

Limerick Educate Together National School

Spring Newsletter '25



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A multitude of events and activities unfolded in the school this term, please see the updates from each class and other news items included in the newsletter.

Happy Holi

Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates Spring, love, and new life. It fell on 14th March this year.

Eid Mubarak

We would like to wish all our friends and families an “Eid Mubarak” (Happy Eid) as you celebrate this important festival at this time.

Happy Easter

Easter is a Christian festival that marks the death and resurrection of Jesus. We wish all our families who celebrate Easter a Happy Easter.

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

The school will re-open on Monday 28th of April at 8:40am.

Have a happy and restful break.

Mike and Staff

Anne-Marie's Pre-School

Little Acorns have had a very busy term. We have really enjoyed it.



We love doing art, especially painting. The Garden Classes have all made a garden collage in the general area. We painted flowers and butterflies that will be added to the collage.



We enjoyed the Céilí for St Patrick's Day.

Everyone was dancing and having fun.



We have been busy learning all about Spring. We learned about flowers and bees. We will be planting some flowers soon too. We love music. We had a concert in the general area this term and had fun moving to the music. Pancake Tuesday was an exciting day in our class.

We decorated pancakes with chocolate buttons.



This month we are learned about Space. We did lots of Art and Science experiments based on Space.



We had an Easter Egg hunt in the yard with Lisa's class. It was so much fun!



Junior Infants

We have been very busy in Junior Infants.

Our buddy class met us for a spring walk in the park. We saw lots of signs of spring, including daffodils, daisies and dandelions. We learned all about the different parts of the flower.



We learned all about where milk comes from and how people used to make butter in the past. We even got to make our own butter in class the old fashioned way.



World Book Day brought lots of excitement to the classroom, the children dressed up as different characters and swapped books in the hall.

With the school library open for visits we have been lucky enough to visit every Tuesday after our lunch.

The children love to look at the pictures and make predictions about what the stories will be about.



The children performed their very first “ceolchoirm” for their families which was a great success, we also learned about the Hindi festival Holi.



For the rest of the term we learned about kindness and showing respect to our friends.

We had an adventure to Munget playground and we worked on our map skills and directional language to help us find the way.



Senior Infants

We have had an action-packed second term in Senior Infants.

Show and Tell was a great success. We brought in an item that was special to us and spoke to our friends about it. It was great to hear the stories about some of our most precious items.



We have been having great fun learning how to write algorithms and programming the “Code and Go Robot Mouse”. Each group uses a robot so it is really hands on and we are getting very skilled at writing the algorithm and programming the robots independently.



It's Spring time, so that means we are busy in our school garden. We planted cress, potatoes and lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes. We are looking forward to watering and watching them grow over the coming months. And of course eating them in the summer term.



To finish off our second term, we had a visit from the Easter Bunny. He left us a note saying he had hidden lots of Easter Eggs for us in the Choill Bheag. We had a great time finding the eggs and eating lots of chocolate.



We entertained the whole school during the Easter Assembly. The theme of our assembly was nature. So we sang lots of songs and recited poems linked to nature. Songs were sung about mountains, stars, mice, mosquitos, and spring chickens. We hoped ye enjoyed the assembly as much as we did.

1st Class

First class have been very busy so far this year. We have been doing an amazing job presenting weekly show and tell sessions to our class each Friday. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to bring in items from home that they would really like and that they find interesting.

We have also enjoyed joining with Cliodhna and Siobhán's 5th class for shared reading in the library. It is a great chance for our class to show others how much they enjoy reading, and how their reading is improving all the time.



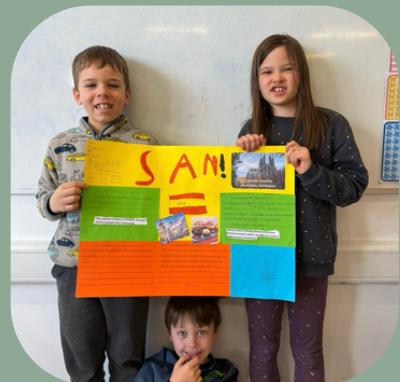
We performed as part of the St Patrick's day and Holi assembly on March 14th with Siobhan and Cliodhna's 5th class. We performed the poem 'A spike of green'. We sang the songs 'I'll tell me ma' and 'Chuala mise einín'. We also performed a dance to the song 'An Dreoilín'. Our classes read some interesting facts about both St Patrick's day and Holi. It was great fun and we all did an amazing job.



On Pancake Tuesday we enjoyed eating some delicious pancakes in class. We only wish we could have eaten more of them!



Our class really enjoyed the book swap that Maria organised. It was a great way for the students to pass on books that they no longer read, and also for them to get new books to read both in class as part of Drop Everything And Read time, and at home.



2nd Class

Second Class have had a fantastic start to 2025. The children have been working hard both inside and outside the classroom and have had plenty of fun along the way.



In February/ March the children learned two traditional céilí dances.

As part of our St. Patrick's day celebrations, they led the whole school in a céilí. The children were fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



In February we presented a 'LOVE' themed assembly to the whole school. Fiona's class recited the poem 'Today I wrote this Poem' by Kenn Nesbitt and Bernie's class played the songs 'The Kerry Polka' and 'Twinkle, Twinkle'. Together we sang the song 'LOVE' by Nat King Cole. The assembly was a huge success and all of the children performed excellently.



On 14th March, we celebrated Holi with our 6th class buddies. The children had great fun throwing coloured powder at each other and the sun stayed out long enough for everyone to enjoy an ice-lolly. It was a fantastic day!



This term the children have been learning to use BeeBots. These are a fantastic resource that teach coding skills. The children have used these skills to create dances and to direct their Beebots through a maze. Thanks to Siobhán and her 5th Class pupils for buddying up with us and helping us develop these skills.

Lisa's Garden Class



It's been a busy and exciting term in the Junior Garden class! We've had a great time learning and having fun. We love visiting the local cafe where we enjoyed some yummy treats.



We dressed up in our favourite costumes and read our favourite story books for World Book Day.

We enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day, including the céilí in the yard and making our very own trap to catch a leprechaun!



We've started horse riding at St. Joseph's Foundation Liskennet Equine Therapy Centre, and it's been an amazing experience. The children absolutely love it!



We loved decorating our pancakes with our favourite toppings for Pancake Tuesday.

We've been busy with lots of art projects, inspired by themes such as Spring, The Farm, Transport, and Our Town.

We had great fun searching for Easter eggs around the garden – it was an exciting end to the term!



3rd Class



Third class had a great run into the new year, we practiced and prepared our Peace Prom songs and our Irish song 'Dulaman' to sing for the school at our school assembly. All the children performed excellently and it was a huge success.

We had book swap day which was a huge success and the children were absolutely delighted with their new books. We also dressed up for world book day which was so much fun.

We are loving reading our new class novel Grimwood, we celebrated shark week through art and we are currently learning all about garden birds. Some of the children in our class have made some amazing 3D landmark puzzles of the Eiffel Tower and London Bridge.



We had our Peace Proms concert in early February where the students sang their hearts out and were supported by the incredibly talented Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. I think everyone can agree that it was an absolutely fantastic night. The children worked really hard practicing their songs and dances in the weeks prior to the concert and they were absolutely brilliant on the night.



The sun has come out and we have enjoyed doing lessons outside, trips to the tiny forest and nature walks with our buddy class in junior infants. We also enjoyed lots of Irish activities, games and quizzes for Seachtain na Gaeilge and took part in the school céilí on St. Patricks week.

A real highlight of the last few weeks has been the new school library system. It is fantastic to see the children so excited about renting and reading new books every week.

Well done to all the children on a fantastic term and thanks to all for the support at home!

Vanessa, Peter and Maria



4th Class

4th class have had a really enjoyable term, and have had loads of fun activities both curricular and extra-curricular.



We had a visit from Analog devices, and both classes got to complete STEAM experiments such as creating a kaleidoscope, catapult and a magnetic maze. This was really enjoyable and we learned a lot from the engineers. surrounded by the language.

The 4th class girls are currently training hard for their Camogie blitz coming up. The girls are really enjoying this and practicing hard both in school and at home. In PE we have been working on athletics, which will benefit us for the UL athletics in May. We are now moving on to gymnastics which is great fun.



4th Class have been reading novels from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. These have gone down a treat with the students, who enjoy the jokes and comic style layout of the books.

In English we have focused on report writing and procedural writing, which we have found really interesting. We have written reports on animals and people, which helps us with our research skills and links in with lots of other subjects.



We are doing Lego WeDo 2.0, a coding Lego programme, each Friday with the help of 6th class. This is a great learning experience and it is clear to see the students improving their skills each week and becoming more confident.



We really enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge and all of the associated activities - the seanfhocail poster competition, daily powerpoints with tongue twisters, phrases and activities and the quiz. We improved our Irish and enjoyed all we learned.



5th Class

5th Class have had great Term 2 full of fun and exciting experiences. It has been such a fantastic term filled with hands-on activities, creativity, and collaboration!



5th class really enjoyed our 12 music generation sessions with Tony Monahan. He was in our classes every Friday for the past few months. We worked with the app GarageBand composing our own pieces of music. The compositions both classes produced are excellent and we have really enjoyed listening to them in the class.

We created Spring Clay Tiles this term. We spent time moulding our clay into a tile and creating spring images using carving and sculpting techniques. The next art lesson we used acrylic paint to decorate and design them. Have a look outside our classrooms for these. We led the Seachtain na Gaeilge/ St. Patrick's Day assembly. We really enjoyed learning our poem as Gaeilge from memory, playing the recorder, presenting about Holi, singing Beidh Aonach Amárach and dancing An Dreoilín with 1st class.

World Book Day was another special event, where we all got the chance to dress up as our favourite book characters and take part in some fun activities.



We have also continued Buddy Reading with 1st Class, an activity that both year groups thoroughly enjoy.



5th Class

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Another highlight of this term was our Cycling Programme. The children learned all about cycle safety, road safety, and the importance of being responsible on the roads. It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence and skill as they practiced their cycling techniques while gaining essential knowledge about staying safe.



We also had an amazing time exploring the world of robotics with Lego Spike Essential! Through this engaging program, the students learned to design, build, code, and program their own robots. From constructing cars and helicopters to designing amusement park games and boats, their creativity and problem-solving skills were truly put to the test.



And of course, who could forget Pancake Tuesday. The children delighted in devouring some delicious pancakes with their favourite toppings – a well-earned treat.



It has been a wonderful term, and we are so proud of all the hard work, enthusiasm, and participation from our 5th Class students. We wish everyone a happy and restful break, and we look forward to another exciting term ahead!

Best wishes,

5th Class Teachers

Siobhán, Clíodhna, Vickie & Lisa



Miriam's Senior Garden Class



What a fantastic term it has been for our Senior Special Class! We've had so many exciting and enriching experiences that have helped us grow, learn, and have fun in new ways. Here are some highlights from our journey this term:

We embraced the beauty of the outdoors with our weekly Fresh Air Fridays, where we spent time in our school grounds. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and appreciate the natural surroundings, which allowed us to feel more connected to the world around us.



We have really enjoyed using the new library at school! Each week, we look forward to choosing new books and diving into different worlds through reading. It's a wonderful space to relax and discover new stories, and we are excited to continue our reading adventures next term!



We have been enjoying learning through Six Brick Maths, which has been a fun and hands-on approach to learning essential math skills. As part of our weekly cooking classes, we even made Six Brick Cakes, which were as delicious as they were educational!



This term, we delved into the world of traditional Irish music. We had the chance to explore different Irish musical instruments and learn about their cultural significance. It was an engaging way to connect with Ireland's rich musical heritage.

We worked hard to learn poems and songs in preparation for a special performance with Yvonne's Senior Infants. It was wonderful to collaborate with another class and share our love of poetry and music with them. We can't wait for the final performance!



We had an amazing time celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a fun-filled Céilí! It was wonderful to get into the festive spirit, learn some traditional Irish dances, and enjoy the music.

Everyone had a fantastic time moving to the beat and sharing the joy of Irish culture together!

6th Class



What an exciting term it has been for our 6th class as they showcased their creativity, collaboration, and exploration through the theme of 'Food Insecurity' for the One World - Irish Aid Competition! Students dove deep into their research, utilizing a variety of innovative methods to present their findings, including podcasts, 3-D pen creations, robotics, diagrams, drama, stop-motion animations, and much more.

This term has also fostered wonderful connections with our 2nd class buddies, as we enjoyed engaging activities like Blookets for World Book Day and indulged in delicious pancakes together. A highlight of our term was the joint celebration of 'Holi' where we had a vibrant color run in the yard, followed by refreshing ice pops to cool off.



To wrap up the term, our Science Fair was a fantastic success! Students worked as a team to actively involve our school community in the wonders of science, sparking curiosity and excitement.



As we look forward to an active and thrilling third term, we are determined to make it the best one yet! Thank you for your continued support.

6th Class Students,
Maggie, Pamela, and Noreen



Soccer League



The LETS Lunchtime league is going from strength to strength we have had some great games throughout the year in all three divisions.

Thanks to all the staff who referee the lunchtime games and to the student helpers.

Finally, thanks to all the children who take part in the league.

All of them show such remarkable respect to each other and the staff involved.

James

School Choir



The School Choir has really enjoyed singing this term. We are busy preparing for a concert in University Concert Hall on May 29th. Limerick Sings Choral Festival is hosting its opening concert on May 29th and our choir were invited to attend. We will be singing two songs as LETS school choir and will then join with other school choirs to sing two more, directed by the very talented Máire Keary- Scanlon. This is an excellent opportunity for our choir to sing in a new setting and to hear other schools. Children will need to be dropped to the concert hall on this evening, with updates in due course.

Thanks to all parents and guardians for their support and cooperation so far this year.

Clíodhna, Sorcha & Miriam.



Chess Club



What an exhilarating Term 2 it has been for our Chess Club! Our teams excelled at the Féile Fichille, with the Masters (5th & 6th) securing 1st and 3rd places, while the Buds (2nd to 4th) achieved 1st and 5th places.

The Masters also performed admirably at the Comórtas Fichille, clinching 1st and 5th places. Throughout these competitions, our players showcased their impressive skills and served as outstanding ambassadors for our school, demonstrating remarkable respect, problem-solving abilities, and social skills—truly embodying the spirit of sportsmanship.

We are also thrilled to welcome our two Chess Coaches, Tómas and Oisín, who are sharing invaluable insights into strategies and tactics that are enhancing our understanding and enjoyment of the game. Their expertise is proving to be a tremendous asset as we continue to develop our skills and deepen our love for chess.

Let's keep the momentum going as we move forward into the next term!

Robotics Club



Recently, we had the privilege of participating in the Analog League League First Workshop at our school. This workshop was an active and engaging experience centered around the 'Submerged Theme,' where we explored the fascinating world of robotics submarines. Our projects focused on creating innovative submarines equipped with grab hands designed to support the Sustainable Development Goal – Life Under Water. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn, collaborate, and bring our ideas to life!

Congratulations to our Robotics Team members Adam, Oskar, and Conn for their outstanding representation of our school at the Lego League First Competition at Limerick Racecourse! We are thrilled that they advanced to the Finals at Analog Devices in. Their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills were on full display, reflecting the hard work and dedication they invested in their preparation.

Stay tuned for more updates, and keep up the fantastic work!





School Garden Green School



With the arrival of Spring
gardening has started in
earnest in our school garden.



We are planting a variety of edibles and flowers this year both in the polytunnel and in our outside raised beds. Classes have already started with the planting of tomatoes, potatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, lettuces and beans already germinating in the polytunnel. The

Green School committee have prepared beds and transferred topsoil into our tunnel. Hard but enjoyable work.

The school garden is a calming, welcoming space for all of our children and we encourage all classes to get involved in this year's planting season. We will have our annual plant sale in the summer term. We welcome parental involvement.

If you're green fingered or would simply like to learn more about gardening please get in contact with Yvonne or Paula. yvonnebriody@gmail.com

Student Council



We have enjoyed meeting weekly.

We now have a lockable noticeboard which we decorated ourselves.

Topics under discussion were:

How providing ketchup in the classrooms is working
Planning for our May talent show and for our fish tank.

Reading suggestions in suggestion boxes.

Thanks to parents Michelle and Nuraini for sharing your expertise.

We look forward to the talent show and a busy summer term.
The Student Council & Paula



Basketball



After the Easter break, they will take on Roxborough.

We're proud of how well they've represented our school and look forward to their continued success.

Well done to all the players involved!

Congratulations to both our boys' and girls' basketball teams on their impressive start to the league! Over the past few weeks, they have faced off against Gaelscoil an Raithín, Pallaskenry, Kildimo, and St. Nesson's, showcasing their talent and teamwork.



Art Club



This term, our Afterschool Art Club has been immersed in the vibrant world of Claude Monet! Students have had the opportunity to create stunning portraits of the artist using chalk pastels, craft beautiful water lilies from clay, and experiment with fabric and fiber. We even painted Monet's iconic masterpiece, "Water Lilies," capturing his unique style and spirit.

Our classes run from 2:20 PM to 3:45 PM for six weeks at a cost of €60.

Don't miss out on our final session during the last term!

Exciting news: We will also be offering a summer camp during the holidays, running Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stay tuned for more information!

For any questions or to learn more about Art Club, please contact Áine.

We can't wait to see your creative spirit shine!





Well-Being

As part of our wellbeing school improvement plan we have looked at ways of improving the children's experience of yard time.



Yard time is a hugely important part of child's experience of school, so, we wanted to make every effort to make sure it was enjoyable and stimulating.

As a wellbeing team, we came up with a plan to offer different activities during yard time and offer choice.



We have a number of initiatives in place such as pickleball, soccer, skipping and outdoor toys. A big part of our overall yard plan was for yard markings.



These markings are bright and child friendly and we hope they contribute towards the happiness and wellbeing of the children of LETS for many years to come.



We would like to thank the Parent Association for their generous donation towards the cost of the yard markings.

School Library



We are delighted to announce the official opening of our school library! This wonderful space is now ready for students to enjoy, providing them with a quiet and welcoming environment to explore books, foster a love of reading, and expand their knowledge.

A huge thank you to the incredible parents who generously gave their time to help catalogue books and organise the library.

A special mention must also go to our dedicated 6th Class Librarians—Lauren, Emma, Tanarika, Janetta, Saoirse, Oishi, and Omisha—who have worked tirelessly to help manage the library.

We are also thrilled to share that a large number of new books have been purchased for the library, offering students an even greater selection of exciting stories, fascinating facts, and inspiring reads.

We encourage all students to make the most of this fantastic resource and look forward to seeing the library become a hub of learning and discovery!



Nurture Room

We are thrilled to announce the opening of our Nurture Room, a thoughtfully designed space dedicated to fostering creativity, relaxation, and collaboration among students. This inviting room serves as a serene retreat where students can engage in various activities, from cooking and reading to group projects and social interactions.



The Nurture Room provides the perfect environment for students to come together, unwind, and explore different areas of the curriculum. Whether it's honing culinary skills, participating in social groups, or enjoying some much-needed decompression time, this versatile space is here to support holistic learning and personal growth. We can't wait for our students to experience the warmth and community that the Nurture Room offers!



Policy Development

We have reviewed the following policies:

Dignity in the Workplace

Relationships and Sexuality Policy (RSE)

Curriculum

We are continuing to review our curriculum plans in the following areas:

Primary Language Curriculum, Maths, Science, Music, Digital Literacy

English as an Additional Language

Social Personal and Health Education

Assessment

Drop Off/Collection 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 carpark

Thanks to the PA for funding the purchase of the barriers at the top of the drop off area.

Pedestrians should never cross at this point.

Drop Off and Collection Time

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

School Attendance

Please ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis. We are obliged to report absences of 20 days or more to TUSLA.

Health and Safety

Reminder to all that there is no smoking or use of vaporisers permitted inside the school grounds.

There are no dogs permitted on the school grounds.

There is no cycling permitted inside the school grounds.

School Re-Opening

The school will re-open on Monday 28th April

Website

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

www.limerickeducatetogether.com

