

Ashbourne CNS Newsletter



Spring 2023

Principal's Address

Welcome Everyone to Ashbourne CNS Newsletter for Term 2!
The termly Newsletter is just one of the ways we stay connected. I'm pleased to be able to share all the activities that have occurred since January.

Guided Reading continued to be rolled out in Second and Third classes this term. Improving reading fluency is central to children being able to access the curriculum in full as 'reading the word' enables children to 'read the world'.

Well-being and student voice are central to our school values and the student members of the Parent School Partnership continue to lead sections of Friday Assembly for the Growth Mindset Awards. Congratulations to all winners this term. You show how having the right attitude can help you be your best self!!

Creativity continues with Olwyn from BLAST as children from Third and Fourth classes dance their way through the term. The aim of this scheme is to give students the opportunity to work with a professional artist on a unique project and having surveyed the students they chose DANCE!!!

Dance isn't the only BLAST that's been going on...children in Fourth and Sixth classes attended Science BLAST at the RDS. They did the school proud by confidently presenting their findings to the judges on the day. The students also presented to their peers at Assembly as part of STEM week.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was also celebrated this term. A special assembly full of singing and dancing was organised to mark the occasion. It was great to see the whole school coming together to celebrate the Irish Language and our national holiday St. Patrick's Day.

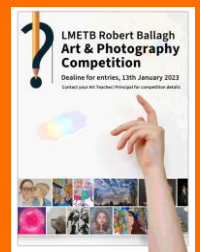
All these events, activities and initiatives would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff. I would like to thank all those involved in the various committees and initiatives for ensuring that the learning environment is fun and interesting for the children of Ashbourne CNS.

While I'm on maternity leave, Múinteoir Séamus will be stepping up as Acting Principal and Múinteoir Eoin as Acting Deputy. We have already prepared for next year and there are lots of exciting things to come. I look forward to hearing about all the learning experiences and the progress of the school building.

Is mise le meas,
Príomhoide Jenny

Competition Winners

Congratulations to Ciara Moore in Fifth Class and Philip Sowa in First Class who won the LMETB Robert Ballagh Art Competition. Both pieces of art will be displayed in Droichead Arts Centre in Drogheda, Co. Louth.



Congratulations also to the quiz teams who were made up of students from Third and Fifth classes and Fourth and Sixth classes for winning the Tráth na gCeist competition during Seachtain na Gaeilge.



School News

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Cheiliúramar Seachtain na Gaeilge in ACNS cúpla seachtain ó shin. Bhí an-spórt agus spraoi againn i rith na seachtaine. Rinne na páistí go léir a ndícheall chun Gaeilge a úsáid agus a labhairt sna seomraí ranga, ar an gclós agus timpeall na scoile. Bhí a lán imeachtaí ar siúl le linn na seachtaine do na páistí, mar shampla, léigh Rang a 6 scéalta do na ranganna sóisearacha, bhí Tráth na gCeist ar siúl do na hardranganna agus bhí cluichí teanga ar siúl sna seomraí ranga. Ar an lá deireanach, bhí Lá Glas againn. Bhí na páistí agus an fhoireann gléasta suas in éadaí glasa. Bhí tionól, paráid agus céilí againn ar an lá seo. D'fhoghlaim an scoil ar fad an dámhsa 'An Dreoilín' agus an t-amhrán 'Abair Leat' agus rinneamar iad le chéile sa halla spóirt. Bhaineamar an-sult as an tseachtain!

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in ACNS a few weeks ago. We had great fun during the week. Each pupil made a huge effort to use and speak Irish in the classrooms, on the yard and around the school. There were a lot of activities on during the week for the pupils, for example, 6th Class read stories to the junior classes, we had a quiz for the senior classes and there were language games in the classrooms. On the final day, we had 'Lá Glas'. The pupils and staff were dressed up in green clothes. We had assembly, a parade and a céilí on the day. The whole school learned the dance 'An Dreoilín' and the song 'Abair Leat' and we performed them altogether in the hall. We really enjoyed the week!



Friends for Life

We are also running the 'FRIENDS for Life' programme in 6th Class. This programme is a school-based positive mental health programme.



The World Health Organisation cites 'FRIENDS for Life' as the only evidence-based programme effective at all levels of intervention for

anxiety in children (WHO 2004). The programme helps students to develop effective strategies to deal with worry, stress, and change. The life skills that are practiced in the programme aim to reduce anxiety and promote resilience. We also run the FUSE anti-bullying programme with the support of Dublin City University. By looking after ourselves and each other, we aim to make school a happy and safe place to play and work.

Green Schools

The Green Schools committee have been working extremely hard to reduce litter on the school grounds and waste in our school bins. Since January, the committee have devised an action plan whereby roles and responsibilities have been delegated to help us achieve our school's goals of reducing landfill waste by 60% and the number of litter blackspots on school grounds by 80% by June 2023.



Every week the children monitor and assess the bin use in the school. They collect contents of the recycling bins twice a week, to ensure that the school's use of plastic bags is reduced, and pencil pairings once a week using a compost bin. The classes that are using their bins correctly are then rewarded for their efforts at assembly on Fridays. The committee also monitor litter on the school grounds. Litter picking is carried out weekly to help with this. The committee would like to thank pupils, staff, and parents for their support in helping us to achieve our targets.

Blast 2022

Children in Third and Fourth classes have been very lucky this term to take part in 'Dance Blast', a programme run in primary schools aimed at increasing creativity and fun inside the classroom. We have been exploring the world of dance through listening and identifying music from across the world and learning some traditional dances, as well as freestyling our own dance moves to new songs. So far, we have danced to Indian, Chinese, Ukrainian and Romanian traditional music, with more to come over the coming weeks. The children have found these lessons amazing and look forward to it every week, allowing themselves to express their creativity in new fun ways.



We sincerely thank, Olwyn, our professional dance choreographer and teacher, for facilitating these sessions.

Visitors to Our School

GAA Coaching

In January and February, Third and Fourth classes took part in GAA coaching while Fifth and Sixth classes are currently receiving training. The training will last for six weeks and will continue into Term 3.

Every Tuesday morning, the children have been perfecting their ball handling, catching, and kicking skills. These skills are taught through drills, mini games, and matches. The children are really enjoying learning the skills for Gaelic football and look forward to their sessions every week.



If any child/children would like to further develop their Gaelic skills, Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA Club is always looking for new players. Please see <http://donashgaa.com/> for more information.

Class News

Junior Infants

Once Upon a Time

Our Junior Infants class had a fantastic time learning with last month's Fairy Tales Aistear theme.

Some of the learning experiences included:

Tasting different Porridge Flavours and acting out the story of the Three Little Pigs.



To celebrate the arrival of Spring we made beautiful Cherry Blossom Trees by painting popcorn.



Senior Infants

Aistear Fun

This month in Senior Infants we learned about Spring and how to take care of the Spring Garden in Aistear. The children were divided into different groups to allow them to work at a different activity each day. The groups were as follows: Role play in the vegetable shop, sowing vegetables, playdough mats making things for the spring garden, science corner to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly, and an art area for painting butterflies.

Aistear Stations:



First Class

Amazon Rainforest

In First Class, we have been learning about Brazil and some of its unique features. The class really enjoyed learning about Brazil and making connections to their own lives. We explored the Amazon Rainforest and all the incredible creatures that live in the biggest rainforest in the world. The students also created their own Amazon Rainforest in pairs, and these can be seen in the picture below.



First class also performed in front of the school at assembly, they recreated a tropical rainforest storm with the use of body percussion (Clapping, clicking, jumping, etc.). The students performed brilliantly and got a great reception from the rest of the school. Keep up the great work First Class!



Second Class

Library and Engineers Week

For the past six weeks Second Class have really enjoyed taking part in the Guided Reading programme. We were very lucky to have Múinteoir Anna and Múinteoir Colleen join us every day. The students really enjoyed visiting the different reading stations and working with the teachers. As part of the programme, the students took home a new book to read every night and they have really been growing in confidence with their reading. To celebrate all the students' hard work, we took a trip to Ashbourne Library on Monday 27th March. We had a wonderful time there, reading books and meeting the lovely staff.



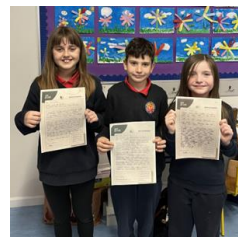
As part of STEPS Engineers Week, Second Class had great fun creating marble runs. To begin, we talked about the role of an engineer and how engineers design and create solutions to problems. The children were given the challenge "Think like an engineer; build a structure to get a marble safely down from the top of a tower". The students worked alone or in pairs to build their marble run from recycled materials such as kitchen roll tubes and cardboard boxes. They learned to make different types of attachments to strengthen joints, stabilise structures, or add walls and shelves to their towers. See the photos for the finished creations!



Third Class

Swimming and more

We have been very busy in Third Class since our Winter Break. We've had lots of fun learning new things both inside and outside of the classroom. In January, we started swimming lessons for the first time in GymPlus. We had great fun and made great improvements over the 6 weeks of lessons. Third and Fourth classes also started GAA with the local club Donaghmore Ashbourne during January and February, we really enjoyed learning about Gaelic football and picking up some new skills.



Our class recently sent off our entries for the An Post Junior Writing Competition. The theme for this year was 'A Happier and Healthier Ireland 2030'. We spent time learning about An Post and the important role they play in our communities. We explored how we can be more sustainable and inclusive in order to

protect the environment and make positive changes now that will benefit the future. Our task was to write a letter explaining how Ireland in 2030 will be a better place to live for everybody if we make small changes now. We came up with excellent ideas and we are very proud of our work!

Fourth Class

ESB Science Blast

It has been a wonderful term for Fourth Class with lots happening. From swimming lessons to GAA and dance classes with Olwyn to loads of exciting topics in class. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the term was our trip to the RDS for the ESB 'Science Blast'. Along with Sixth Class, we took a bus to Dublin and explored a series of exhibits from other primary schools and even some university students. We also got to watch a presentation about the power of gases which was very interesting. We presented our findings about the influence of a reward on individual performance in our weekly spelling tests. We found that by having a reward, such as free time or no homework for a night, increased our average score by 2 points per week! Our judge was so impressed with our work and the graphs we had created in maths class that, they gave us a special trophy to take home for our work. One of the highlights of the trip was being able to speak to other children about their projects and answering questions about our own.



Fifth Class

5th Class Fun at Swimming and GAA

In January, the boys and girls of Fifth Class began their course of swimming lessons in GymPlus. The lessons lasted for 6 weeks. We were split into two groups, the more experienced and the less experienced. We learned how to do different swimming strokes like the front crawl and back stroke. One of the hardest bits was learning how to float in the water. The best bit was the five minutes of free play at the end of each session. We would love to go again next year.

Last month, we began our GAA lessons. We have been doing them in the yard. Some of the skills that we have learned include high catches, hand passes and bouncing the ball with four steps in between each bounce/hand pass. Our favourite part is when we play 'Chaos Tag' at the beginning of the lesson. We hope that we are going to learn how to 'solo' the ball too. We have enjoyed GAA so far and we can't wait to learn more GAA skills.

Important Dates for your Diary

School Closed

April 3rd-14th, May 1st and May 2nd & June 2nd – June 6th

Curriculum Training Days

Full day closure May 12th & half day closure June 16th

School Tours

Junior & Senior Infants June 7th, 1st & 2nd Class June 8th, 3rd & 4th Class May 31st and 5th & 6th Class May 30th

6th Class Graduation

June 23rd

Summer holidays

School closes on June 30th at 12pm

Sixth Class

Citizen Development

Sixth Class have had a very busy second term! In January we began swimming lessons in GymPlus. Everyone really enjoyed this experience and learned a lot! In February, we visited the RDS to take part in Science Blast, we presented our project to the judge who was extremely impressed with the research we completed. We got the whole school involved in our question 'Do video games have a negative impact on our mental health?'.


We started to work on our 'Incredible Edibles' programme and planted some potatoes, strawberries, and carrots. We hope to watch these grow over the coming months!

In March, we debated the motion 'Homework should be banned' in front of the whole school during Assembly, we researched, wrote, and completed the debate in teams of five. We made lots of very convincing arguments and really gave the audience a lot to think about. Every Friday we have been working with Junior Infants on our peer reading!

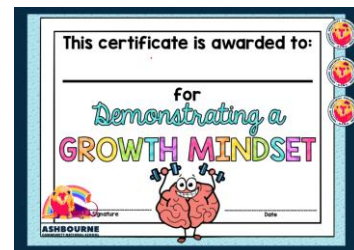


Growth Mindset Awards

Award Winners

We extend our congratulations to:

Kelvin Neerpath, Daria Bagu, Sofia McManus, Stefan Gandu, Amelia Madrigan, Louise Mendonca, Ciara Moore, Alessandro Vovc, Bogdan Boldisor, Simon Ogbewe, Afrodita Nistor, Pola Awad, Ana Barbu, Matei Lari, Krish Deep, Lakshiv Sharma, Amalia Gaita, Khadija Aziz, Caolan Denham, Afnan Alsadi, Ella McLoughlin, Jaxon Kelly, Kyle Moss McCarthy, Max Dunne, Marlie McDonnell, Helena Sulowski Moreno, Rares Ichim, Alexandru Balmas, Ruxandra Boestean, Anastasija Sidorcenko, Makar Kravchenko, Ronaldo Savan, Alex Wilson-Ronan, Zofia Drwal, Veronika Kuzmina, Rosel Alo, Julian Cazacov, Anastasia Bircă, Elisa Burcusel, Varshan Murugan, Patrick O'Donnell, Great Makuiza, Dillon Heavey, Jaser Arafa, Logan Innes, Robert Ichim, Ruth Pop, Polina Shpak, Meher Sharma, Dan Charls, Yasmina Saidalieva, Marius Mereuta, Evyann Kashyap, Joshua Burcusel, Elsa Rus, Ryan Musgrave, Elan Rus, Marvins Alabi, Mia Remes, Eric Popa, Alina Mindziak, Eleanor Hernandez, Alex Wilson-Ronan, Fernanda Simoes, Ronaldo Savan, Alexandru Balmus, Tanya Yezhova, Abdul Ahad Saqib, Ianis Ion, Zofia Drwal, Momina Aziz, Reid McMahon, Anastasia Gramada, Miracle Ojo, Ellie Boyd, Melinda Padurari, Iosif Barbu, Viktoriia Ihnatova, Veronika Kuzmina and Aleesha Moore



for demonstrating growth mindset by trying something new, persevering when tasks become challenging and by viewing challenges as learning opportunities.

