



Summer Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents/guardians,

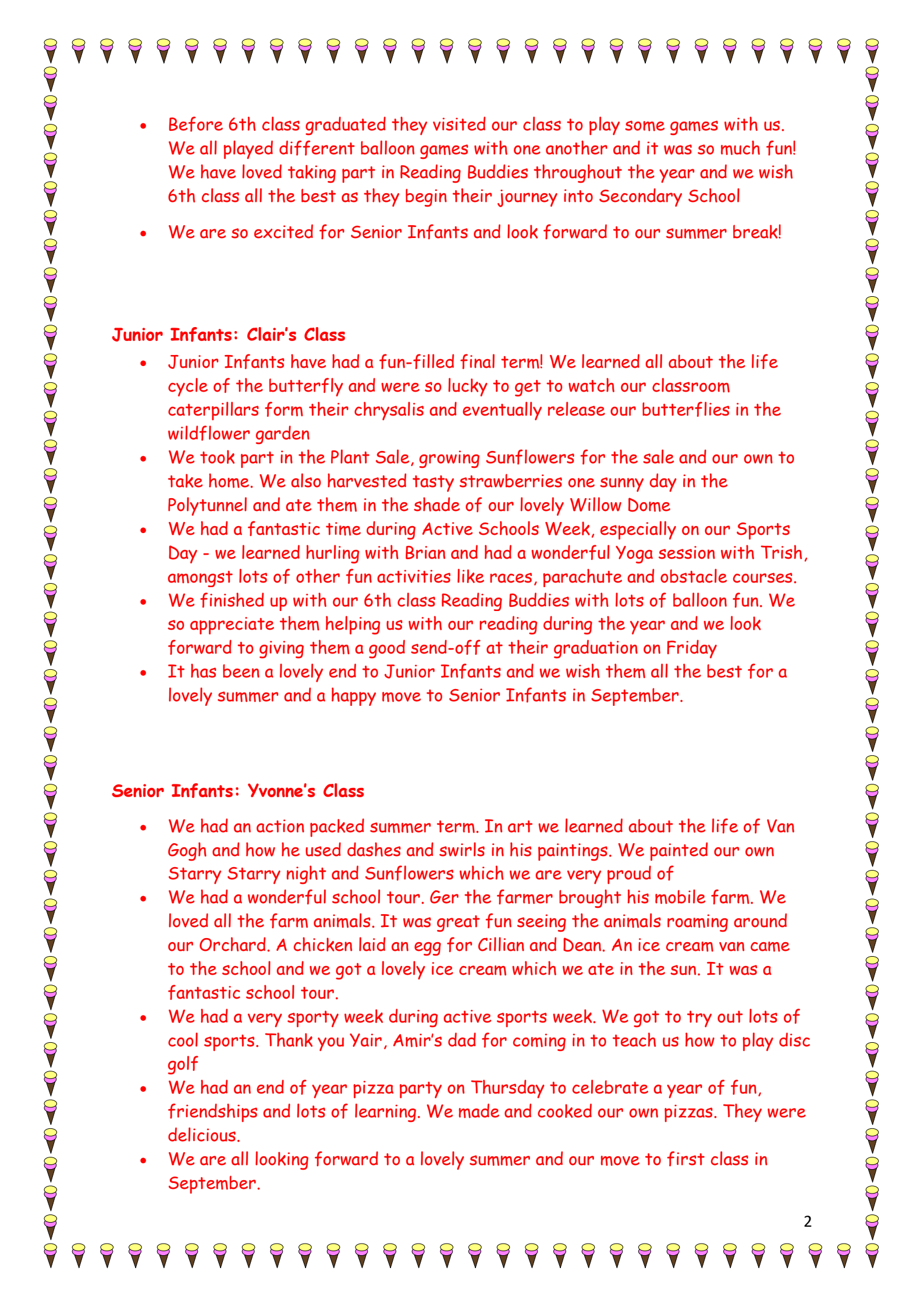
I hope you are well. We have had a jam-packed final term. The school has been a hive of activity. Here is a flavour of some of the activities going on in school during the Summer term.

Pre-school: Anne-Marie

- Preschool students have had a busy summer term!
- We had a wonderful school tour. We saw a wide range of animals. We even got to feed lambs!
- We had a pool party during the hot weather. We got into the pool and played with water toys. It was very exciting!
- We love dancing to super simple songs. Our favourites this term were 'Here comes the Firetruck' and 'months of the year'
- We have been learning to count to 10 and beyond, our colours, shapes and the alphabet
- Congratulations to Kate, Darragh and Evan for graduating from preschool. We will miss you all loads and wish you the best of luck in your new schools/ classes.

Junior Infants: Aoife's class

- We have been very busy during this final term in Junior Infants! We planted lots of plants for our school's Plant Sale and we learnt all about the parts of a plant and what a plant needs to grow
- Special visitors came to visit our class. They were real caterpillars! We got to watch the caterpillars form their chrysalis' and we learnt all about the life cycle of a butterfly before our own caterpillars formed into butterflies! There was a lot of excitement in the classroom when we saw our butterflies and we really enjoyed setting them free in our school garden
- Junior Infants loved every minute of Active Week in our school. We took part in a hurling training session with Brian and a Yoga lesson with Trish. We loved taking part in these activities. We had a great day for our Sports Day, we especially loved the egg and spoon race!
- On our School Tour Day we had a mobile farm, magician and an ice - cream truck come to our school! We also got to do lots of different activities and games in the school's Tiny forest

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- Before 6th class graduated they visited our class to play some games with us. We all played different balloon games with one another and it was so much fun! We have loved taking part in Reading Buddies throughout the year and we wish 6th class all the best as they begin their journey into Secondary School
 - We are so excited for Senior Infants and look forward to our summer break!

Junior Infants: Clair's Class

- Junior Infants have had a fun-filled final term! We learned all about the life cycle of the butterfly and were so lucky to get to watch our classroom caterpillars form their chrysalis and eventually release our butterflies in the wildflower garden
- We took part in the Plant Sale, growing Sunflowers for the sale and our own to take home. We also harvested tasty strawberries one sunny day in the Polytunnel and ate them in the shade of our lovely Willow Dome
- We had a fantastic time during Active Schools Week, especially on our Sports Day - we learned hurling with Brian and had a wonderful Yoga session with Trish, amongst lots of other fun activities like races, parachute and obstacle courses.
- We finished up with our 6th class Reading Buddies with lots of balloon fun. We so appreciate them helping us with our reading during the year and we look forward to giving them a good send-off at their graduation on Friday
- It has been a lovely end to Junior Infants and we wish them all the best for a lovely summer and a happy move to Senior Infants in September.

Senior Infants: Yvonne's Class

- We had an action packed summer term. In art we learned about the life of Van Gogh and how he used dashes and swirls in his paintings. We painted our own Starry Starry night and Sunflowers which we are very proud of
- We had a wonderful school tour. Ger the farmer brought his mobile farm. We loved all the farm animals. It was great fun seeing the animals roaming around our Orchard. A chicken laid an egg for Cillian and Dean. An ice cream van came to the school and we got a lovely ice cream which we ate in the sun. It was a fantastic school tour.
- We had a very sporty week during active sports week. We got to try out lots of cool sports. Thank you Yair, Amir's dad for coming in to teach us how to play disc golf
- We had an end of year pizza party on Thursday to celebrate a year of fun, friendships and lots of learning. We made and cooked our own pizzas. They were delicious.
- We are all looking forward to a lovely summer and our move to first class in September.

Senior Infants: Aine's Class

- We have had a really fun and jam packed summer term. As well as all the fantastic learning we have been doing in the classroom, the weather has allowed us to really enjoy all our amazing outdoor spaces; We learned all about money in our outdoor classroom
- We had a visit from The Mayor of Limerick, Francis Foley and Seán Kelly MEP
- We learned all about bees and watched a video of Áine's sister and family harvesting honey from their bees. As promised Áine brought us a jar of her sister's honey and we got a spoonful and a honey sandwich. It was delicious.
- We learned about Vincent Van Gogh and his paintings Sunflowers and Starry Starry Night, we became still life artists ourselves and drew, using chalk pastel, flowers growing in our pollinator raised beds
- We made our own fresh lemonade and rice krispie buns and had a picnic in the orchard
- We planted Calendula for the plant sale and we tasted strawberries growing in our Polytunnel
We learned about sharks and painted, our amazing drawings, on the grass
We learned all about the lifecycle of a butterfly while nurturing our caterpillars and watching the process of metamorphosis. We later released Steve, Alex, Spot, Blaze, Lexa, Spotty, Daisy and Heather in our Tiny Forest and pollinator raised bed
- We had so much fun on our school tour day, at the farm, at the magic show, Tiny Forest scavenger hunt and games and yummy ice cream to top it all off
- Active week has been so much fun.

First Class: Deirdre's class

- We have had a fantastic term filled with plenty of work and play. We went to an ICT fair in the halla where we saw a 3 d printer pen working, Lego we do, VR games and an interactive map amongst other things
- We sang in an assembly as part of the Erasmus programme. It was lovely to see teachers and students from schools from different countries
- We went on our school tour to the Old Rectory in Croom and had an amazing time. We made cookies, completed obstacles courses and saw plenty of different animals
- We took part in plenty of activities as part of Active schools week. We did a yoga class with Trish. We also had a basketball session where we learned some new skills. On Friday we had a sports day which was enjoyed by everyone
- As part of our Active schools programme we completed the Primary Aquatic Water safety programme and we earned certificates. We learned about the

importance of being safe near all types of water such as lakes, on farms as well as the beach

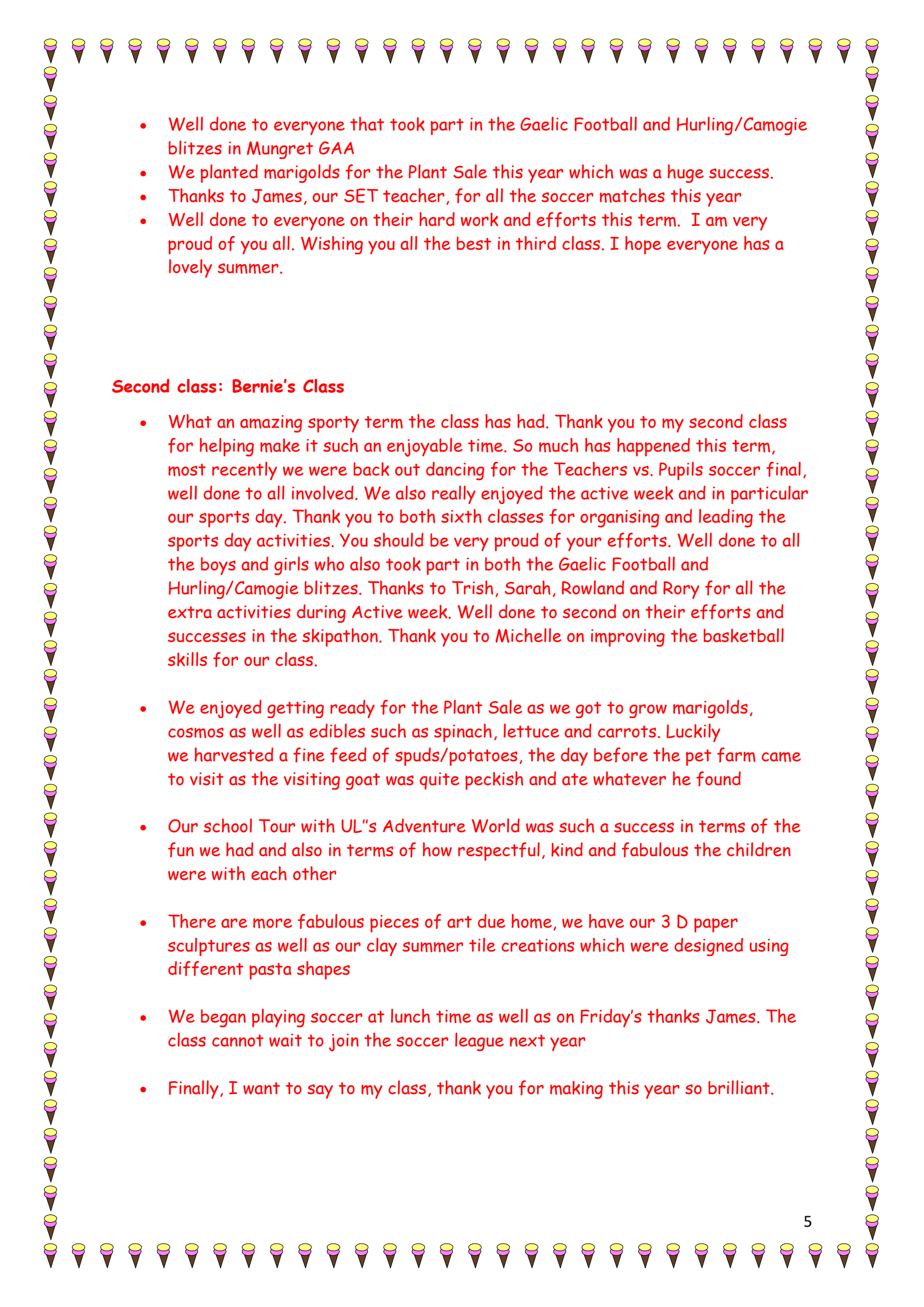
- We grew plants which we were the sold as part of the plant sale. We also enjoyed picking some of the delicious strawberries in the polytunnel
- Everyone in the class has worked so hard and are looking forward to a well-earned break over the summer holidays.

First Class: Emily's/Miriam's Class

- What a wonderful term it has been for first class. The class got so much enjoyment watching their plants grow. Selling them in the plant sale was one of the highlights of this term
- The class learned some Lámh sign language, a type of sign language used to communicate with individuals with intellectual disabilities or who may have issues with speech. They are masters at signing the days of the week and basic conversational signs now!
- "A Limerick Fairytale" was the book that captured the minds of first class this term. The book illustrates all the famous landmarks in Limerick. After reading the book, the class completed an art project and a book review and wrote a letter to the author expressing how much they enjoyed the story
- The first class also created a beautiful fairy village in their classroom. A worry stone that the children could place their hand on if they felt the need to was a central part of the village
- We had so much fun on our school tour to the Old Rectory in Croom, where we saw farm animals, completed obstacle courses and got to bake homemade cookies
- The sports day was one of the class's main highlights of the year. They participated in many sports activities, from yoga to dancing and basketball to potato and spoon races!
- We participated in the Primary Aquatic Water Safety programme, preparing us for all the fun in the water this summer!

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

- Second class had a busy, fun and active last term. We had a wonderful day in UL's Adventure World for our school tour. We enjoyed all the fun activities, especially the water slide
- Active Week was a great success. We enjoyed taking part in all types of activities including hockey, taekwondo and basketball. We had lots of fun for Sport's Day. Thanks to all who organised a great day. We also completed the Primary Aquatic Water safety programme for second class

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- Well done to everyone that took part in the Gaelic Football and Hurling/Camogie blitzes in Mungret GAA
 - We planted marigolds for the Plant Sale this year which was a huge success.
 - Thanks to James, our SET teacher, for all the soccer matches this year
 - Well done to everyone on their hard work and efforts this term. I am very proud of you all. Wishing you all the best in third class. I hope everyone has a lovely summer.

Second class: Bernie's Class

- What an amazing sporty term the class has had. Thank you to my second class for helping make it such an enjoyable time. So much has happened this term, most recently we were back out dancing for the Teachers vs. Pupils soccer final, well done to all involved. We also really enjoyed the active week and in particular our sports day. Thank you to both sixth classes for organising and leading the sports day activities. You should be very proud of your efforts. Well done to all the boys and girls who also took part in both the Gaelic Football and Hurling/Camogie blitzes. Thanks to Trish, Sarah, Rowland and Rory for all the extra activities during Active week. Well done to second on their efforts and successes in the skipathon. Thank you to Michelle on improving the basketball skills for our class.
- We enjoyed getting ready for the Plant Sale as we got to grow marigolds, cosmos as well as edibles such as spinach, lettuce and carrots. Luckily we harvested a fine feed of spuds/potatoes, the day before the pet farm came to visit as the visiting goat was quite peckish and ate whatever he found
- Our school Tour with UL's Adventure World was such a success in terms of the fun we had and also in terms of how respectful, kind and fabulous the children were with each other
- There are more fabulous pieces of art due home, we have our 3 D paper sculptures as well as our clay summer tile creations which were designed using different pasta shapes
- We began playing soccer at lunch time as well as on Friday's thanks James. The class cannot wait to join the soccer league next year
- Finally, I want to say to my class, thank you for making this year so brilliant.

Catherine's Class

- We have had a great summer term in the Junior Garden Class!
- We have been busy learning about all our senses and doing experiments to test each one out, they were lots of fun!
- Our class studied all about water and how important it is for our bodies. We learned about sea creatures and made awesome fish and jellyfish art. We also had a water day and filled pools of water, sprinklers and water guns which helped us cool off in the hot weather this term
- We learned about all sorts of habitats and the animals who live in them. We also learned great songs about habitats and about the continents
- Our school tour in the Old Rectory was fantastic, we loved exploring the wooded areas, meeting the animals and playing on the adventure playgrounds
- We had a visit from the St.John's ambulance and got to explore inside.
- And the class had a fantastic day out with James in the UL Sports Day and even got their pictures in the Limerick Leader online!
- A special mention to our friend Gregory who is leaving our class and moving up to the senior room. We wish him all the best and look forward to his visits next year.
- Thanks to all our class and parents for a great year.

Third Class: Vanessa's Class

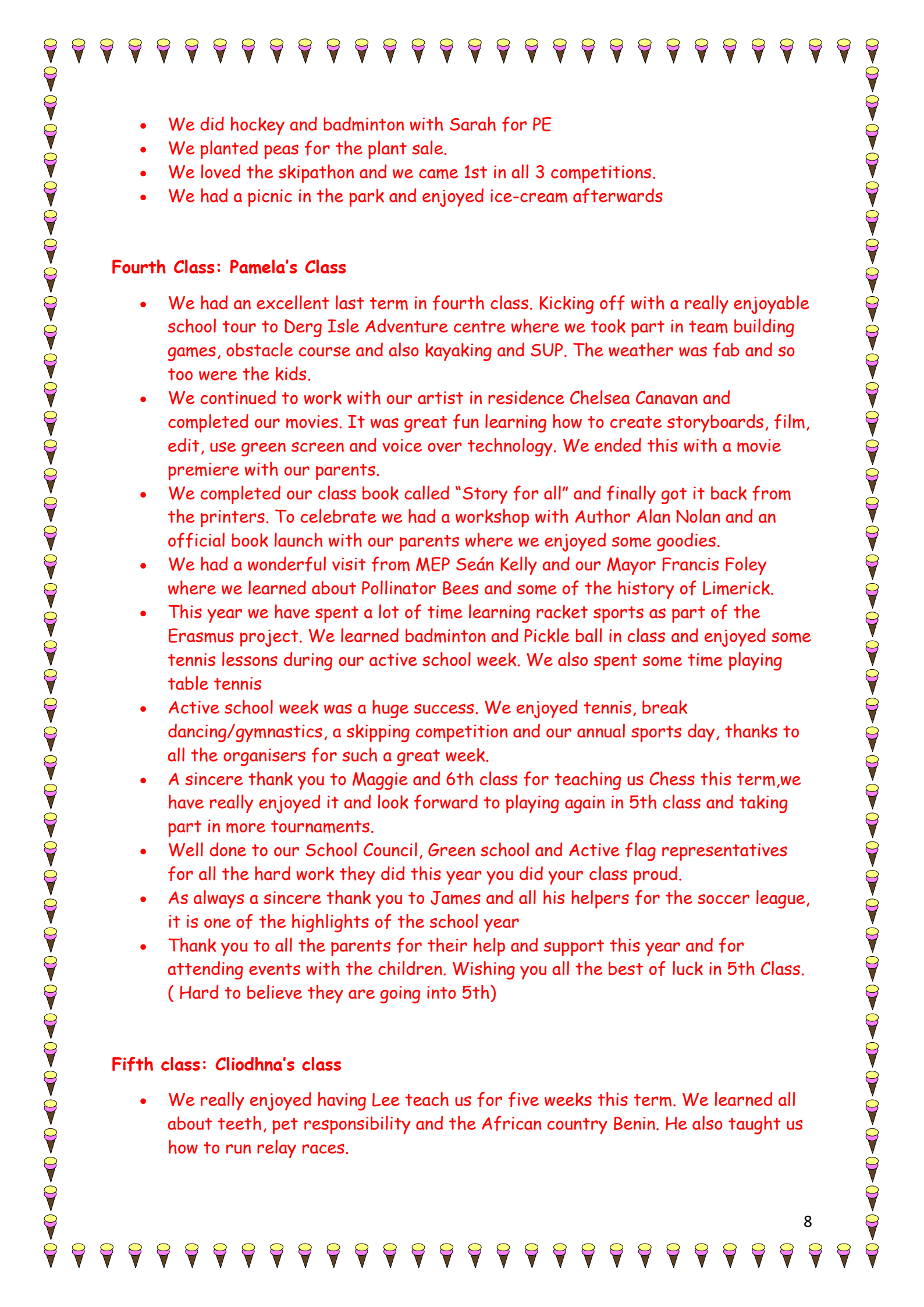
- 3rd class had a great term. We had a fantastic day at Kilfinane Adventure Centre for our school tour; the children took part in rock climbing, bushcraft, orienteering and archery. They were kept very busy, challenged themselves and learned lots of new skills
- We had a visit to the school from our Erasmus penpals in May. The Erasmus children joined our class over 3 mornings where the children played cooperative games and activities, went on a tour of our school and we also visited Curraghchase for a picnic, a forest walk and played games
- The children grew plants as part of the whole school plant sale. We grew basil and chives and spider plants. It was a very successful event for the school which raised €435. This will go towards enhancing our outdoor areas in the school
- We had a great active week and sports day. The children tried badminton, yoga and breakdancing. On our sports day the children took part in lots of different games and activities for the whole day which was run by our 6th class children.
- We said goodbye to Abby who was a great help in our classroom all term. We wish her all the best on her trip to Canada
- A big thank you to all of the active flag and green schools representatives this year. They worked very hard in helping to achieve the active flag and green schools flag for the school. Well done!
- Thank you to James from our whole class on his dedication to the soccer school tournament which is by far a big highlight of the whole year for our class
- Well done to the whole class on all of their hard work this term, I am very proud of you all. Wishing you all the best in 4th class. Have a great summer everybody!

Third Class: Fiona's Class

- We have had a very busy and active final term in Third Class. We started the term with a Gaelic Football blitz organised by the staff and students of Crescent College Comprehensive. The children took part in some lessons before finishing with a blitz. It was great fun and all of the children really enjoyed themselves
- We also hosted our French penpals as part of an Erasmus programme. They came to visit us in May. They spent three mornings with us in our school and we brought them to Curraghchase for a picnic on their final day. We loved having them!
- Some of the third class children represented our school in the UL Athletics competition. They took part in the 100m sprints, the 200m race and a relay. The day was a great success and it was lovely to see the children cheering each other on and supporting one another
- Active week was, as always, the highlight of the term. The children got to sample break dancing, badminton and hockey. Sixth class organised and ran a fantastic sports day and at the end of the week we received the wonderful news that the school was awarded the 'Active Flag'
- The Gaelscoil visited us one morning to play some basketball matches. The children wore the school's new basketball jerseys and played two basketball matches. It was a great morning and both schools thoroughly enjoyed themselves
- On Wednesday we went to Kilfinane Outdoor Adventure Centre for our school tour. The children took part in rock climbing, archery, bushcraft and orienteering. They really enjoyed their day out and we had a bus full of happy and tired children on the way home
- To celebrate the end of a fantastic year, we took a short walk to Spar and enjoyed some well deserved ice-creams in the sun
- Well done to all the children on a fantastic year. I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Fourth Class: Sarah's Class

- 4th class had a fantastic, fun and active last term. We went to Derg Isle Adventure Centre in May for our school tour. We got to kayak on Lough Derg which was an amazing experience
- We completed our movies with Chelsea. We learned how to create storyboards, filming, editing and voice over which was fun
- Sports Day was fantastic. We were all put onto mixed teams and we got to participate in all the different stations
- We enjoyed Active Week and got to sample tennis lessons and break dancing. Such a fantastic achievement receiving the Active Flag for the school

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- We did hockey and badminton with Sarah for PE
 - We planted peas for the plant sale.
 - We loved the skipathon and we came 1st in all 3 competitions.
 - We had a picnic in the park and enjoyed ice-cream afterwards

Fourth Class: Pamela's Class

- We had an excellent last term in fourth class. Kicking off with a really enjoyable school tour to Derg Isle Adventure centre where we took part in team building games, obstacle course and also kayaking and SUP. The weather was fab and so too were the kids.
- We continued to work with our artist in residence Chelsea Canavan and completed our movies. It was great fun learning how to create storyboards, film, edit, use green screen and voice over technology. We ended this with a movie premiere with our parents.
- We completed our class book called "Story for all" and finally got it back from the printers. To celebrate we had a workshop with Author Alan Nolan and an official book launch with our parents where we enjoyed some goodies.
- We had a wonderful visit from MEP Seán Kelly and our Mayor Francis Foley where we learned about Pollinator Bees and some of the history of Limerick.
- This year we have spent a lot of time learning racket sports as part of the Erasmus project. We learned badminton and Pickle ball in class and enjoyed some tennis lessons during our active school week. We also spent some time playing table tennis
- Active school week was a huge success. We enjoyed tennis, break dancing/gymnastics, a skipping competition and our annual sports day, thanks to all the organisers for such a great week.
- A sincere thank you to Maggie and 6th class for teaching us Chess this term, we have really enjoyed it and look forward to playing again in 5th class and taking part in more tournaments.
- Well done to our School Council, Green school and Active flag representatives for all the hard work they did this year you did your class proud.
- As always a sincere thank you to James and all his helpers for the soccer league, it is one of the highlights of the school year
- Thank you to all the parents for their help and support this year and for attending events with the children. Wishing you all the best of luck in 5th Class. (Hard to believe they are going into 5th)

Fifth class: Clíodhna's class

- We really enjoyed having Lee teach us for five weeks this term. We learned all about teeth, pet responsibility and the African country Benin. He also taught us how to run relay races.

- Abbie and Ailbhe from Regeneron came to visit us for 5 weeks for the Junior Achievement Award. We spent time designing apps, building a bridge and other activities. This was all to help us see how important jobs in S.T.E.A.M are!
- We also had two visitors helping us participate in a Lego We.Do Workshop. It was great fun and the team work was super!
- Active week was loads of fun this year. We practiced our tennis and basketball skills and also learned how to play disc golf! We also had great fun at our sports day. Thanks to Brian, Maggie and 6th class for organising it!
- We had an amazing time in Moycullen on our school tour a few weeks ago! We loved crossing the bridges and swinging like Tarzan across the ziplines! We loved the whole day :)

Fifth class: Siobhan's class

- We had a wonderful time in our last term of 5th class
- We completed projects as part of Erasmus learning about all the different countries that we are partnered with as a school. When the countries came to visit us we got to make shadow boxes with Mahi from Greece and create our own stories using these boxes
- We thoroughly enjoyed our school tour to Eillands in Moycullen. We went zip-lining and completed a ninja warrior obstacle course. We had such an amazing time and would love to go back again
- We had a wonderful visit from MEP Seán Kelly and our Mayor Francis Foley where we learned about Pollinator Bees and some of the history of Limerick.
- Active Week was so much fun, we got to learn disc golf and enjoyed playing badminton, basketball and many more sports throughout the week. Thanks to the 6th class for organising the sports day it was brilliant!!
- We also really loved being buddies with Miriam's 1st class, we did reading and writing with them and loved being their partners. We wish them all the best in 2nd class!!

Peter's Class

- Our final term was marked by beautiful weather and a wealth of outings and trips including: our pupils accompanying 5th and 6th classes on their school tours, zip lining, high wires, bowling, Mc donalds, Grange Standing Stone Circle, Limerick Art Gallery, The People's Park, Curraghchase and The Crescent Shopping Centre
- Our robotics projects developed to the point where our team created their own design of a robotic arm which had gripping fingers, a hinge wrist, hinged elbow and rotating shoulder - an amazing culmination to the project.
- Comic Club, founded by Dylan, had a very busy final term, with numbers that regularly filled the room to the point where, for half of the participants, only floor space was available. This was a pupil led initiative and a huge success.
- Our class has had a startup business, valeting cars. Reviews are 5* . Hopefully turnover will remain under the radar of the Dept. of Revenue.

- In history this term we carried out detailed studies of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age recreating various of their technologies
- Integration and reverse-integration was very strong this year developing many working groups and friendships along the way
- This year marked the end of a 2 year Arts Initiative funded by The Arts Council. This project spanned 4 classes. The founding vision and focus however, was driven by pupils in The Garden Classes
- Our pupils competed in Athletics Day in U.L. which was supported wonderfully by parents. Thank you so much
- Our class produced a final Health & Safety video which is almost in post-production. Watch this space
- Gardening, watering and apprenticing ourselves to Mark kept us busy with many learning opportunities along the way.
- As always the dedicated support of our SNA team: Ruth, Nicola, Pauline and Niamh, in their close relationships built with our pupils, was a driving force in the successes in our class' teaching and learning. Míle buíochas.

Sixth Class: Brian, Maggie & Noreen

- We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Graduated 6th Class for an eventful and fruitful year. Our aim has always been to equip our students with the necessary skills to transition smoothly into Secondary School, and this year's class has exceeded our expectations. They have demonstrated remarkable engagement, creativity and problem-solving skills while organising events such as the Maths Fair, Science Fair, Erasmus Fair and Sports Day
- Their leadership was evident in leading playground games and encouraging other class groups to interact positively with their classmates during yard time. The reading buddy programme has helped them develop empathy and nurturing skills, which were reflected in their interactions with each other and younger students
- Their dedication and perseverance was apparent in their training for Marathon Kids and their representation of our school in CHESS, athletics, badminton, and basketball. The students' unwavering support for each other during tough times was heartening to witness
- Their kindness and inclusivity created an environment where everyone felt safe, heard and respected. It has been an honour to work with the graduates of the class of 2023, and we wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

Brian, Maggie and Noreen

P.S. Our students would like to express their gratitude and give a big thank you to James (S.E.T 3rd) for his exceptional work with the soccer league. Many students have enjoyed participating in the league, and James' league announcements have always brought joy and positivity to the start of their day. It has truly been a highlight for our students.

Policy Development

We have reviewed the following policies in the last term and this is available to view on the website. A copy was also sent to all via Aladdin.

- Data Protection Policy

Attendance

- Our attendance across the school was very good, 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 of more will be referred to TUSLA

Curriculum

- We are currently reviewing our English curriculum plan to bring it in line with the new Primary Language Curriculum
- The new curriculum framework has been launched, we look forward to engaging and learning more about this
- You can find out more about the Revised Curriculum at the link below <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/027ad-primary-curriculum-framework/>

Lunchtime Soccer League

- The 2022/2023 Lunchtime Soccer League drew to an end on the second last week of school
- We had four cups and a Respect Shield competition between the winners of the cups and members of LETS Staff. LETS Staff won the Respect shield and we had a fantastic closing ceremony with chéilí dances from 2nd Class
- Teacher James has created a video of the previous school year's football league, 2021 to 2022 Season. If you would like to download the video please email james at 'letsprimaryjames@gmail.com', with the name of your child and what class they are in. James will then give you access to download the video
- James will send a further email when school finishes with information on the video.

Green School

- We were successful in our recent application for the 5th Green School Flag which was for Biodiversity. A huge amount was done at class and committee level, so well done, and thank you for all the effort and engagement. It was evident walking around the school that classes really got on board in lots of different ways with the theme of Biodiversity. We were delighted to have our Green Flag raising ceremony on the day Seam Kelly, M.E.P. and Francis Foley, Mayor of Limerick came to visit the school.

Pollinator Plant Sale

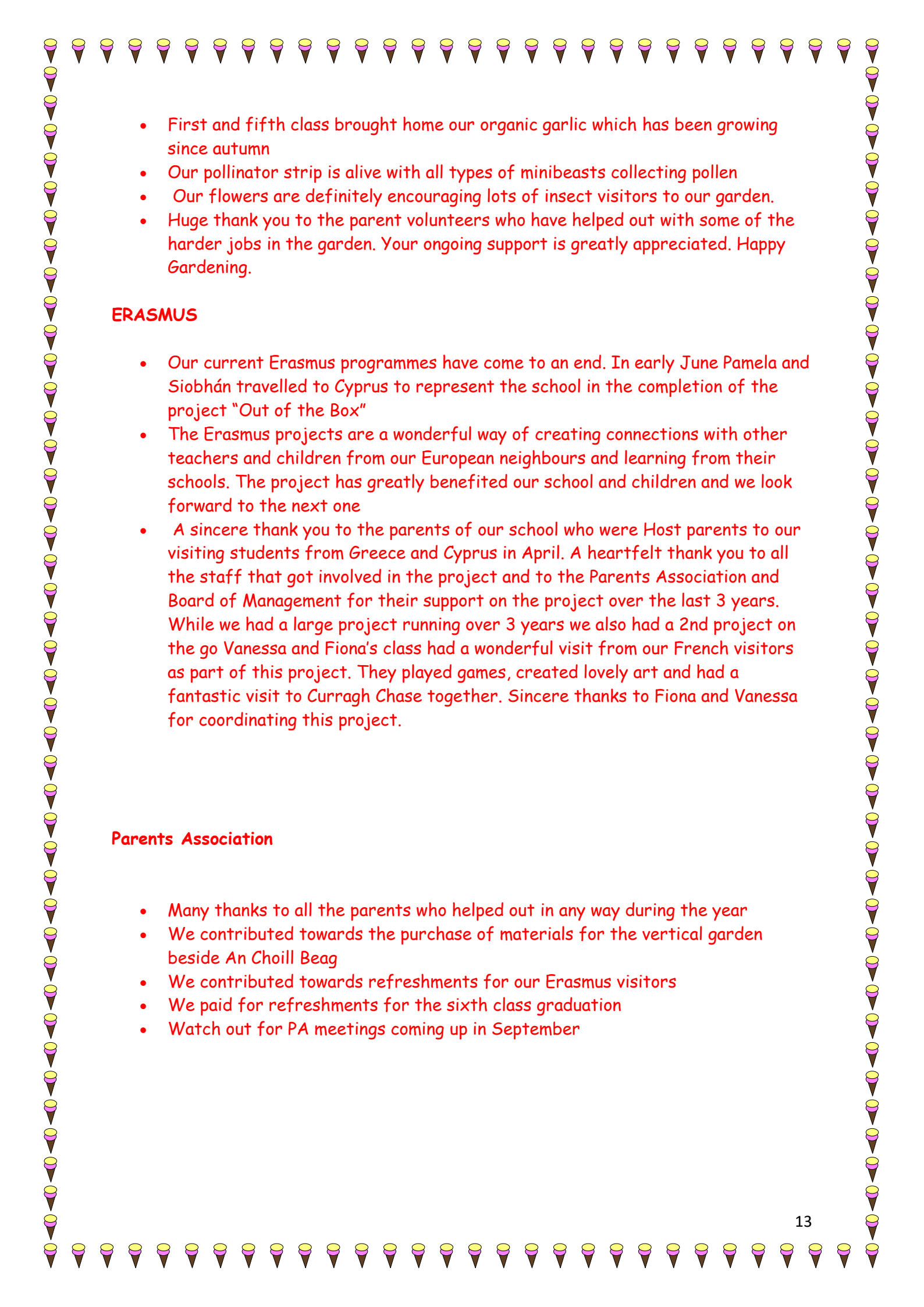
- Thank you all for supporting our Plant Sale. We completely underestimated the interest from both children and parents in the sale. We were sold out by ten o'clock and raised 435 euros. This money will be used to enhance the outdoor areas in our school. We look forward to having a bigger and better one next year.

Active Flag

- A fantastic Active Week was crowned when we received news that the school had been awarded its first Active Flag. This is a great achievement for our school and reflects how physical education is valued, promoted & enjoyed by so many in the school
- The coordinator had high praise for all the work that was put in throughout the year by the Active School Staff & Pupil Committees as well as the Playground Leaders
- If you want to find out more about this initiative go to <https://activeschoolflag.ie/>
- Wishing all the school community a fun & active summer break and as our slogan says, don't forget to "Run, Jump, have some fun, LETS Stay Active Everyone!"

School Garden

- We have had a very busy term of gardening. The fine weather has made growing conditions ideal. We planted peas, strawberries, pumpkins and potatoes
- Thank you to all our helpers who kept the plants well-watered during the dry spell. They were busy with the hoses morning and afternoons
- Lots of classes have sampled the juicy strawberries and fresh peas. It's great for the children to see how easy it is to grow certain vegetables and fruits in Ireland

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- First and fifth class brought home our organic garlic which has been growing since autumn
 - Our pollinator strip is alive with all types of minibeasts collecting pollen
 - Our flowers are definitely encouraging lots of insect visitors to our garden.
 - Huge thank you to the parent volunteers who have helped out with some of the harder jobs in the garden. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. Happy Gardening.

ERASMUS

- Our current Erasmus programmes have come to an end. In early June Pamela and Siobhán travelled to Cyprus to represent the school in the completion of the project "Out of the Box"
- The Erasmus projects are a wonderful way of creating connections with other teachers and children from our European neighbours and learning from their schools. The project has greatly benefited our school and children and we look forward to the next one
- A sincere thank you to the parents of our school who were Host parents to our visiting students from Greece and Cyprus in April. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff that got involved in the project and to the Parents Association and Board of Management for their support on the project over the last 3 years. While we had a large project running over 3 years we also had a 2nd project on the go Vanessa and Fiona's class had a wonderful visit from our French visitors as part of this project. They played games, created lovely art and had a fantastic visit to Curragh Chase together. Sincere thanks to Fiona and Vanessa for coordinating this project.

Parents Association

- Many thanks to all the parents who helped out in any way during the year
- We contributed towards the purchase of materials for the vertical garden beside An Choill Beag
- We contributed towards refreshments for our Erasmus visitors
- We paid for refreshments for the sixth class graduation
- Watch out for PA meetings coming up in September



Roadworks

- There will be further roadworks being undertaken during the Summer
- Footpath and bike access to the man gate will be improved
- A second pedestrian gate will be installed
- Traffic bollards will be erected on the approach road to the entrance.

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 reopen for senior infant to sixth classes on Thursday 31st August
- New junior infants will have their first day on Friday 1st September at 9:15 a.m.

Thank you for all your help and assistance during the course of the school year. We hope you have an enjoyable and restful Summer

Mike and Staff