

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



"Sam" visits St. Patrick's P.S.

"On Monday 25th October, "Sam Maguire" came to our school. We all wore our red and white gear. Everybody was singing "Come on Tyrone!" when the Tyrone players were coming in through the gate. All the classes got a photo taken with the Tyrone players when their class went to the hall. They brought in the Sam Maguire cup and the Anglo Celt cup. We all got our jerseys and flags signed. It was an amazing day!"

by Daire O'Kane P6.











Tyrone County Board Coaching

We are delighted to welcome Fiachra McNulty back to the school this term for coaching sessions for P1-P7.







Gaelic with Mr O'Hara

We are also delighted to have Afterschools Gaelic coaching P5-P7 with Mr O'Hara.







Student Council



The Student Council had a very productive first meeting, bringing to the table two things that are going well within the school and one suggestion for improvement from each class.....if only money grew on trees!! The classes are loving all the new outdoor play equipment, including the new basketball nets and the additional ICT devices. They also brought wonderful suggestions as to how we could sort out "over-crowding" during football and basketball activities at break and dinnertime. P2/3 have also been provided with additional creative play resources to enhance their learning during structured play.

Eco-Council



We had our second ECO council meeting on Thursday 14th October at 2.30pm. We had a recap and review of all the issues discussed at our September meeting.

● **Bulbs** – all bulbs have been planted by each of the classes. Dáire and Mea will be responsible to check plant boxes & flower beds for weeds & growth each Wednesday.

● **Water buckets** (a new initiative) set out to collect rain water – to be used for watering bulbs flowerpots & outdoor play in the mud kitchen & sand pit. Dáire has sourced buckets. Buckets will be checked twice weekly by the Eco-council & water distributed to mentioned areas.

● **Energy conservation** - all eco council are continuing to be responsible for energy conservation in the classrooms. It will be Aimée and Rián's responsibility to ensure the main door is closed at playtime to keep heat in the school building.

● **Waste** going well in all rooms. Bins are being used appropriately. All classes will now be asked to rinse out yoghurt pots and put them in the blue bin.

We are going to encourage all classes to bring in batteries. To encourage this we will have a competition where all classes will keep count of the number of batteries brought in - winners will be announced at the end of November.

● **Eco-code competition** – all classes will be asked to submit a recording of their class saying our school Eco code. Recordings should be forwarded to the Eco-council by Friday the 12th of November. Teachers will judge the best entry and the winners will get 20 minutes free play outside on Friday the 19th of November.

● **Bio-diversity** - we are still waiting on Peter from Creagan to get back to us in relation to this survey.

The Eco-council would like to thank Lucy Mc Swiggan for her beautiful art work which we will display on our Eco noticeboard.

Weather Warnings

It is not always possible to make a decision early morning regarding school closure due to bad weather. When a decision to close is made by the Principal and Chairperson of the Board of Governors, a text message will be sent out immediately.

Please do not drop your child off or send your child to school unsupervised on mornings when there has been a weather warning. Staff may be delayed travelling to school and it is important that pupils are not left in the building without an adult present. Please check therefore that a member of staff is present in the building before dropping off.

Christmas Raffle-TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SMARTBOARDS

We ask that you make a big effort this year to raise as much money as possible as our aim for the proceeds is to begin to update our interactive boards to SMARTBOARDS..As you can imagine, this will be a big cost..and will require a number of fundraisers to support it... A percentage of the proceeds will once again go towards our chosen charity this year, "Care of Cancer" in Omagh so we would greatly appreciate if you would make a big effort for our Christmas raffle. "Care for Cancer" is a fantastic local charity who not only give much needed practical support to cancer patients, but also their carers and families. In November, each child will bring home a book of 12 tickets to sell at £2.00 each or a book for £20.00. If you require any more books, please do not hesitate to contact the office! The raffle will take place on the last week before the Christmas holidays. For those families with more than 2 pupils, please just sell what you can!

1st Prize - £150 Sports voucher

2nd Prize - Christmas hamper

We would also appreciate any donations from parents for other prizes!

Parent Meetings

Parents will be given the option of phone call meetings or face to face. The face to face meetings will take place on the afternoon of December 7th, beginning at 1pm..School will close at 12 on this day. If this date/time does not suit,a phone call meeting will be arranged instead. Face to face meetings cannot be rearranged for another date...In keeping with Covid procedures, the meetings will be kept brief and we ask one parent only to arrive for the meetings in the hall - wearing a mask. An options letter and follow up timetable will be forwarded next week.

Santa Conversations

In light of some issues last year, we are asking for your support this year in ensuring that the magic of Christmas is not spoilt by pupil conversations involving the "realness" of Santa...your support in this would be very much appreciated.

November - Month of All Souls

Labels have been sent home for each child to write the name of someone they know who has passed away and whom they wish to pray for. We will put all the names on our Tree of Remembrance in the porch and pray for them daily in November.

HEALTHY HAPPY MINDS-

The Education Minister has recently launched the HEALTHY HAPPY MINDS service ... where primary school pupils will be able to avail of much needed therapeutic interventions which will help to support their mental health and wellbeing..A little leaflet has been sent home for your information detailing one such intervention -DRAWING AND TALKING THERAPY..which can also be booked privately..In light of the past couple of challenging years for all our pupils..we welcome this initiative with open arms and hope to benefit from some of the exciting interventions soon!!

Principal Awards - October - awarded for "Respect."

P1 CORMAC MC CRORY

P2/3 CASSIE O'NEILL, AVÁ CLARKE & RIÁN HAMILTON

P4/5 NAOMHAN ELLIS, MIA HAMILTON & PHEEBE MCCORKELL

P6/7 DAIRE O'KANE, KATIE MCCULLAGH, CARLA TURNER & ANNIE MCNULTY

Reading Eggs - Online Reading Programme

Please continue to take full advantage of this programme at home to develop your child's reading skills. Each pupil from P2-P7 should now have access to their username and password and be able to access all activities at home. As it is costing £6.00 per pupil, it is vital that we make as much use of it as possible this year. We will be awarding pupils throughout the year for their participation in this programme. We will continue to focus on online learning for homework on our weekly schedules.

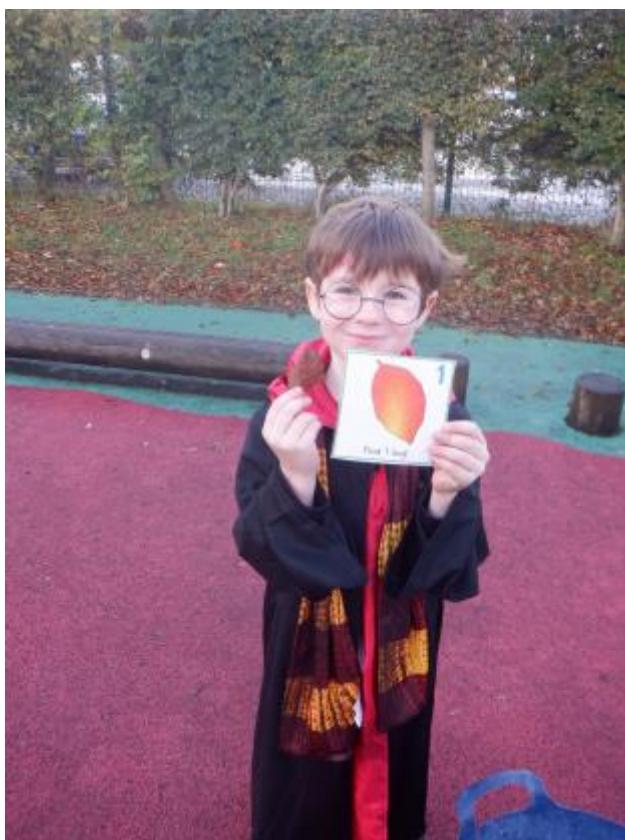
Maths Week

"I went outside to find shapes. We all made shapes outside using twigs and I made a square. We also had to count out numbers of stones. It was great fun!"

by Avá Clarke P3.



1 - Primary One Pupils had great fun learning about shapes outdoors!!



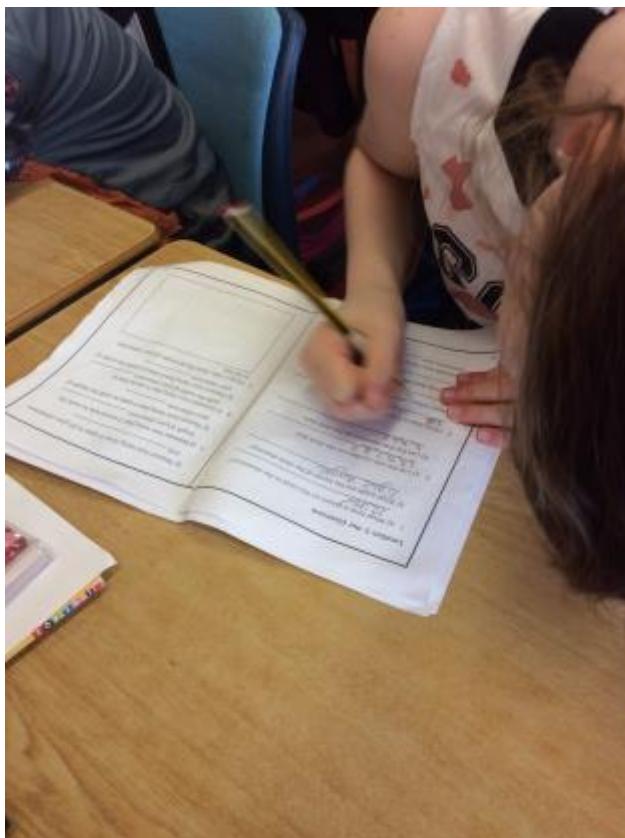






"On Friday 22nd October we did outdoor maths trails to celebrate Maths Week. We were all put into groups. We had little cards with sums on them. e.g. there was a picture of two ladybirds and it asked how many legs are there altogether. We also had to count a list of shapes around the school and count the windows and doors. It was a great experience to do it and it was really fun. I can't wait to do it all again next year!"

by Lucy McSwiggan P6.



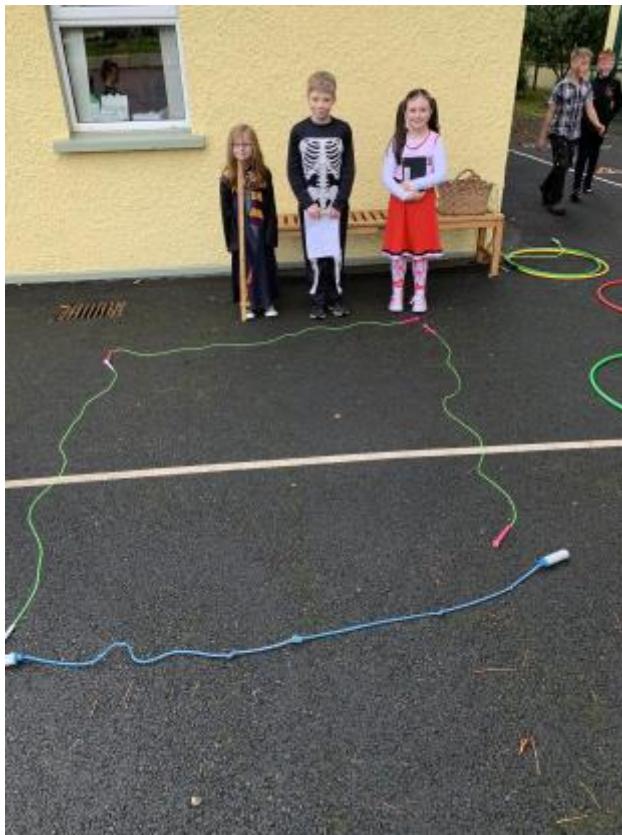


"We were very excited to do our maths trails. We did a lot of fun things to practice our maths. We had to find shapes outside in the playground. I made a triangle out of skipping ropes. Another thing we did was count the length of the pitch with our feet. It was great fun."

by Niamh McCullagh P4







Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week begins Monday 15th November. The pupils will be involved in a number of presentations, assemblies and workshops, based on the theme "One Kind Word." This is a very important week in the school calendar for us. We use it as an opportunity to re-focus minds on the important message that bullying of all kinds is wrong.

Our KS2 pupils will be taking part this year in a Psychological Skills Programme led by Cormac Venney - (Msc Bsc Sport Psychology,) which will involve workshops in Anti-bullying in November, Resilience in February and P7 Transition in May.

Celebrating Halloween with Tom Sweeney







Halloween Fun!















Children in Need - Friday 12th November

To raise money for Children in Need, pupils may wear their onesies (with shoes) to school on this day. (Or ordinary clothes!) All donations will go towards Children in Need.

Latecomers

Could all pupils please arrive at school before the door closes and the security system kicks in at 9.15am. It is totally understandable that occasionally this isn't always possible and on these occasions we would appreciate if you would accompany your child into the school. For those pupils who arrive late on a regular basis, it would be very much appreciated if parents could ensure they are dropped off between 9 and 9.15 am to avoid the disruption of "door buzzing" constantly in the morning!

Thought for today

Our quote today is taken from award winning local celebrity ice climber, **Eimir McSwiggan**.

Eimir's favourite motovational quote comes from something her father always used to say and it stuck with her through all her years of training;

"Stick with it. You are always gaining!"

So true and something to remember on the days you want to give up!