

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2016-2017 Academic Year. We are all very proud of how well all our pupils have settled in this year. They are a credit to you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your tremendous support to our school.

We hope you enjoy reading about all our wonderful activities.

Have a lovely Christmas!

Theresa Curtin-Byrne
Principal

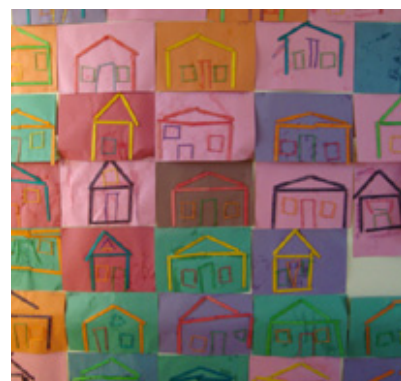
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JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infants boys and girls have settled in well in their first term in “BIG” school. We are so proud of them!

We are well on track of our Jolly Phonics sounds and we are enjoying the interactive aspect of the program.

The children are looking forward to getting their first reading book and we hope to have read three books by Christmas.

The children have enjoyed Early Mathematical Activities, where we have been learning about shapes, matching, pattern and early number skills.

The children are encouraged to mix well with everyone and new friendships are developing.

Play is one of our favourite activities and we have enjoyed learning through play about ourselves, homes, autumn and dressing up.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Carol service and practice of our carols is underway.

Of course we will be very excited about a visit from a special man in red too!



SENIOR INFANTS

Well we have really enjoyed our start in Senior Infants. The move to a new building was exciting, but we have settled very well and now know all the new faces and places around this campus.

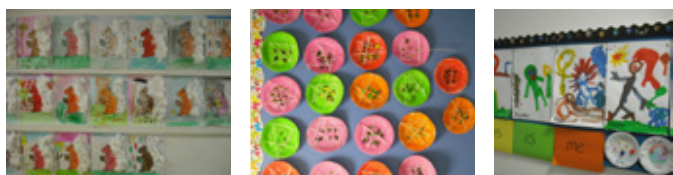
We have been working really hard – learning all our new words, practising and perfecting our lovely handwriting and enjoying reading our new school readers. Literacy Lift Off is currently happening in all the classes in rotation. We find it so interesting and really helps with our reading. We get great books to bring home and read with our parents.

Autumn was a great time for Senior Infants in Ss. Michael and Peter Junior School. We found leaves, acorns, horse chestnuts and pine cones on our nature walks through St. Mary's fantastic grounds.

Some of us had rugby coaching with Barney. It was new and exciting and we learned some great games. The rest of Senior Infants will get rugby coaching later in the year.

Halloween was great fun. We dressed up and played games and danced with our classmates – and we had a blast laughing at the teachers in their costumes.

Christmas will be here in a few short weeks and we will soon begin to learn all the songs for our Christmas Carol Service in the church. Some classes are also preparing a Christmas treat for parents – but you'll find out more nearer the time! We are going to try very hard to be kind and good for the next few weeks so Santa Claus will give us the treat we deserve.



FIRST CLASS

The boys and girls in first class have been very busy since September. We have all settled into our new building really well and love coming to school in the mornings.

Our teachers are very proud of our kind and helpful behaviour that we show every day.

We had an excellent (and quite scary) dress up day before Halloween and it was so much fun. Learning about the signs of autumn was really interesting and we loved collecting the autumnal leaves. We are now busy learning all about winter and watching the trees lose their leaves.

We are talented artists and have some amazing art work in our classrooms and around our school. Have a look at our Winter Art at the moment. Don't you agree it is great!



SECOND CLASS

Second class have had a busy and enjoyable first term!

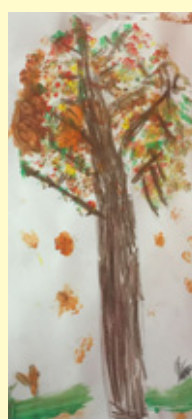
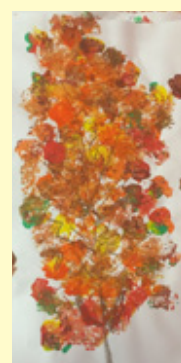
The children have made some beautiful autumn pictures which were displayed around the school and they did some gorgeous Halloween art also. The boys and girls enjoyed learning about autumn and looking for signs of autumn around our school area.

Some second class pupils are participating in rugby lessons for PE at the moment and the rest of the pupils will start their lessons after Christmas.

The three classes are very busy preparing their Christmas plays at the moment and learning their new songs. They are really looking forward to performing their pieces when the festive season kicks off.

Preparation is underway for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in February. The boys and girls will be learning their prayers and songs and are becoming familiar with the new 'Grow in Love' Religion programme. The 'Do This in Memory' masses are underway and the children have been attending these in preparation for their First Communion.

The pupils have also been learning about Italy and have completed some projects on this topic.



ASD

All in the ASD classes have been working so hard at settling back into school life. Two of the classes have been enjoying life in the new spacious classrooms. They are loving having space for a quiet area and a soft play area.

The children have been focusing on practising lining up, (both in the classroom and on yard, taking out and repacking their lunch and hanging up their coats. They are also working hard on following their schedules and changing their own schedule when they complete a task.

We have been learning new songs and love getting to dance to them. Some of the children have planted daffodils while others have brought in their wellington boots to continue their great digging that they started last year.

We have enjoyed trips to the local Garda station where we met Garda John and we also made a trip to the local playground where we had a picnic, played and went for a walk around the duck pond. The children love visiting the library every week and they love using the machines to return and borrow the books.

All of the children are really looking forward to the Festive season and a few Christmas songs were heard as early as October.