers help them to sense things under water as their eyesight is poor.

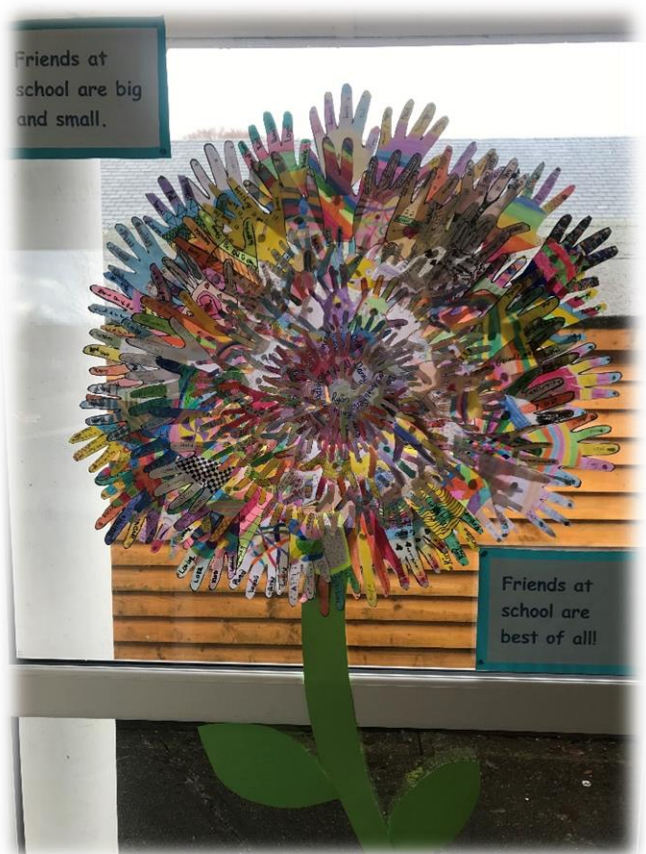
By Aoife McDermott & Rebecca Quigley (6th Class)

Iarlaith, Ultan and Fintan popped up to visit us in the school for a socially distanced call during the first term and we were delighted to see them! They're doing great!



Friendship Week

The school celebrated Friendship Week in November during which we gave special thanks to all the kind and wonderful friends we have! We played fun games, posted kind comments into the 'Good Deeds' box, wrote stories and poems about friends and drew pictures. We also learned a song about friendship titled *You've Got a Friend in Me* by Randy Newman. The song featured in the *Toy Story* movie so we were all quite familiar with it. We all enjoyed singing this song throughout the week! Throughout the week we also made a very special effort to be kind to one another. We gave out awards to reward those acts of kindness. On the Friday of Friendship Week all the children and staff made an effort to wear blue which is an anti-bullying colour. Below is an acrostic poem which Evan Quigley in 4th Class wrote in celebration of Friendship week. We think it is lovely and reminds us how to be a good friend to everyone we meet!



Friends are friendly and kind.

Respect people that help when you're hurt.

Include people in games like tag and hide and seek.

Everyone needs friends to help them.

Notice people alone with no friends.

Do kind things for friends and have fun!



*Happy Christmas
from all in Scoil Mhuire!*