



Christmas Newsletter 2022

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

Pre-school: Anne-Marie

- Well done to all of preschool who have settled in so well into their new school
- We have been doing lots of sensory play. We love it! The messier the better!!
- We love play time. Puzzles, play food, bubbles, balloons and ducks are very popular!
- Music is our favourite subject. We look forward to listening to songs. We are going to have music therapy in January with Aoife!
- We are looking forward to doing gymnastics in January
- Jenny Lang SLT comes in to work with us once a fortnight and we are always so excited to see her. We keep checking the soft play room to see if she will appear!
- We are working hard on using our AAC devices and have taken to them so well.

Junior Infants: Aoife's class

- Well done to all the Junior Infants who have settled in so well in their new school!
- We have been learning lots of new sounds and are beginning to blend sounds together to help us begin reading
- On Friday mornings the children pair up with a reading buddy from 6th class and really enjoy sharing their books with the older children
- In class, we have been taking part in Handwriting and Maths stations. The children love taking part in the different activities
- We performed some winter songs and poems at our Assembly
- The children really enjoyed going on an Autumn walk earlier on in the year so we will be going on a Winter walk this week to see if we can spot some signs of Winter!



Junior Infants: Clair's Class

- Junior Infants have started weekly Reading Buddies with 6th class to do shared reading. They are really enjoying practicing their new reading skills with their buddies
- The children had a great time visiting other classes to do lots of fun activities during Maths Week and Science Week, and they learned so much
- On Friday we completed our 3 Little Pigs Story Project. The children created the three houses using different materials and used recycled items to make the characters from the story. They told the story using their figurines
- We are learning some Winter songs and poems which we will perform at Assembly next Friday
- The class will be going on a Winter Walk this week to look out for the signs of winter we can see in nature

Senior Infants: Yvonne's Class

- Well done Senior Infants on an action packed term full of different learning experiences
- One of the highlights has definitely been our Commotion in the Ocean Art project. We worked hard transforming our corridor into an aquatic paradise brimming with sea life. We were delighted to invite our parents to visit our Under the Sea World. They were very impressed with our efforts
- We have now started a new project learning about the Arctic and Antarctic. There is so much to learn about the animals that live in these icy habitats. We have made an arctic area in our classroom with polar bears, walruses, arctic foxes and snowy owls. We are also learning about Tom Crean, a brave Irish man who explored the Antarctic over a hundred years ago
- Thank you to sixth class for inviting us to the science and maths fair they organised in the Halla. It was great fun and we learned lots
- We are continuing to Notice Nature on our weekly winter walks in the Choill Bheag. The deciduous trees have all lost their leaves and are now bare. With the arrival of the cold weather, we have filled our bird feeders with seeds and put them in the forest. We hope this helps the birds during the cold weather.



Senior Infants: Aine's Class

- We have been so busy this term. As well as lots of learning we have been having lots of fun too
- We have completed a very exciting Art project along with Yvonne's senior infant class where we transformed our corridor into an underwater scene. We were deep under the waves swimming among rainbow fish, jellyfish, seahorses, sharks, turtles and some imaginary handprint fish. We built our scene in our weekly art lessons over a 6-week period. We enjoy various art experiences such as marbling, papier Mache, fabric and fibre, construction, print, and working in groups to create a joint piece
- We have been learning lots of new skills in gymnastics with Maeve
- Áine was so proud of us when we performed songs, poems and a dance at our school assembly in front of all the other classes. Juniors to 2nd class. We based our assembly on our under the sea theme
- We have been working so hard on our reading and writing all term we are reading for our holidays. We love to use our white boards to give our sentences a go. We try to sound out all the words in our sentences and we are getting so well.

First Class: Deirdre's class

- Our class has been working so hard so far this year. We certainly are looking forward to a well-earned break over the Christmas holidays
- We were lucky enough to take part in 10 gymnastics lessons with an external coach and have learned so many different moves this term
- We performed at the Junior class assembly in October with Emily's class and wowed everyone with our singing and dancing
- We have really enjoyed Literacy stations where we have had opportunities to read, practice our handwriting, practice our new sounds and develop our fine motor skills
- We have also enjoyed our Maths stations where we have practised making patterns, number formation, mental maths and many other concepts
- We also attended the 6th class Maths fair which was both educational and fun
- As part of Science week we were lucky enough to see both 6th classes conduct a number of experiments as part of their Science fair. We even made some playdough of our own in class
- We are preparing for our performance based on a Celebration of Light which we will be performing with Emily's class just before the Christmas holidays.



First Class: Emily's Class

- Maith sibh Rang a hAon! During our first term in First Class we have been absorbed with so many interesting tasks, projects and lessons
- We have enjoyed developing our reading skills during our literacy stations. We laughed our heads off reading *The Twits*
- First Class Math has been really fun so far. Some of the highlights include our weekly math stations, working with sixth class during Maths Week and completing our Pokemon jigsaws!
- We learned about inspirational scientists from around the world during Science week. From these we created impressive science projects, as well as making playdough, engaging with the sixth class experiments, and having a workshop in the Tiny Forest with a visiting scientist
- Gymnastics has been full of tumbles, handstands, jumping and stretching! Thanks to our wonderful coach for training us!
- At the moment we are exploring festivals of light in different religions and cultures around the world at the moment
- Thank you so much to everyone in the school and at home who helps us to learn, build friendships and grow.

Second Class: Ellen's (Lisa's) Class

- Second Class have been working extremely hard this term. Well done to everyone who has tried their best. It has been an amazing term packed with lots of lessons, experiments, projects and fun. I'm so proud of you all.
- We are loving our class novel 'Gangsta Granny' and we can't wait to read the sequel 'Gangsta Granny Strikes Again!'
- We are having lots of fun in PE. The last four weeks, we have developed our GAA skills. Thanks to the TY students in Mungret Community College for training us
- We focused on diversity and discovered our similarities and differences. We are all special and unique in our own way. We made a class jigsaw puzzle with all our names. We all fit together. We explored various lessons on anti-bullying. We created Anti-Bullying posters for our school competition
- We are learning some winter songs and poems including *Let It Snow*, *Frosty the Snowman* and some other classics
- There will be lovely winter artwork coming home with all students before the Christmas holidays
- Congratulations to our Student Council representative Conor, our Active Flag representative Riley and our Green School representative Ahmed.



Second class: Bernie's Class

- Well done Second Class on all you have achieved so far since September. I am very proud of you all. When I asked the class for their highlights this is what they mentioned to me
- Our slime experiment which was unsuccessful but enjoyable all the same. Our Oobleck experiment was a messy success and also good fun
- We were inspired to create our own clay creations after meeting with sculptor Donnacha Cahill. After his workshop we created our own sculptures linked to the brief he discussed with us. The class were delighted when he returned and they got to share their sculptures with him
- Each group designed Diversity Posters representing everyone in their group. It gave individual groups a chance to use their positive adjectives to describe each other and complemented their group pictures
- In recent weeks we have been focused on Winter and Christmas. We have decorated our tree, created some fabulous artwork consisting of winter landscapes, jumpers and snow globes
- Tin Whistling is off to a great start. We are also busy with singing and desk drumming. What a musical bunch they are!
- Finally, Congratulations and thank you to our Student Council Representative Laura, our Active Flag representative Logan and our Green School representative Valentina

Catherine's Class

- We have had a great term in Catherine's class
- We were so inspired by science week and the 6th class science fair and have been trying lots of experiments which have been awe-some! We especially loved the skittles experiment and making clouds!
- We've also been practicing all our skills out and about in the community, road safety, money skills and practicing ordering and buying yummy treats in local cafes
- We've been busy making winter artwork too. Come see our 'starry night' paintings based on Van Gogh's masterpiece outside our classroom or the North Pole penguins on our window. We even brought snowmen to Liskennett to decorate the beautiful arena where we go horse riding
- We cook each Friday too and have been enjoying making cakes, cookies, pizza bites, hot chocolate and even trifle
- Well done to each child in our class as they work on their own tasks and projects every day and make their teacher so proud!



Third Class: Vanessa's Class

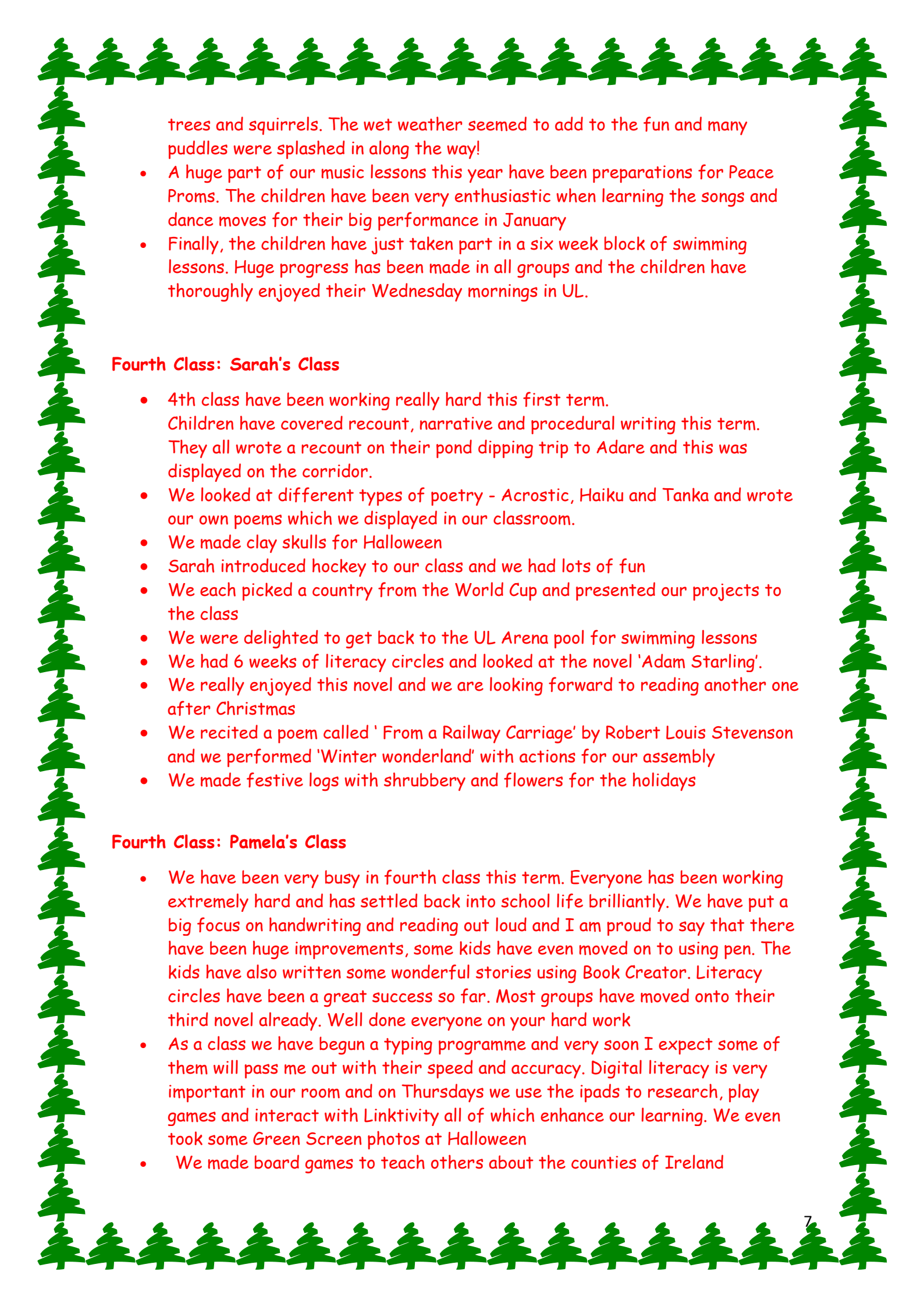
- Third class have had a really busy term and all of the children have worked very hard. Everyone has really tried their best and I am super proud of every one of them
- A big highlight for the children this term has been the soccer league with James. They love taking part and getting active during the school day.
- We have had lots of visits to the Tiny Forest and really enjoyed collecting items for our Nature Table. We went to Curraghchase with Geoff Hunt and even though it was a very wet day the children had great fun and learned lots about the surrounding environment
- The children did an excellent job on their 'Pumpkin Book Projects', reading a book at home and designing their pumpkin on a chosen character. Thank you so much to everyone at home that assisted with this project
- The children had great fun taking part in our 'Bridge Design Challenge' where children were tasked to design different bridges using recyclable material. They all worked really well together in their groups and made some effective and really interesting bridges
- We are all very excited about taking part in Peace Proms and we are so looking forward to the big day!
- Finally, the children have had a great time going swimming every Wednesday and have made great progress. Well done third class!

Third Class: Fiona's Class

- Third Class have made a fantastic start to this school year. They have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum and have made great progress already
- This year, the children have started to use cursive handwriting and their progress has been fantastic. Many children are now using cursive handwriting at all times. Well done!
- We have undertaken some very interesting projects since September:

The children researched the Shannon River and created eye-catching posters. They carried out a lot of research on polar bears and created some very informative leaflets as well as beautiful paintings. These are proudly hanging outside our classroom

For halloween the children read a book of their choice and completed a 'pumpkin book review' challenge. Each child chose a character from their book and decorated a pumpkin to look like this character. The end results were fantastic. Thanks to all the parents/ guardians that assisted with these
- One rainy day in November, both 3rd Classes braved the elements in Curraghchase with Geoff Hunt. The children went in search of some native



trees and squirrels. The wet weather seemed to add to the fun and many puddles were splashed in along the way!

- A huge part of our music lessons this year have been preparations for Peace Proms. The children have been very enthusiastic when learning the songs and dance moves for their big performance in January
- Finally, the children have just taken part in a six week block of swimming lessons. Huge progress has been made in all groups and the children have thoroughly enjoyed their Wednesday mornings in UL.

Fourth Class: Sarah's Class

- 4th class have been working really hard this first term. Children have covered recount, narrative and procedural writing this term. They all wrote a recount on their pond dipping trip to Adare and this was displayed on the corridor.
- We looked at different types of poetry - Acrostic, Haiku and Tanka and wrote our own poems which we displayed in our classroom.
- We made clay skulls for Halloween
- Sarah introduced hockey to our class and we had lots of fun
- We each picked a country from the World Cup and presented our projects to the class
- We were delighted to get back to the UL Arena pool for swimming lessons
- We had 6 weeks of literacy circles and looked at the novel 'Adam Starling'.
- We really enjoyed this novel and we are looking forward to reading another one after Christmas
- We recited a poem called ' From a Railway Carriage' by Robert Louis Stevenson and we performed 'Winter wonderland' with actions for our assembly
- We made festive logs with shrubbery and flowers for the holidays

Fourth Class: Pamela's Class

- We have been very busy in fourth class this term. Everyone has been working extremely hard and has settled back into school life brilliantly. We have put a big focus on handwriting and reading out loud and I am proud to say that there have been huge improvements, some kids have even moved on to using pen. The kids have also written some wonderful stories using Book Creator. Literacy circles have been a great success so far. Most groups have moved onto their third novel already. Well done everyone on your hard work
- As a class we have begun a typing programme and very soon I expect some of them will pass me out with their speed and accuracy. Digital literacy is very important in our room and on Thursdays we use the ipads to research, play games and interact with Linktivity all of which enhance our learning. We even took some Green Screen photos at Halloween
- We made board games to teach others about the counties of Ireland

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- Lots of beautiful artwork has been on display since September but I especially loved their Halloween Chromatography art. Using their knowledge from Science to make a lovely piece of art.
 - We spent some time working on Ancient Egypt and learned a lot about pyramids and Mummies. Our wonderful Egyptian Dioramas are on display for all to see.
 - We took part in Futsal training with a coach from the FAI and we are looking forward to learning more about it in the coming weeks and months.
 - Swimming lessons are going fantastic, after 2 years of no lessons it was great to be back at the pool
 - During European week of sport as part of the Erasmus project we got to engage with lots of sporting activities but we especially loved Hockey and our family fun walk
 - We spent a wonderful morning Pond Dipping in Adare with Geoff Hunt
 - Congratulations to our New Green School, Student council and Active Flag representatives and their assistants. Cillian, Seán and Dylan plus assistants Ellie, Abeiah, Salome and Niko. Thank you for putting yourself forward for the roles and we hope you have an enjoyable year.

Fifth class: Clíodhna's class

- 5th class have had a super first term and Clíodhna is so proud of us!
- Congratulations to Ahmed, Sam and Sophie who have been elected our Student council, Active school and Green school committee members! Well done to everyone who expressed an interest in the student council elections and spoke in front of the class
- We have completed many different projects at home for homework including research on rivers around the world, Christopher Columbus, living in a tenement in Ireland as well as completing science experiments for science week and then recording the procedure
- We have been swimming in the University Arena since November and it is great to see so many children improving week on week!
- Our biggest project this term has been our staging of "Bah Humbug". Clíodhna has been so impressed by the autonomy, enthusiasm and motivation we have shown engaging in this. Everyone has worked hard to learn their lines, singing the songs and most importantly creating props for us to use during the play. We hope the school and our parents enjoy our performances!
- In October the two 5th classes ran the senior assembly where we said a poem based on Halloween, sang a song based on Respect and even played the recorder.
- We started learning the recorder this term but that had to be put on hold with the staging of our musical! We are looking forward to getting back to this in January!



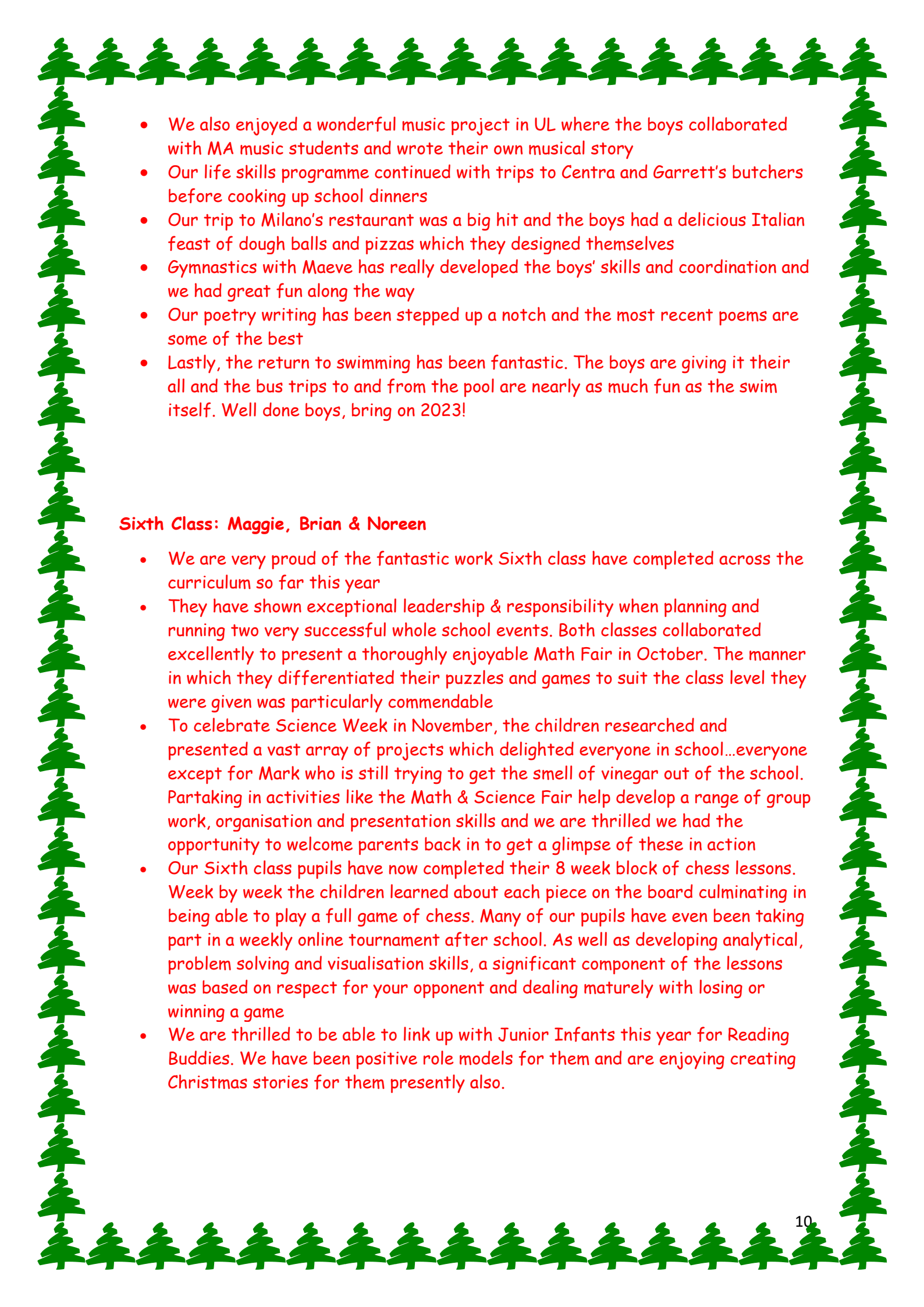
Fifth class: Siobhan's class

- 5th class have been very busy this term taking part in and enjoying many different lessons
- We elected new members for the student council, active flag and green school committees. Well done to Arham, Jake and Nile!!
- We use technology often in our room to help enhance our lessons. Every Tuesday we use a typing tutor on the laptops to help build up speed and accuracy in our typing and this will be beneficial to the students when we begin creating and researching projects in the new year. On Wednesdays we use the iPads to research, play games and develop our digital skills. We also use Book Creator to write many interesting and fun stories, we have written biographies, Halloween and Winter stories so far and the children have enjoyed creating their own books
- In October we had a wonderful student teacher Aisling who taught the children so many fun and enjoyable things, she even made Gaelige fun!!! Aisling did some great projects on rivers of the world, sea animals, sea explorers and so much more. She also created some wonderful pieces of art with the children including tessellating maths art and spooky Halloween ghosts
- 5th class ran the October assembly which we based on Respect. We sang a song about respect for the whole school acting out the different scenarios in the song and performed a dance routine taught to us by Aisling
- We have created some lovely art pieces this year and have enjoyed being artists ourselves and getting a chance to explore our imaginations. My favourite piece of art is based on the novel which we have recently completed "Wonder". The class really enjoyed reading this book and we also did a comparative study between it and the movie. We created silhouette self-portraits of ourselves and looked at interesting precepts or mottos for how we should live our lives. The class enjoyed this a lot and we now have some wonderful mottos for how we should act in our everyday lives
- We have also created artwork based on the poem "In Flanders Field" as part of our work on World War 1 which we are doing in history, we looked at the artist Wassily Kandinsky creating our own "Improvisations" and we have created some beautiful Winter landscapes to hang in our class for the next few weeks
- For the last few weeks we have begun back at swimming. We are all enjoying being back in U.L. and back in the pool. It is a wonderful experience and gives all children a chance to develop their skills in the pool and to have some fun with their classmates.

Peter's Class

- Our class took part in a lot of nice activities this term

We made our return to Liskennett and enjoyed meeting old friends like May, Apollo and Indie

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- We also enjoyed a wonderful music project in UL where the boys collaborated with MA music students and wrote their own musical story
 - Our life skills programme continued with trips to Centra and Garrett's butchers before cooking up school dinners
 - Our trip to Milano's restaurant was a big hit and the boys had a delicious Italian feast of dough balls and pizzas which they designed themselves
 - Gymnastics with Maeve has really developed the boys' skills and coordination and we had great fun along the way
 - Our poetry writing has been stepped up a notch and the most recent poems are some of the best
 - Lastly, the return to swimming has been fantastic. The boys are giving it their all and the bus trips to and from the pool are nearly as much fun as the swim itself. Well done boys, bring on 2023!

Sixth Class: Maggie, Brian & Noreen

- We are very proud of the fantastic work Sixth class have completed across the curriculum so far this year
- They have shown exceptional leadership & responsibility when planning and running two very successful whole school events. Both classes collaborated excellently to present a thoroughly enjoyable Math Fair in October. The manner in which they differentiated their puzzles and games to suit the class level they were given was particularly commendable
- To celebrate Science Week in November, the children researched and presented a vast array of projects which delighted everyone in school...everyone except for Mark who is still trying to get the smell of vinegar out of the school. Partaking in activities like the Math & Science Fair help develop a range of group work, organisation and presentation skills and we are thrilled we had the opportunity to welcome parents back in to get a glimpse of these in action
- Our Sixth class pupils have now completed their 8 week block of chess lessons. Week by week the children learned about each piece on the board culminating in being able to play a full game of chess. Many of our pupils have even been taking part in a weekly online tournament after school. As well as developing analytical, problem solving and visualisation skills, a significant component of the lessons was based on respect for your opponent and dealing maturely with losing or winning a game
- We are thrilled to be able to link up with Junior Infants this year for Reading Buddies. We have been positive role models for them and are enjoying creating Christmas stories for them presently also.



Policy Development

We have reviewed the following policies

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- Admissions Policy

We are currently reviewing the following Policies

- Critical Incident Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Attendance

- Our attendance across the school is excellent, please remember that you must give a reason for each child's absence
- As part of the requirements by the Department of Education all absences of 20 days or more will be referred to TUSLA

Curriculum

- We are continuing to engage with training for the Primary Languages curriculum
- We are reviewing our Digital Learning plan and how we can weave digital literacy into our teaching and learning
- The school now has two suites of 16 iPads used in the junior and senior end of the school
- We have a suite of 16 Laptops that is quite old and we hope to replace these in the new year
- All our special Ed teachers are working with iPads and also have access to a suite of Chrome books.
- Thank you to all of you who took time to respond to our questionnaire on "Wellbeing"

Questionnaires have been completed by parents /teachers and children. As we work through this we hope to put a school improvement plan in place for the betterment of our culture and environment in the school.

- Wellbeing is an area that is being addressed by all schools through the "School Self Evaluation Process"
- We are updating our maths equipment across all classes in the new year
- We are also updating our graded readers used in junior and middle classes.
- We received the "Sportshall Athletics" equipment on loan from Limerick Sports Partnership. This is set up in the hall and allows children to develop their agility, balance and coordination in a fun way

Lunchtime Soccer League

- Our lunchtime soccer league continues to be a big hit
- There are 32 teams and over 150 children taking part
- There are four matches each week
- At the end of each game there are awards and points given for; player of the game, best goalie, most assists and ultimate pro
- Thanks to all our student helpers who get the hall ready and tidy up each day

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- Well done to all our players!
 - Thanks to James, Brian and all our referees
 - Our skill levels are improving all the time.

Green School

- We are continuing to work on our Biodiversity Flag. We hope to have our final application submitted next term. We have a new Green School Committee in place since November. I want to thank the outgoing committee for all their efforts over the past year and I look forward to working with the new committee this year. They have already completed important work around the school by putting up bird feeders with fat balls and seeds and bird baths containing water for the birds to drink. During this cold snap it is vitally important to feed birds that visit our gardens. Please make an effort to leave out seeds and water for them during the frosty weather
- Students from 2nd to 5th got to work with local biodiversity expert, Geoff Hunt, last term. They went on field trips to Adare and Curraghchase and learned about the rich flora and fauna in these habitats
- Children in all classes are continuing to use the Choill Bheag and observing the season changes in nature. We are so lucky to have this habitat on our school grounds
- Enjoy the festive season and remember to have a Green Christmas by Reducing, Reusing and Recycling from the Green School Committee and Yvonne (Green School Coordinator).

Active Flag

- Although we have always been a very active school, this year we are making an extra special effort to become even more active!
- Our Active school committee made up of pupils from first to sixth, led by 7 staff members, are analyzing lots of areas of school life to see how we can help our pupils become more active
- At Halloween, we got the whole school dancing in their costumes- it was so much fun. Beginning in November, we ran 4 weeks of an Active Break challenge. This involved teachers trying to find 5/10 minutes every day where the class would stop what they were doing and get active, classes have been dancing, stretching, walking & running in an attempt to get our heart rate up and help us reach the recommended 60 minutes of exercise per day for children
- Sixth class volunteers will be taking on the role of Playground Leaders when we return in January. This will involve creating games for children to play at lunch time and organising equipment to help get children as active as possible at lunch times
- Finally, we are looking forward to having our Santa Walk in the park on Tuesday 20th at 10:45am. We hope you will be able to join us.
- From all our Active School Committee, we wish you a happy holiday!



School Garden

- Since September, classes took it in turns to come out and do some gardening with Paula, Yvonne and other teachers
- We harvested potatoes, tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins. We cut back the herbs and took some home for our dinners
- Weeding the square bed was arduous but will be worth it when we see the lovely spring bulbs sending up their green shoots after Christmas
- We also planted more bulbs to create a full show of colour come Spring.
- Our wildflower strip flowered until recently and we have added more seeds in the hope these will increase the biodiversity and beauty of our garden
- Our garlic cloves are planted and it is said that they need the winter frost to multiply into full bulbs for harvesting in May. Fingers crossed!!!
- Thanks to Mark and parents for forgiving our muddy shoes, boots and clothes.

Student Council

- Our student council is made up on members of each class from first to sixth
- The student council would like to thank all who supported the Simon Community food drive
- We look forward to organising more events in the new year.

ERASMUS

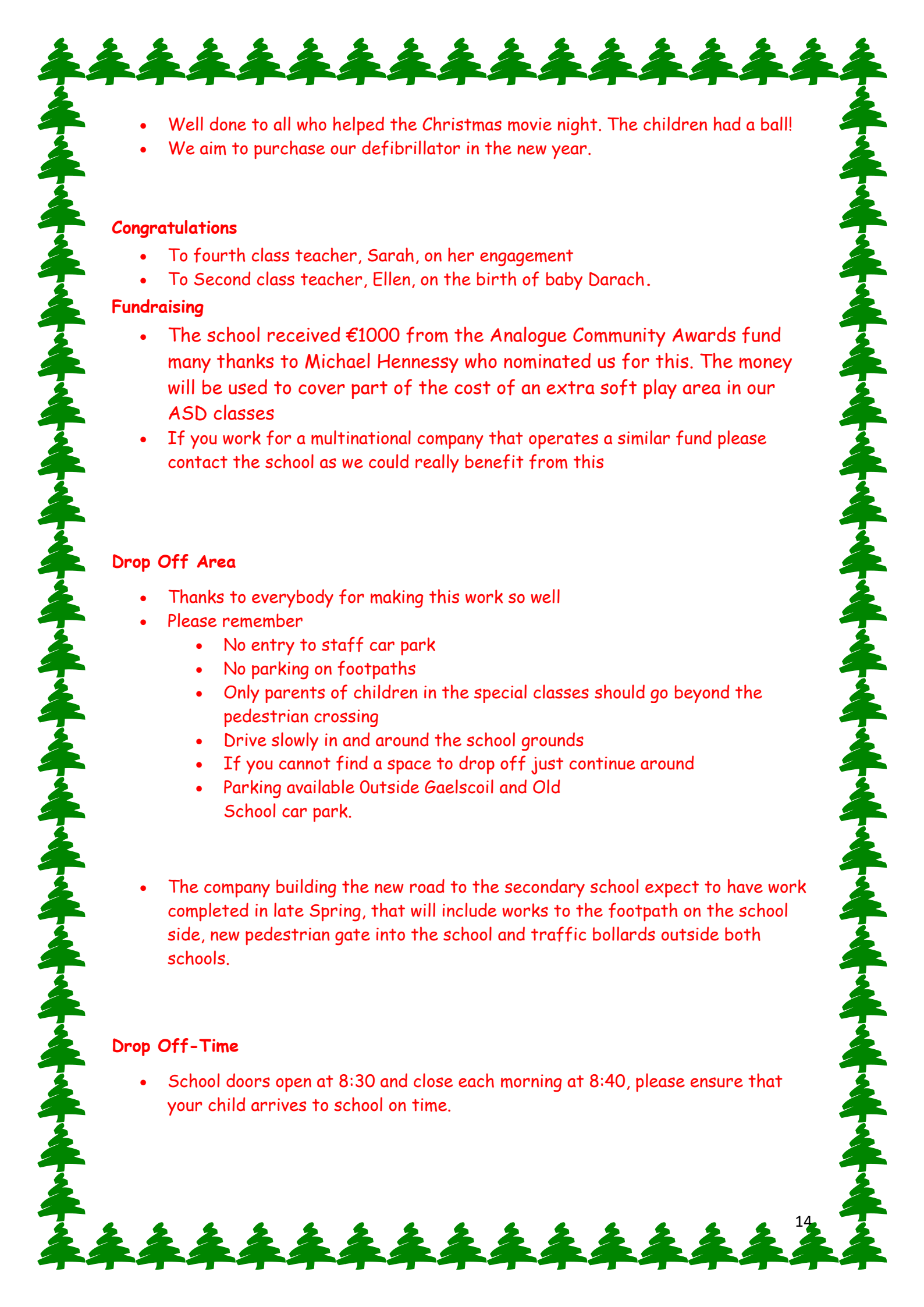
- The Erasmus team in conjunction with the Green school team are also in the process of designing a Vertical Garden for the school
- The Erasmus team hosted our first European Week of Sport in October. The children took part in various sporting activities including Hockey, parents fun walk and gymnastics. In the new year we will be putting a focus on racket sports across the school so any parents who have an interest in these sports we would love your help. The Erasmus Team along with the Active Flag group will introduce Low T-Ball to the whole school.

Board of Management

- The Board has had three meetings this term and the minutes of these meetings have been sent to all through Aladdin.

Parents Association

- We held a very successful Harvest Fest this year. It was great to see so many parents there on the day. Thanks to all who helped to organise and helped out in any way

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- Well done to all who helped the Christmas movie night. The children had a ball!
 - We aim to purchase our defibrillator in the new year.

Congratulations

- To fourth class teacher, Sarah, on her engagement
- To Second class teacher, Ellen, on the birth of baby Darach.

Fundraising

- The school received €1000 from the Analogue Community Awards fund many thanks to Michael Hennessy who nominated us for this. The money will be used to cover part of the cost of an extra soft play area in our ASD classes
- If you work for a multinational company that operates a similar fund please contact the school as we could really benefit from this

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 Outside Gaelscoil and Old School car park.
- The company building the new road to the secondary school expect to have work completed in late Spring, that will include works to the footpath on the school side, new pedestrian gate into the school and traffic bollards outside both schools.

Drop Off-Time

- School doors open at 8:30 and close each morning at 8:40, please ensure that your child arrives to school on time.



Health and Safety

- Reminder to all that there is no smoking or use of vapourisers permitted inside the school grounds
- There are no dogs permitted on the school grounds
- There is no cycling permitted inside the school grounds

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 Thursday 5th January
- Date for your diary
 - The school will close early on Friday 27th Jan to facilitate Department of Education Continuing Professional Development.

Thank you for all your help and assistance since September. We hope you have an enjoyable and restful break.

Mike and Staff