

# Limerick Educate Together National School

## *Christmas Newsletter '24*



Dear Parents,

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. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your support in the first term.

The school will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.

“Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir”  
Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Mike and Staff

# Anne-Marie's Pre-School

Well done to all of our preschoolers who have settled in so well into their new school.



We have been working on our fine motor skills and gross motor skills. We love our tricycles and bikes.



We have had lots of fun reading books, doing puzzles and water play. We love music and nursery rhymes and this term we have learned Row Your Boat, 5 Little Snowman, Incy Wincy Spider and many more!



We love sensory play; our favourite is filling up cups with lavender rice or chickpeas. It makes a lovely sound and it smells lovely!

Thank you to our two 6th class helpers who come onto the yard with us and push us on the swings. They also help us during our snack time.

# Rachel's Junior Infants

We have had a great start to our school life in Junior Infants! We have had lots of fun getting to know each other and learning how to show kindness and respect to our friends. Junior Infants were very excited to observe and explore nature in the outdoor spaces on the school grounds, where we could see how the pumpkins changed in size and colour from yellow. The children learned an Autumn Song and performed it in the outdoor classroom to share with their families.



Our Buddy class (Vanessa's 3rd) met us in the outdoor classroom and helped us identify all the delicious treats nature provides for squirrels.



We learned all about “An Ghráinneog” (the hedgehog) and even designed our very own hedgehog family using clay!

We welcomed 6th class pupils to our classroom to learn all about coding, the Junior Infants can't wait for them to come visit again.



Junior Infants use playtime to be creative and work as a team to make new discoveries.

We took an integrated approach to “An Bhuachaillín Sinséir” where the children wondered “Why didn't the gingerbread man want to go in the water?” We quickly found out after we carried out an experiment observing what happens when a gingerbread man goes in water! The children then decided to come up with a solution to build a bridge for the gingerbread man to cross.

We were very lucky to have some of the children's parents come in and bake and decorate gingerbread men. We are really looking forward to when parents can come join in our fun again.

# Sorcha's Junior Infants

The children have settled into big school and are making friends. We are learning to show kind hands, feet, and words in class and on the yard.

We learned about growing and changing. We played guess who with everyone's baby pictures.

It was really fun!



We have learned some new sounds and how to write our names.



We have also been making friends with the children in Peter's 3rd class. They are our buddy class and they come to visit us sometimes. They have read with us and played board games with us.



D'éisteamar leis an scéal An Buachaillín Sinséir agus rinneamar brioscáí sinséir sa rang. (We listened to the story of The Gingerbread Man and made our own ginger cookies in class.)



# Yvonne's Senior Infants

We had a lovely first term in Senior Infants. It has been an action packed term with lots of memorable learning experiences. Here are some of our favourites:

In S.E.S.E, we learned about Tom Crean, Antarctic Explorer. We really enjoyed reading the book based on his trip to Antarctica called Tom Crean's Rabbit.

In Aistear we learned all about the Cafe. We set up a class cafe and invited our parents in for a cuppa and cake. It was lovely to have our parents visit our class cafe. They were very impressed with all the treats we had for them.



In our Choill Bheag, we set up another cafe, a hedgehog cafe. We know it is very important to look after wildlife in winter so we collected lots of nuts and berries and setup tables of tasty nature treats. We even left some dog food for them, as hedgehogs love a bit of dog food.



We learned about life in the Arctic and Antarctic and what animals we would see there. In STEM, we did an experiment on how Arctic Animals stay warm in the icy waters.

We performed our Christmas Play, Ralph the Reindeer, for the whole school and all our parents.



On Friday, the 20th of December, we are going on a pre Winter Solstice Walk around Munget Park. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year. For centuries people have been celebrating this solstice day all over the world. To warm us up after our walk we are having hot chocolate and cookies as our end of term treat.



# Aine's Senior Infants

We've had a busy and fun term. We have enjoyed walks in the park and around our school grounds, making the most of our lovely crisp weather.



Fresh Air Fridays are a great way to get outside and enjoy some fresh air. We painted our partners' portraits on the grass outside our classroom. We also love to draw with chalk on the yard. Exploring the Tiny Forest and our Orchard is our favorite thing to do.

Maths Week was great. We made paper chain patterns. We walked around the school exploring and enjoying the Maths Art Displays in the corridors. We went to the Maths Fair organised by 6th class. It was so much fun.



We experienced some Halloween traditions; toasted marshmallows over the campfire in our outdoor classroom and made Smores. We tasted Barnbrack and one of us even found the ring hidden inside. We really enjoyed performing our Christmas show for our parents.

# Deirdre's 1st Class

We have had a very good first term in First Class. All the children in the class have been working hard and have settled in very well to the longer school day.



The children have made great progress in Maths, enjoying both working with concrete materials and completing activities in their books. They particularly enjoyed participating in the Maths Fair that was held in the Halla by 6th Class.

We have completed a variety of Art activities, including making gingerbread houses, drawing pastel snowmen, creating autumn wreaths, crafting penguins, producing Picasso-inspired Frankenstein pictures, and engaging in numerous drawing activities.

Our class performed as part of the assembly and did an amazing job singing two songs, "Ag Dul ar Scoil" and "Count on Me," as well as reciting a poem titled "Season" by Kerri Ward.

Recently, we went on a lovely winter walk and had great fun running on the frosty grass. We observed many signs of winter all around the park, too.



We are fortunate to be so close to the playground, and as part of Fresh Air Friday, we have had great fun playing there together on several occasions. The children all deserve a well-earned break, and we look forward to doing some exciting things together in 2025. Well done, First Class!

# Yvonne's 1st Class

We have had a wonderful first term in first class. The children have settled in really well to the school routine and have been doing amazing work.



Our class put on an impressive performance at the whole school assembly, where we sang 'Ag dul ar scoil,' 'Count on Me,' and a poem called 'Seasons' by Kerri Ward. The class has been working hard at English and Maths this year. We got to visit the Maths Fair during Maths Week and went on an outdoor Maths trail with our buddy class. We have recently begun cursive writing in first class as well.



First class has created some beautiful artwork so far this year. We made autumn wreaths, Picasso-inspired Frankenstein pictures, gingerbread houses, and winter penguins. We also made Christmas trees using ice cream cones, green icing, and sprinkles. We completed some procedural writing based on these, and they were a big hit in our class!

We are so lucky here in LETS to be located so close to Mungret Park. We have gone on both an autumn nature walk and a winter walk, where we enjoyed looking out for the signs of the changing seasons. We also enjoyed some trips to the playground as part of Fresh Air Fridays.

First class is looking forward to their well-deserved winter break, and we are really excited to embark on some exciting things together in 2025.



# Ellen's 2nd Class



Second Class has been very busy this term. We hosted an assembly where we performed a poem, a song in Gaeilge, and the song "The Spark" by Cabin Crew. Cabin Crew heard that the class did a super job and sent the class a video to say thanks!



We have really enjoyed buddying up with our Buddy Class—Maggie's Sixth Class. They showed us a great time at the Maths Fair, sent us wonderful friendship bracelets, and hosted a Buddy party where we played board games and had hot chocolate! We feel so lucky to have such fantastic buddies.

We went on a fantastic trip to Dooradoyle Library and got to watch and take part in a circus-inspired show. It was really funny, and we loved getting out and about together.



We have been lucky enough to have TY students from Munget Community College visit every Tuesday to teach us fundamental movements in PE. Their lessons have been so fun and engaging.

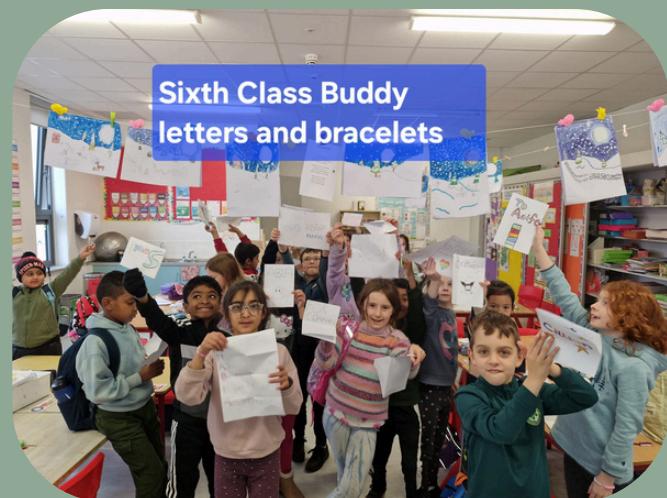
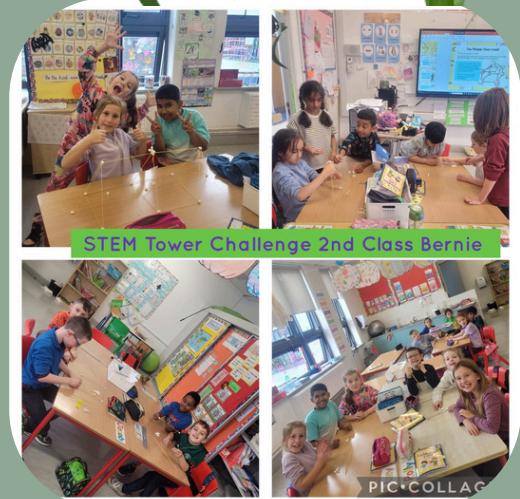
Second Class has worked so hard this term and will enjoy a well-earned break over the Winter Break.

# Bernie's 2nd Class

Well done, Second Class, on another fun and busy term!

Performing in the first assembly of the year was lots of fun, and I am so proud of how well everyone performed, even with lots of nerves. We had a great time at the Maths Fair; thanks so much to Sixth Class for organising and facilitating it. The Coding Mice in class and the Maths Trail have been two very interesting, educational, and fun class buddy activities.

So far, we have tried two STEM activities using paper, tape, spaghetti, and marshmallows of all things. We managed not to eat the marshmallows, as they were an essential material in the construction of our towers. We are improving our ability to work as a team and listen to each other.



Tin Whistle learning has begun! There is a lot of enthusiasm and eagerness to improve our playing for our Tin Whistle Orchestra.

Our Sixth Class buddies are so kind, patient, and amazing. Thank you for the bracelets, the six bricks activities, and, most recently, the buddy party, where they all played board games and enjoyed hot chocolate while watching a movie.

We are enjoying making lots of winter art. Our first clay creations have turned out so well, and there is great creativity in the room.

Second Class, thank you for all your wonderful efforts this term. Enjoy your well-deserved break! Have a safe, happy, and fun winter break!

# Lisa's Garden Class

Everyone is doing great and has really settled in nicely. They're having so much fun every day, getting involved in activities and building great friendships. It's wonderful to see them so happy.

For Fresh Air Fridays, we like to go for a walk around the park and the playground.

Sensory play has been a favorite activity in our class. Exploring different textures, colors, and materials has been both fun and calming. It's a great way for everyone to engage their senses.



We enjoy baking in our class. We made chocolate buns, cookies, and pizza!

We visited the local café, The Milk Thistle, where we enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate.

During our circle time, we are learning new songs that we love to sing every day.



We enjoyed creating art with simple shapes and bright colors. Everyone felt calm and focused while painting and drawing at their own pace.



# Peter's 3rd Class

We have had a very good Term One. The class has a lovely, relaxed and respectful atmosphere, with great learning going on daily. Many children are ready to begin working on solo projects, which they will present to the class and share with other classes.



We also accompanied Geoff Hunt on a trip to Curraghchase, where we did some bird watching and plant specimen collecting. It was a lovely trip with beautiful weather. We have been fortunate to have visiting sports coaches and secondary school groups for PE activities this year, which were really active and fun.



Our Monday trips to UL are going well, and everyone is becoming very good at changing quickly, taking care of their belongings, traveling on the bus, and improving their swimming skills. The Peace Proms singing is going great, with some very hearty performances accompanied by dance moves.

The children ran impressive election campaigns for the Student Council, and it was a very engaging and tightly run competition. Well done to all candidates and voters! We have been lucky to have various visiting students and teachers this term, such as Lara, Ellie, Zuzanna, and Maya, and the children were very welcoming and polite to them all.



We really enjoyed performing our Christmas play for our visitors, and we loved the visit from Animal Magic, which was very exciting. Well done to all students, and a huge thank you to all parents for their continued support for learning from home.

# Vanessa's 3rd Class



We have had a fantastic first term in third class! The children have settled in really well and have been busy with lots of different projects and activities.

We started swimming this term, and all the children are making great progress and really enjoying it!

Before the mid-term break, the children worked really hard on their pumpkin book project. They designed pumpkins based on their favorite characters from a book they were reading and completed a review of their books. It was great to have the parents come in to see all the pumpkins on display and listen to our Halloween song. Well done to everyone for the effort that went into making the pumpkins at home!



We had a wonderful day in Curraghchase with Geoff Hunt. Unfortunately, we did not catch sight of the red squirrel, but we had great fun spotting all the different varieties of birds. Maths week was really enjoyable and filled with lots of math games, online quizzes, and math trails, but the highlight of the week was the 6th class Math Fair.

We are really looking forward to our Peace Proms concert in February and are doing lots of practice for it. We are preparing for our 'write a book' project, and we will start writing our books in January. We have been in contact with the children's author Kieran Fanning, who has sent us some of his books for encouragement.



We have been busy with many other activities in the classroom, such as mindfulness, meditation, and active breaks every morning. We also loved the book fair this week, and it is lovely to see the children so excited about reading their new books.

Well done to you all for your hard work this year; I'm so proud of you!

# Sarah's 4th Class



Rang 4 has settled in wonderfully during Term 1. Pond dipping with Geoff Hunt in Adare at the start of October was a great success. For Halloween, we made clay skulls and wrote Halloween haikus.



We played hockey in P.E. for several weeks. Our class buddies are Aine's Senior Infant class, and for Maths Week, we completed a maths trail together. Well done to the entire class for participating in the online maths quiz!



Fourth class has been busy and has completed a number of individual and group projects on animals, countries, and famous landmarks around the world. We have read two novels: *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *No Brainer*.

The quiz on the General Election was enjoyed by all. Our class is very active, and we complete active breaks in class every day. Our swimming skills have really improved after our six lessons in UL. Our assembly for the whole school was truly enjoyable.

# Karen's 4th Class



We have had a great first term in 4th class!

We really enjoyed our pond dipping in Adare with Geoff Hunt. We found some really cool creatures, and it was amazing to look at them through a microscope when we got back to class. Since the mid-term break, we have been swimming in the UL swimming pool. This has been really enjoyable, and we have practiced and improved our swimming skills.

We wrote letters to our buddy class, Yvonne's Senior Infants. We really enjoyed getting post back from them and reading their notes.



We have loved doing our Active Breaks every morning! We love the variety of activities each day.

We have completed projects on schools throughout the ages, tiny and large animals, and mountains in Ireland. These have been really enjoyable as we have worked in pairs or trios.

Maths Week was really enjoyable, featuring Times Tables Rock Stars, a table quiz, a maths trail, Lego WeDo, and an online maths webinar.

We have been doing lots of fun art activities, including self-portraits inspired by Tim Burton's art style, crepe paper painting where we made poinsettias, shape art for Maths Week, and snowmen where we explored light and shading.



We also participated in a poster competition for Anti-Bullying Week. Well done to Méabh, who won this competition from our class!

We really enjoyed our assembly for the whole school. Overall, we have had a really enjoyable term and are looking forward to all the things to come next term!

# Clíodhna's 5th Class



We have had a super first term in 5th class engaging in many fun activities! We have really been enjoying getting out into the park and an Choill Bheag/Tiny forest for Fresh- Air Friday, our Wellbeing Initiative. It gives us an opportunity outside of the classroom to breathe, get fresh air and enjoy each other's company

6th Class came to us during Maths week and did a Coding lesson with us using LegoWedo, which we really enjoyed. We also really enjoyed our time with our Buddy class Deirdre's first. We loved doing the maths trail with them.

Before Midterm, we explored the medium of Clay and made pumpkins which was really fun and enjoyable.

Thanks so much to Maebh who taught us for 5 weeks in October and November. We loved working with you, thank you for all your hard work!



This November & December we have really enjoyed working with the Active Committee and doing an Active Break every morning at 9am.

We really enjoyed preparing for the Assembly at the end of November, performing a poem and a song as Gaeilge and singing Zombie by the Cranberries.

Finally, we have been busy these last few weeks, going bird watching with Geoff Hunt, working with Tony Monahan from Music Generation learning how to use the Garage Band App and spending lots of time preparing for our winter show "Bah Humbug."



# Siobhán's 5th Class

Fifth Class have had a great first term and have enjoyed taking part in many activities and initiatives around the school.

We have loved getting to know our Buddy Class Yvonne's 1st and have had some lovely days with them doing Maths Trails and spending our Fresh Air Fridays in An Choill Bheag.

We really enjoyed Maths Week this year, thank you to 6th class for running the Maths Fair. We loved doing all the maths puzzles and games. We also became the Times Tables Rocks champions of the school, a tables competition run from 4th - 6th. We also got to create some Maths Trails for all the classes in the school and enjoyed coming up with loads of questions and ideas for the classes to do during Maths Week.



6th class also came into our class during Coding Week and carried out a Robotics Workshop with us in which we got to experience the Lego WeDo kits and got a chance to create and code our own robot.

These lessons were a fun and new experience that we hope to have more opportunities to explore throughout the year.

Congratulations to Daisy-Jane who won our class Anti Bullying Poster Competition.

Over the last few weeks we have gotten a chance to take part in lots of fun and exciting activities. We have been swimming in U.L., we went to Westfields with Geoff Hunt to see and learn all about Waterbirds and also got to walk the Three Bridges.

We have been taking part in the Active Breaks Challenge everyday, thank you to Rose, our Active Committee class representative, who has run these sessions in our class every morning and well done to Haya who is running it in Yvonne's Senior Infants.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our first few months in 5th class and look forward to more fun activities and new learning experiences to come after the holidays

# Miriam's Senior Garden Class

What a wonderful term our Senior Garden Class has had. This dedicated group continues to push boundaries and excel in their pursuits.



As a class of budding musicians, we have enjoyed exploring the music lessons from Dabbledoo. The class has learned how to play percussion instruments and explored tempo this term.

Our cooking skills are improving during our weekly cooking lessons; the taste tests have been a bonus!

The class have enjoyed monthly trips to their beloved Liskennet Equine Centre.

The class was fortunate to participate in a series of music lessons facilitated by Community Music Masters students from UL. The students contributed to composing and playing instruments in a holistic, nurturing space. This was a wonderful experience that the children found both therapeutic and enjoyable.



We have enjoyed walks in Mungret Park and trips to local cafés. We look forward to the next term of learning and extracurricular activities! Happy Christmas to everyone.

# 6th Class



In our final year of primary school, Sixth Class is eager to embrace our roles as mentors and role models. We're leading events, mentoring younger students, and focusing on social-emotional skills and responsibility.



To prepare for secondary school, we engaged in project-based learning about Space and Air, developing research and presentation skills. We also learned about internet safety from Jackie at Digiwise, which helped us understand responsible online behavior.

Recently, we held a debate on fast fashion, enhancing our public speaking and critical thinking skills, and participated in webinars on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to understand our responsibilities in the community.



We also celebrated our Anti-Bullying Poster Competition winners: Lilliane and Saoirse.



Swimming lessons have been both fun and skill-building, and our active breaks allowed us to mentor younger classes, promoting healthy habits.

In our Buddy Program, we enjoyed activities with Second Class and preschoolers, including Maths Trails and Halloween storytelling, fostering joy and connection.

Our class organized a Maths Fair, improving our organizational and collaborative skills, and participated in robotics sessions to enhance our coding abilities. During EU Coding Week, we led coding activities for the school, sharing our knowledge widely.



As the year progresses, we look forward to more engaging activities and growth opportunities.

Thank you for your support!  
Maggie, Pamela, Noreen & Elaine