

ST KILIAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

Ní Neart Go Cur le Chéile

Imlitir 11 (Newsletter)

Mí Feabhra

School Roll No: 19608V Principal: Rónán Mac Namara Deputy Principal: Breeda Kenny.

Infants Enjoying the Brighter Days!



The Great Homework Debate Rumbles On! There has been a lot of discussion about homework in the media recently with even the president and the Taoiseach having their say. We as you know surveyed parents and pupils recently on this issue and have revised our Homework Policy as a result. This policy is now on our website <http://www.stkiliansnmullagh.ie>. The single most important item of homework your child receives is Oxford Reading Tree. This should be prioritised over all other items of homework. Reading is assigned everyday by the teacher. Parents are asked to listen to their child reading and sign the reading record.

Some parents have sought guidance from the school in order to further assist their children when reading at home. The following suggestions may be of interest to you as a parent. The items listed are not in any particular order. Use it as a menu and adapt it to suit the age, interests, reading ability of your child and the time available to you

Show a positive approach to reading.

Sit with your child while s/he reads the designated pages. Choose a quiet area free from interruptions.

Praise and encourage your child's efforts.

Discuss the title and cover illustration with your child before s/he reads the book and together try to predict what the story may be about.

Discuss chapter titles.

Discuss the illustrations on the pages.

Discuss with your child what s/he has read.

Encourage him/her to retell the story in his/her own words.

Ask your child to sequence the events in the story.

Ask your child to name the characters in the story, identify the setting, discuss the plot and the ending.

You may opt to use the following prompts:

Did anything in this story surprise you?

What part of this story did you enjoy most?

Were you hoping something would happen that didn't?



Were you disappointed that something in the story didn't turn out as you'd expected?

Does this story or any part of the story or anyone in the story remind you of anything that has happened to you?

Does this story or any part of the story or anyone in the story remind you of anything that has happened to someone you know?

Does this story or any part of the story or anyone in the story remind you of anything that you have read about?

Does this story or any part of the story or anyone in the story remind you of anything that you have seen on television?

Did you find any part of the story confusing?

Predict what might happen to the characters in eg: 10 years time.

Jnr. Infant Vaccinations The HSE will provide MMR and 4 in 1 vaccinations for all junior infants on Wednesday 22nd February in the school.



Fr. Paul Never Leaves Empty Handed on St. Bridget's Day.

Dates for your diary.

Closures	
Wed 15 th Feb	12 noon closure. Primary Language Curriculum staff training.
Thurs 16 th + Fri 17 th Feb	Midterm Break
Fri 17 th March	St. Patrick's weekend
Fri 31 st March to Mon 17 th April	Easter Holidays.
Mon 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Fri 2 nd June	Half day closure for Primary Language Curriculum staff training.
Monday 5 th June	Bank Holiday
Friday 23 rd June	Summer Holidays

Teaching and Learning at Home. Growth Mindset Message. For this fortnight we are working on, 'I like to stretch myself take risks and learn'.

Téama: Éadaí (Clothes) Cá dtéann tú ar scoil? Téim go dtí **Scoil Naomh Cillín.** (Where do you go to school?)

Céard a chaitheann tú ar scoil? Caithim éide scoile ar scoil.

Línte Gníomhaíochta: Bigí ag foléimint ar feadh nóiméid, go mall, níos tapúla, chomh tapa agus is féidir libh. (Crouch down, spring up) This year we are doing active lines as Gaeilge. The pupils exercise in the yard for one minute twice daily after breaks and they learn new exercises and activities 'as Gaeilge'. We are aiming to improve the language and fitness levels. Please give your child an opportunity to talk about and share with you what they are learning at school. We started last week with the exercises below.



Physical Education. All classes are focusing on Dance this term as per our school policy. Basketball is also continuing for all classes. Next week is week 4 of a 6 week programme.

BOM Summary Report to Parents. The board met remotely on 17th Jan 2023. The following were among the items discussed:

Allianz Safety Audit	Allianz carried out a health and safety audit. There were no issues arising
Draft Inclusion Policy	Amendments were made to our Inclusion Policy. These were ratified. The completed policy is now posted on our website.
Admissions Policy	The following amendment was ratified by the board: St. Kilian's N.S. will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for

	Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council. St. Kilian's N.S. will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act." This was published in our last two newsletters for parents' information and input.
Homework Policy	This policy was redrafted based on feedback received from: i) Pupils on SurveyMonkey ii) Parents on SurveyMonkey iii) Staff at staff meeting iv) It was presented to the Parents Assoc for further comment. The policy was ratified by the board. *SSE for Covid will be looked at at the next BOM
Bullying Review	A bullying audit for the school year to date was carried out. Full Bullying Review will be carried out in May.
School Ethos.	November - Remembrance Trees and a Remembrance Ceremony, Be Still and Know That I am Near, were held in the Church. ii) December - 2 nativity scenes constructed in the school. Advent trees decorated. Christmas Mass in the Church. Carol services and nativities from different classes. iii) Sacraments - dates set and communicated to parents. iv) Catholic Schools Week. Walking Together In Faith and Love. Ceremony to be held in the Church. Grandparents will be invited to school for a 'cuppa' and to meet some pupils.

Ms McGovern's 1st and 2nd Class; Lios Fhlionn.

They say in Ireland that you can plan for everything except the weather. It was cold and frosty for our return to school in the New Year but for a change the icy conditions fitted in nicely with our topic work about Winter, sports and play. For our science work we were learning about forces and friction. We discussed different surface types; rough and smooth, the materials used to make them and the effect they had on the movement of objects. We experimented with toy cars on different surfaces to see how they would react.



We extended our topic work to learning about different sports. We learned about the *GAA* and experimented with different fabrics and fibres to design our own football jerseys in art. We also learned about a variety of winter sports including competitive sports that people partake in during the winter Olympics. These inspired our whole class display portraying us skiing in the mountains.



We are very lucky to have Alerie back with us this term helping us to develop our basketball skills and overall coordination when traveling, dodging and handling the ball. Games are an integral part of our learning in school, we enjoy playing them both in PE and when consolidating our learning in other subject areas as you'll see below.



Credit Union Quiz 2023 We were delighted to see the Credit Union Quiz return after an absence of three years. Over 40 teams from local primary schools took part in the event, which was held in Kingscourt Community Centre on Friday, January 27th. St. Kilian's National School was represented by two teams on the night. Our U-13 team consisted of Hannah Haigney, Zara Mulligan, Áine Harney and Seán Bermingham. Our U-11 team members were Kirsten Tanifan, Tyler Smith, Conor Gardiner and Devin Murphy.

Both teams performed really well and were unfortunate not to be amongst the winners.
Well done to all involved.



Ms Sheridan's 5th Class - Corr na gClár

St. Brigid's Day

Rang a Cúig are delighted to welcome Spring which we know is marked by St. Brigid's Day. We learned all about St. Brigid and why she is the female patron saint of Ireland. We learned that traditionally St. Brigid's Crosses were, and still are, hung in houses to protect the home from fire and evil. Using rushes, we followed St. Brigid's technique to make our very own crosses. We were very lucky to have these crosses blessed by Fr. Paul. We each brought a cross home and also gave some to Fr. Paul to distribute to parishioners. We found it tricky to make the crosses at first but we kept practising. We were very satisfied with the finished products. As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect!



Having learned all about St. Brigid, we created our own drama which told the story of her life. We worked in groups and each group had a different part of St. Brigid's life to tell through their drama. We then performed our dramas in order, showcasing a summary of St. Brigid's life. We really enjoyed creating and performing our dramas!



The Story of St. Brigid



100th Day of School

We celebrated our 100th day of school on Wednesday February 8th. We engaged in lots of different activities involving the number 100 throughout the day. We built a tower using 100 blocks, created a chain 100 links long and made the number 100 using cubes. We wrote stories predicting what the world would be like in 100 years, tossed a coin 100 times and took a tally of 100 vehicles passing the window and categorised them. We did 100 jumping jacks with Mr. Rowe's class as part of our línte gníomhaíochta. We also got the chance to do 100 'keepie uppies' and 100 skips in a row. This was a lot harder than we had anticipated!

We reflected on the past 100 days in school and how far we have come, both as a class and individually. Many of us agreed that our mathematical knowledge has increased as we were introduced to topics such as long division, fractions, decimals and percentages. Some pupils shared how far they have come. We discussed how getting older is helping some of these changes. It was lovely to reflect on the development of our class.

"We've grown a stronger bond with each other." - Anthony Andrade

"We learned a lot of interesting things from each other this year through our explanation presentations." - Daniel Onuigwe.

"I'm becoming more confident and comfortable speaking aloud in class." - Chloe Carroll



Stretching It Out!

The boys and girls in Spraoi 1 visit Junior Infants everyday for Ready Set Go Maths and Active Learning and it was only right that Junior Infants paid a visit to their classroom for reverse integration and some down time! As our school's growth mindset message this week is about stretching ourselves and taking risks, we decided to stretch our bodies and minds during Yoga! It was super relaxing and the teachers even joined in!

Check out our yoga poses below!



