

Christmas Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents: Here is a flavour of some of the activities going on in the school at the moment.

Pre-school: Aine's Class

- We have been doing lovely winter art and songs
- We made our own tree and decorated it
- We love going to the park
- We like going for walks all around our school
- Trampoline is great fun
- We are flying on our balance bike.

Junior Infants: Louise's Class

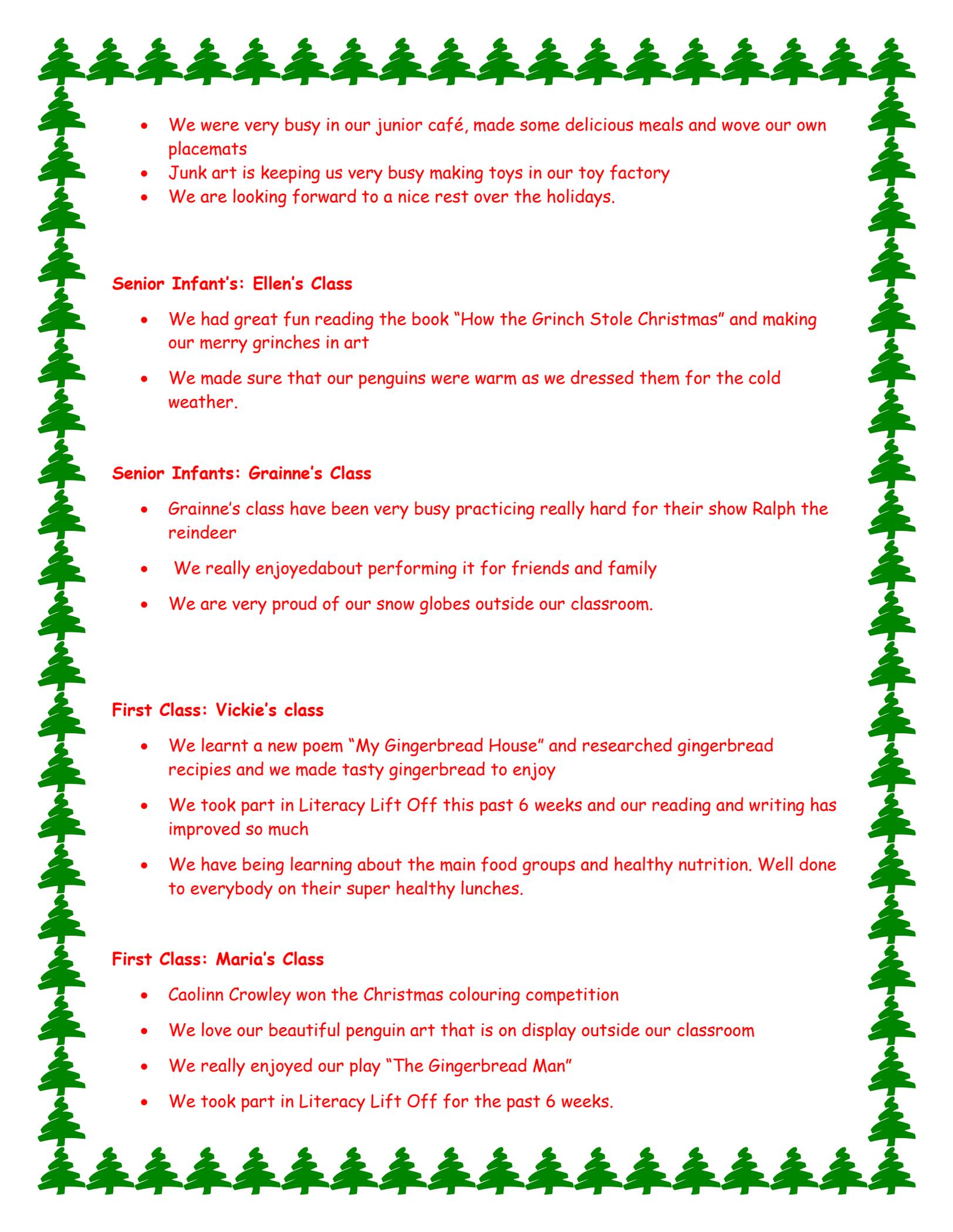
- We had great fun in Liskennet Farm. We played in the playground and rode horses each day
- We visited Milanos' pizzeria and made our own pizzas
- We are busy making our our Christmas Jumpers, hats and scarves
- Well done to Daniel who won a prize in the Dooradoyle Library colouring competition.

Junior Infants: Rachel's class

- Junior infants had a very busy term learning their Jolly sounds and early mathematical activities
- We loved our show "Snowman at Sunset"
- We have been learning about the post office and had a visit from Trish our postwoman. We got to peek inside her post-van and saw all the letters she was about to deliver.

Junior Infants: Bernie's Class

- What a busy time it has been in junior infants, we have learned our sounds, tricky words and letter writing

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- We were very busy in our junior café, made some delicious meals and wove our own placemats
 - Junk art is keeping us very busy making toys in our toy factory
 - We are looking forward to a nice rest over the holidays.

Senior Infant's: Ellen's Class

- We had great fun reading the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and making our merry grinchies in art
- We made sure that our penguins were warm as we dressed them for the cold weather.

Senior Infants: Grainne's Class

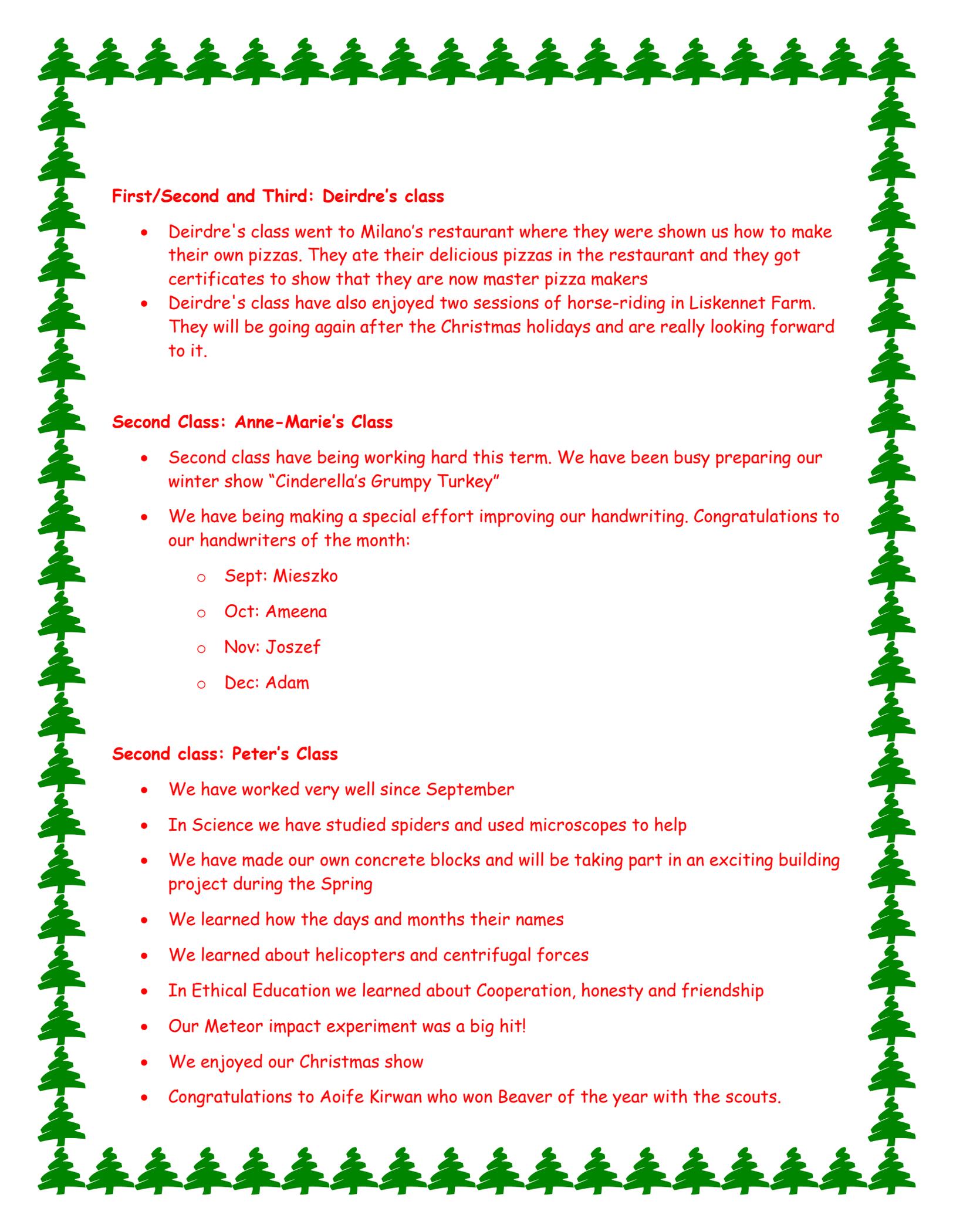
- Grainne's class have been very busy practicing really hard for their show Ralph the reindeer
- We really enjoyed about performing it for friends and family
- We are very proud of our snow globes outside our classroom.

First Class: Vickie's class

- We learnt a new poem "My Gingerbread House" and researched gingerbread recipies and we made tasty gingerbread to enjoy
- We took part in Literacy Lift Off this past 6 weeks and our reading and writing has improved so much
- We have being learning about the main food groups and healthy nutrition. Well done to everybody on their super healthy lunches.

First Class: Maria's Class

- Caolinn Crowley won the Christmas colouring competition
- We love our beautiful penguin art that is on display outside our classroom
- We really enjoyed our play "The Gingerbread Man"
- We took part in Literacy Lift Off for the past 6 weeks.



First/Second and Third: Deirdre's class

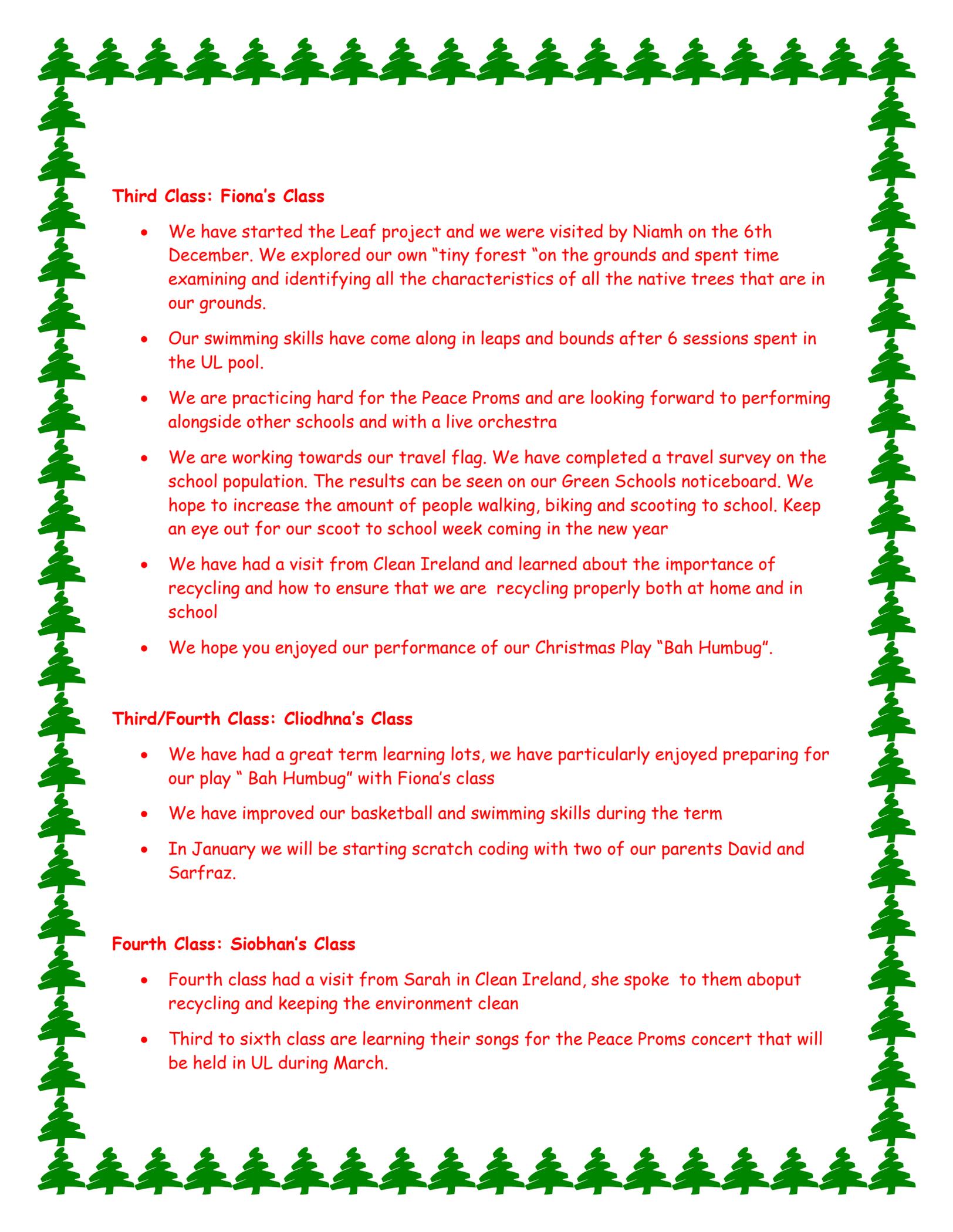
- Deirdre's class went to Milano's restaurant where they were shown us how to make their own pizzas. They ate their delicious pizzas in the restaurant and they got certificates to show that they are now master pizza makers
- Deirdre's class have also enjoyed two sessions of horse-riding in Liskennet Farm. They will be going again after the Christmas holidays and are really looking forward to it.

Second Class: Anne-Marie's Class

- Second class have been working hard this term. We have been busy preparing our winter show "Cinderella's Grumpy Turkey"
- We have been making a special effort improving our handwriting. Congratulations to our handwriters of the month:
 - Sept: Mieszko
 - Oct: Ameena
 - Nov: Jozef
 - Dec: Adam

Second class: Peter's Class

- We have worked very well since September
- In Science we have studied spiders and used microscopes to help
- We have made our own concrete blocks and will be taking part in an exciting building project during the Spring
- We learned how the days and months their names
- We learned about helicopters and centrifugal forces
- In Ethical Education we learned about Cooperation, honesty and friendship
- Our Meteor impact experiment was a big hit!
- We enjoyed our Christmas show
- Congratulations to Aoife Kirwan who won Beaver of the year with the scouts.



Third Class: Fiona's Class

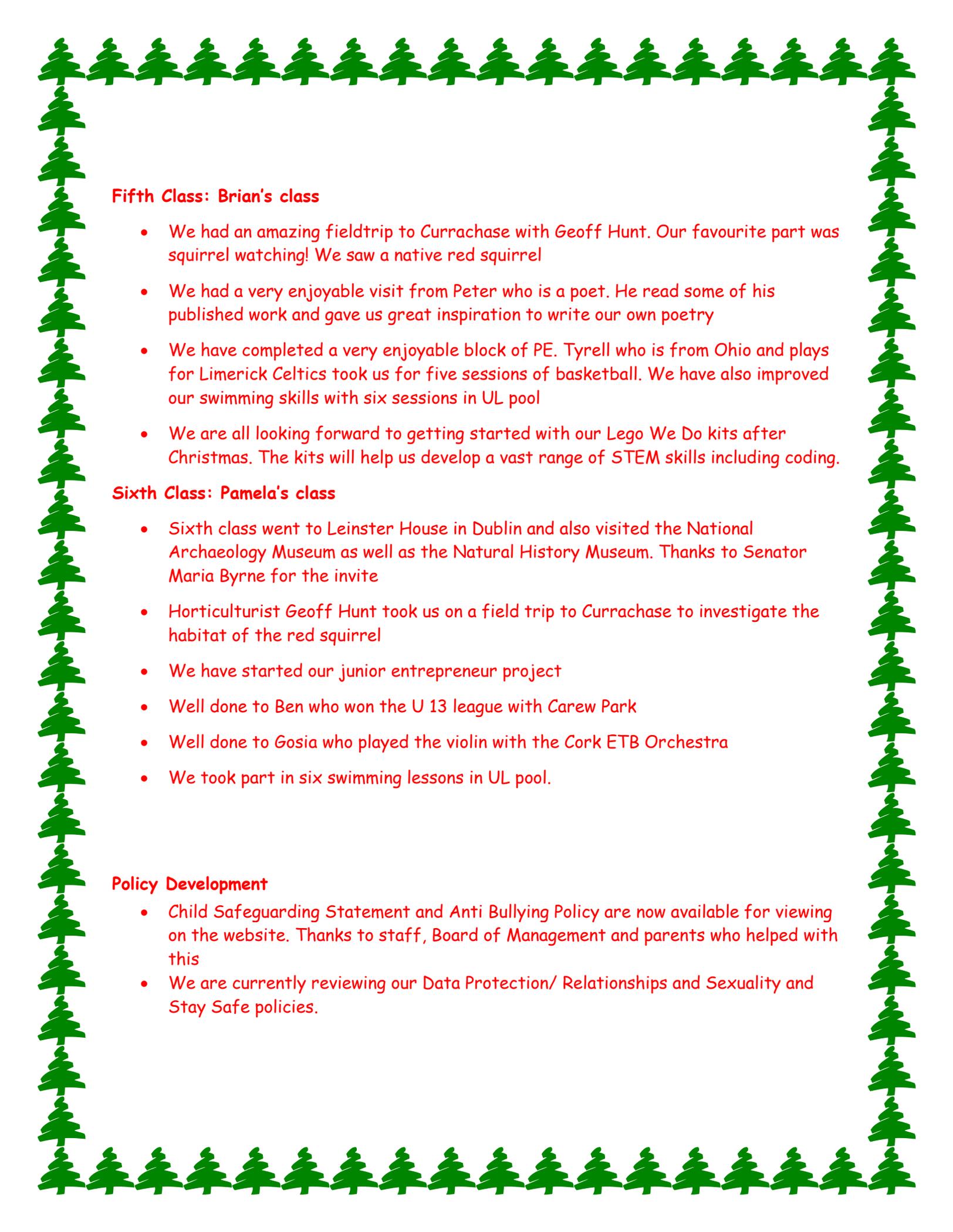
- We have started the Leaf project and we were visited by Niamh on the 6th December. We explored our own "tiny forest "on the grounds and spent time examining and identifying all the characteristics of all the native trees that are in our grounds.
- Our swimming skills have come along in leaps and bounds after 6 sessions spent in the UL pool.
- We are practicing hard for the Peace Proms and are looking forward to performing alongside other schools and with a live orchestra
- We are working towards our travel flag. We have completed a travel survey on the school population. The results can be seen on our Green Schools noticeboard. We hope to increase the amount of people walking, biking and scooting to school. Keep an eye out for our scoot to school week coming in the new year
- We have had a visit from Clean Ireland and learned about the importance of recycling and how to ensure that we are recycling properly both at home and in school
- We hope you enjoyed our performance of our Christmas Play "Bah Humbug".

Third/Fourth Class: Cliodhna's Class

- We have had a great term learning lots, we have particularly enjoyed preparing for our play " Bah Humbug" with Fiona's class
- We have improved our basketball and swimming skills during the term
- In January we will be starting scratch coding with two of our parents David and Sarfraz.

Fourth Class: Siobhan's Class

- Fourth class had a visit from Sarah in Clean Ireland, she spoke to them about recycling and keeping the environment clean
- Third to sixth class are learning their songs for the Peace Proms concert that will be held in UL during March.



Fifth Class: Brian's class

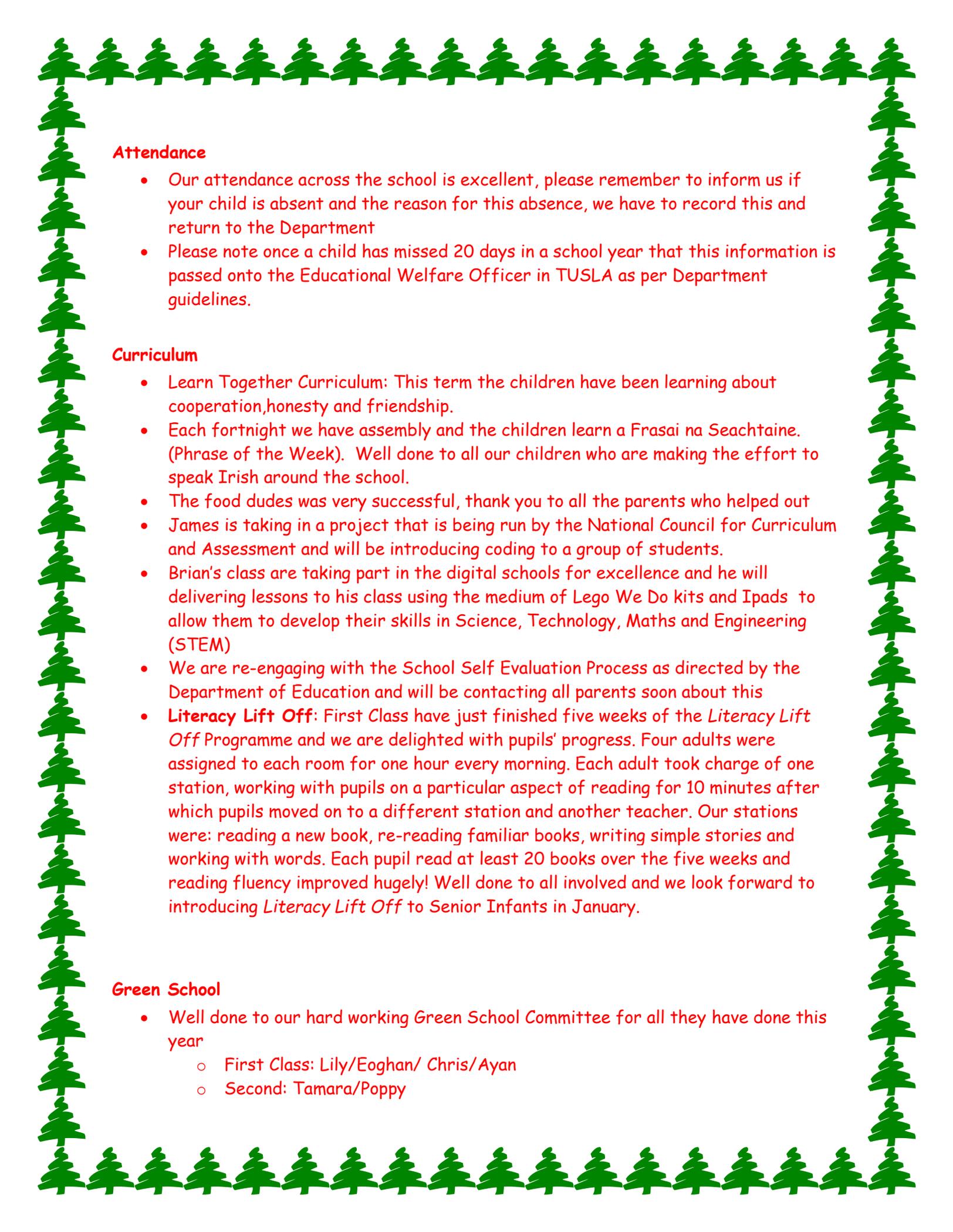
- We had an amazing fieldtrip to Currachase with Geoff Hunt. Our favourite part was squirrel watching! We saw a native red squirrel
- We had a very enjoyable visit from Peter who is a poet. He read some of his published work and gave us great inspiration to write our own poetry
- We have completed a very enjoyable block of PE. Tyrell who is from Ohio and plays for Limerick Celtics took us for five sessions of basketball. We have also improved our swimming skills with six sessions in UL pool
- We are all looking forward to getting started with our Lego We Do kits after Christmas. The kits will help us develop a vast range of STEM skills including coding.

Sixth Class: Pamela's class

- Sixth class went to Leinster House in Dublin and also visited the National Archaeology Museum as well as the Natural History Museum. Thanks to Senator Maria Byrne for the invite
- Horticulturist Geoff Hunt took us on a field trip to Currachase to investigate the habitat of the red squirrel
- We have started our junior entrepreneur project
- Well done to Ben who won the U 13 league with Carew Park
- Well done to Gosia who played the violin with the Cork ETB Orchestra
- We took part in six swimming lessons in UL pool.

Policy Development

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Anti Bullying Policy are now available for viewing on the website. Thanks to staff, Board of Management and parents who helped with this
- We are currently reviewing our Data Protection/ Relationships and Sexuality and Stay Safe policies.



Attendance

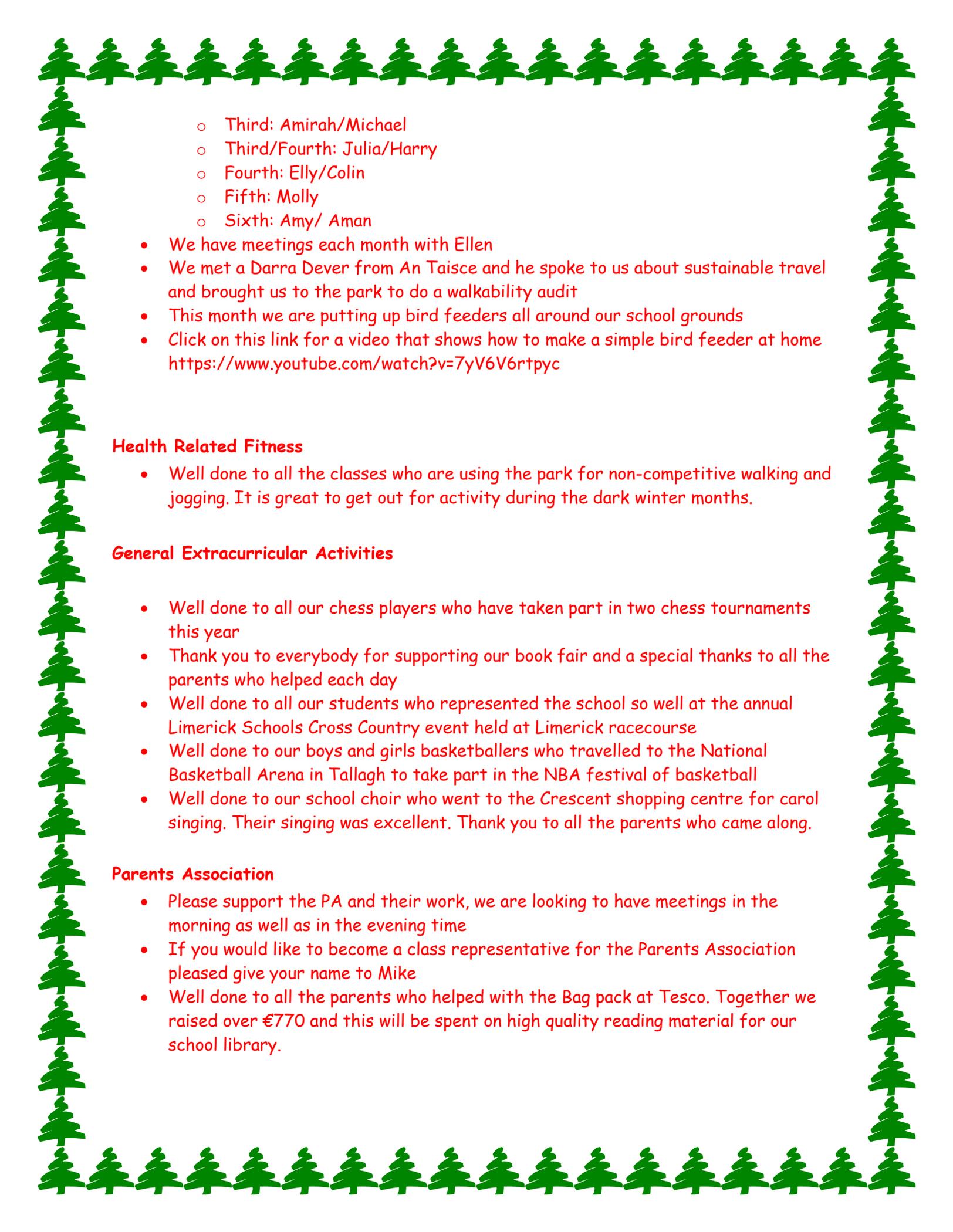
- Our attendance across the school is excellent, please remember to inform us if your child is absent and the reason for this absence, we have to record this and return to the Department
- Please note once a child has missed 20 days in a school year that this information is passed onto the Educational Welfare Officer in TUSLA as per Department guidelines.

Curriculum

- Learn Together Curriculum: This term the children have been learning about cooperation, honesty and friendship.
- Each fortnight we have assembly and the children learn a Frasaí na Seachtaine. (Phrase of the Week). Well done to all our children who are making the effort to speak Irish around the school.
- The food dudes was very successful, thank you to all the parents who helped out
- James is taking in a project that is being run by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and will be introducing coding to a group of students.
- Brian's class are taking part in the digital schools for excellence and he will be delivering lessons to his class using the medium of Lego We Do kits and Ipads to allow them to develop their skills in Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering (STEM)
- We are re-engaging with the School Self Evaluation Process as directed by the Department of Education and will be contacting all parents soon about this
- **Literacy Lift Off:** First Class have just finished five weeks of the *Literacy Lift Off* Programme and we are delighted with pupils' progress. Four adults were assigned to each room for one hour every morning. Each adult took charge of one station, working with pupils on a particular aspect of reading for 10 minutes after which pupils moved on to a different station and another teacher. Our stations were: reading a new book, re-reading familiar books, writing simple stories and working with words. Each pupil read at least 20 books over the five weeks and reading fluency improved hugely! Well done to all involved and we look forward to introducing *Literacy Lift Off* to Senior Infants in January.

Green School

- Well done to our hard working Green School Committee for all they have done this year
 - First Class: Lily/Eoghan/ Chris/Ayan
 - Second: Tamara/Poppy

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- Third: Amirah/Michael
 - Third/Fourth: Julia/Harry
 - Fourth: Elly/Colin
 - Fifth: Molly
 - Sixth: Amy/ Aman

- We have meetings each month with Ellen
- We met a Darra Dever from An Taisce and he spoke to us about sustainable travel and brought us to the park to do a walkability audit
- This month we are putting up bird feeders all around our school grounds
- Click on this link for a video that shows how to make a simple bird feeder at home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yV6V6rtpyc>

Health Related Fitness

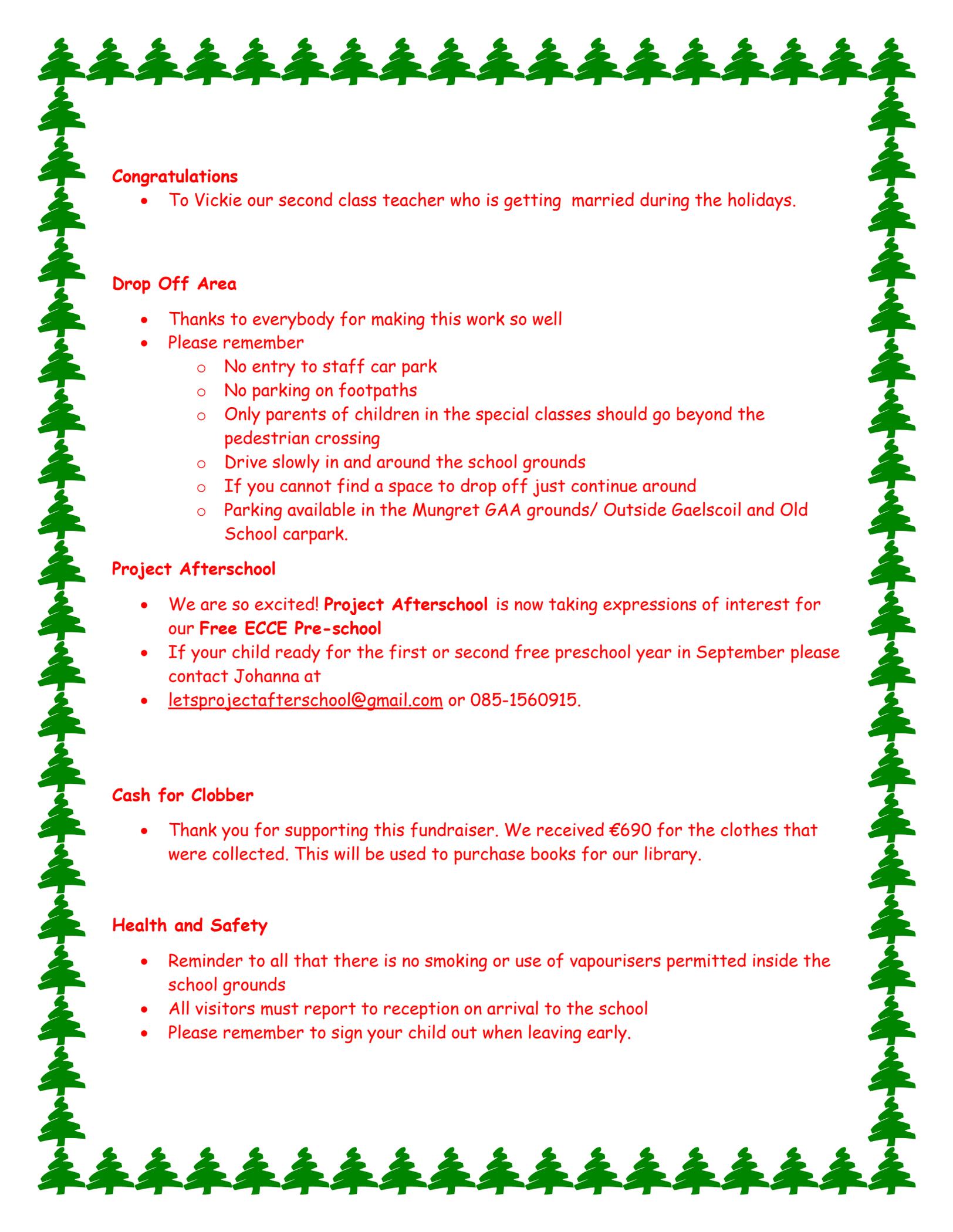
- Well done to all the classes who are using the park for non-competitive walking and jogging. It is great to get out for activity during the dark winter months.

General Extracurricular Activities

- Well done to all our chess players who have taken part in two chess tournaments this year
- Thank you to everybody for supporting our book fair and a special thanks to all the parents who helped each day
- Well done to all our students who represented the school so well at the annual Limerick Schools Cross Country event held at Limerick racecourse
- Well done to our boys and girls basketballers who travelled to the National Basketball Arena in Tallagh to take part in the NBA festival of basketball
- Well done to our school choir who went to the Crescent shopping centre for carol singing. Their singing was excellent. Thank you to all the parents who came along.

Parents Association

- Please support the PA and their work, we are looking to have meetings in the morning as well as in the evening time
- If you would like to become a class representative for the Parents Association pleased give your name to Mike
- Well done to all the parents who helped with the Bag pack at Tesco. Together we raised over €770 and this will be spent on high quality reading material for our school library.



Congratulations

- To Vickie our second class teacher who is getting married during the holidays.

Drop Off Area

- Thanks to everybody for making this work so well
- Please remember
 - No entry to staff car park
 - No parking on footpaths
 - Only parents of children in the special classes should go beyond the pedestrian crossing
 - Drive slowly in and around the school grounds
 - If you cannot find a space to drop off just continue around
 - Parking available in the Mungret GAA grounds/ Outside Gaelscoil and Old School carpark.

Project Afterschool

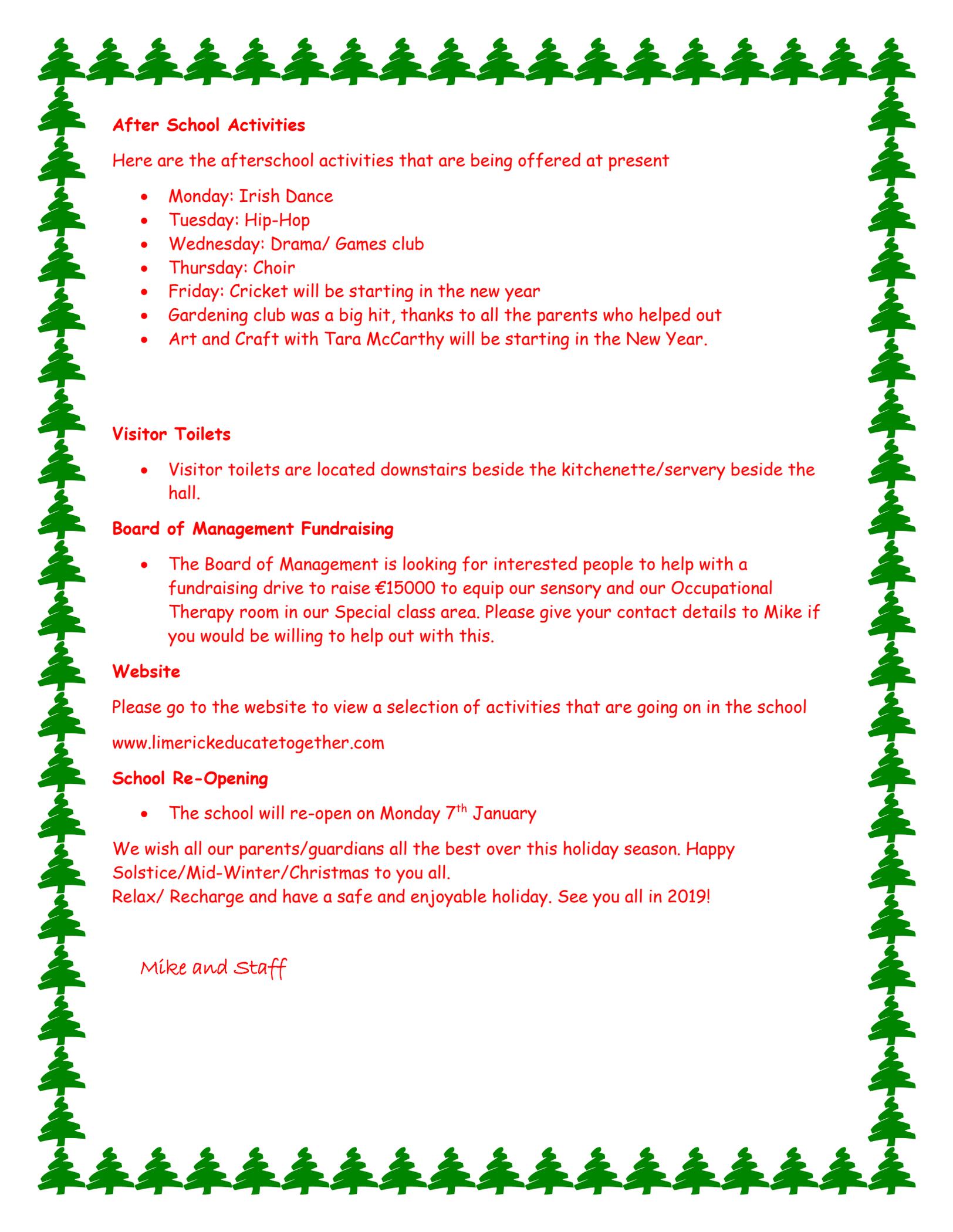
- We are so excited! **Project Afterschool** is now taking expressions of interest for our **Free ECCE Pre-school**
- If your child ready for the first or second free preschool year in September please contact Johanna at
- letsprojectafterschool@gmail.com or 085-1560915.

Cash for Clobber

- Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. We received €690 for the clothes that were collected. This will be used to purchase books for our library.

Health and Safety

- Reminder to all that there is no smoking or use of vapourisers permitted inside the school grounds
- All visitors must report to reception on arrival to the school
- Please remember to sign your child out when leaving early.



After School Activities

Here are the afterschool activities that are being offered at present

- Monday: Irish Dance
- Tuesday: Hip-Hop
- Wednesday: Drama/ Games club
- Thursday: Choir
- Friday: Cricket will be starting in the new year
- Gardening club was a big hit, thanks to all the parents who helped out
- Art and Craft with Tara McCarthy will be starting in the New Year.

Visitor Toilets

- Visitor toilets are located downstairs beside the kitchenette/servery beside the hall.

Board of Management Fundraising

- The Board of Management is looking for interested people to help with a fundraising drive to raise €15000 to equip our sensory and our Occupational Therapy room in our Special class area. Please give your contact details to Mike if you would be willing to help out with this.

Website

Please go to the website to view a selection of activities that are going on in the school

www.limerickeducatetogether.com

School Re-Opening

- The school will re-open on Monday 7th January

We wish all our parents/guardians all the best over this holiday season. Happy Solstice/Mid-Winter/Christmas to you all.

Relax/ Recharge and have a safe and enjoyable holiday. See you all in 2019!

Mike and Staff