

STEPASIDE ETNS

MARCH 13TH 2026

STEPASIDE
Educate Together
National School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the St. Patrick's Day weekend, I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful school community for the energy, support and enthusiasm shown at so many recent events in the school.

Many thanks also to our PAC for organising such a fantastic Quiz Night. The turnout on the night was incredible and it was wonderful to see such strong support from our school community. We are very grateful to all of the organisers, to those who donated prizes, and to everyone who attended and made the evening such a success. Over the coming days we will be updating our school fundraiser visual display, located outside Magda and Nathalie's office, to show the total raised so far.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make World Book Day such a joyful celebration. It was fantastic to see so many fabulous readers, organisers and book enthusiasts coming through our school doors. The celebration of reading across so many different books, authors and genres, created a really exciting atmosphere throughout the school and was a truly joyful experience for the children.

This week we also celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to Ciara Mooney for organising such a range of wonderful activities for the children. We had some lovely celebrations of Irish this week including a Seisiúin Ceoil, Tráth na gCeist and local GAA Matches. Our neighbours from Taobh na Coille even came to visit and we returned the visit to them to take part in a Comórtas Ceoil. You will see more about these events further down in the newsletter. Go raibh míle maith agat, Ciara, as gach rud.

As always, thank you to all members of our school community for the support you show our school every day. I hope you all have an enjoyable long bank holiday weekend.

Warm regards,

Leona



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **16th and 17th March** - School Closure for St Patrick's Day.
- **27th March** - **Spring Break. Half Day.** Collection Times:
11.30am for infants and SS
11.40am for all other classes
- **18th April** - Craft Fair 11am-4pm

TRY SOME GAEILGE!

We are enjoying using cúpla focal (a few words) in Irish around the school each day. Here are some simple phrases you might like to try at home!

- Dia duit (Dee-a gwit) – Hello
- Conas atá tú? (Kun-us a-taw too?) – How are you?
- Tá mé go maith (Taw may guh mah) – I am well
- Go raibh maith agat (Guh rev mah a-gut) – Thank you
- Le do thoil (Leh duh hull) – Please
- Slán (Slawn) – Goodbye

SETNS FOOTBALL

The football season has kicked off for both our boys and girls teams this month. Both sides are competing in the local league and cup competitions. The coaches train the boys and girls as often as they can every week preparing them for the games ahead. The teams have really enjoyed taking part and competing against other schools so far.



HOT SCHOOL MEALS

Hot School Meals provided by The Lunch Bag have started here at SETNS this month and we have had a very positive start to the rollout. The children have been trying new meals and recipes, chatting about food choices and trying new ingredients daily. We do understand that hot meals are not for everyone and parents and families are reminded that they are welcome to opt out at any stage via the Lunch Bag App. School staff are not able to access the App to order on behalf of children, so we ask all parents to familiarise yourself with the ordering system. 5th Class teacher Emma has been using the below chart with her class to encourage conversation around the meals and individual favourites within her class and has since shared with other teachers. Conversations around the meals at home are invaluable in keeping the children looped in and allowing them the chance to discuss likes and dislikes.

Hot Lunches			
Day	Lunch	Rating	Have Again?
		☆☆☆☆☆	✓ ✕
		☆☆☆☆☆	✓ ✕



STEPPING STONES UPDATES

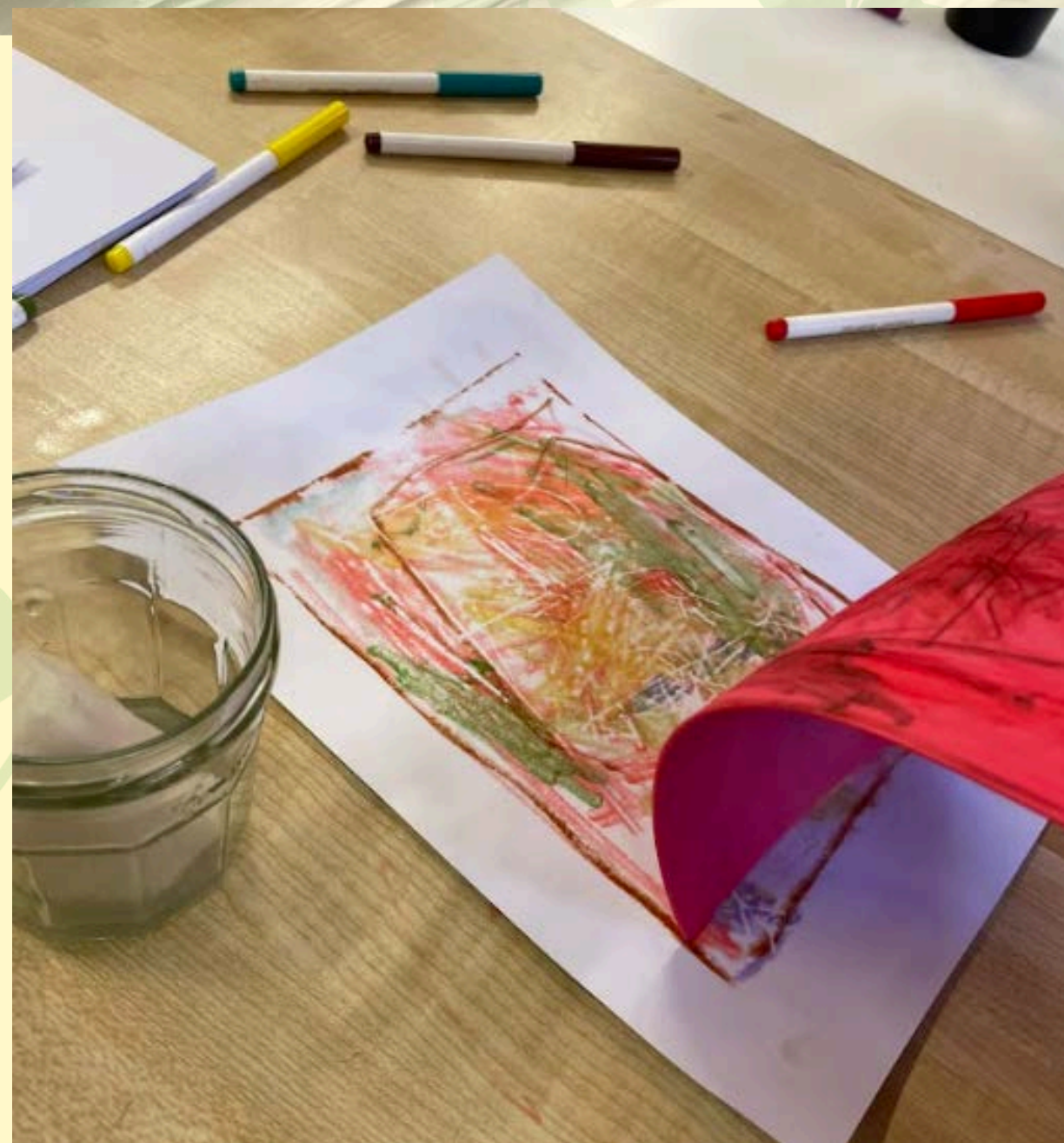
Following on from Storm Chandra, we have a significant number of leaks in the school building, most noticeably in the Stepping Stones Hall. We are currently awaiting a visit from a building contractor to assess the issue causing the leak and hopefully will be successful in receiving funding for the works through the Emergency Works Grant.

On a more brighter note, we have ordered additional equipment for our Stepping Stones yard and sensory room, which we know the children will absolutely love. This equipment can be used by all students in the school, but will be placed in the Stepping Stones yard. Soon we will have a Jungle Jim, with slide and swings, climbing dome, more spinning fish, additional bean bag seating and we are hoping to add another sensory wall to the school building before the end of the school year. Thank you to Linda for researching and ordering this wonderful equipment. We can't wait to see the children enjoy these items, especially as the weather improves.



Stepping Stones Senior

KATE'S CLASS



Third Class C

SARAH'S CLASS

Third Class C have had a very busy month. They were shortlisted for the Picker Pals art competition from more than 100 schools across Ireland and the UK. Check out the shortlisted entries below. Also included are some pics of their Zoom call with Gary from Picker Pals, where he gave each child a shout out and complemented their piece :)



Winning entries!





More incredible artwork!

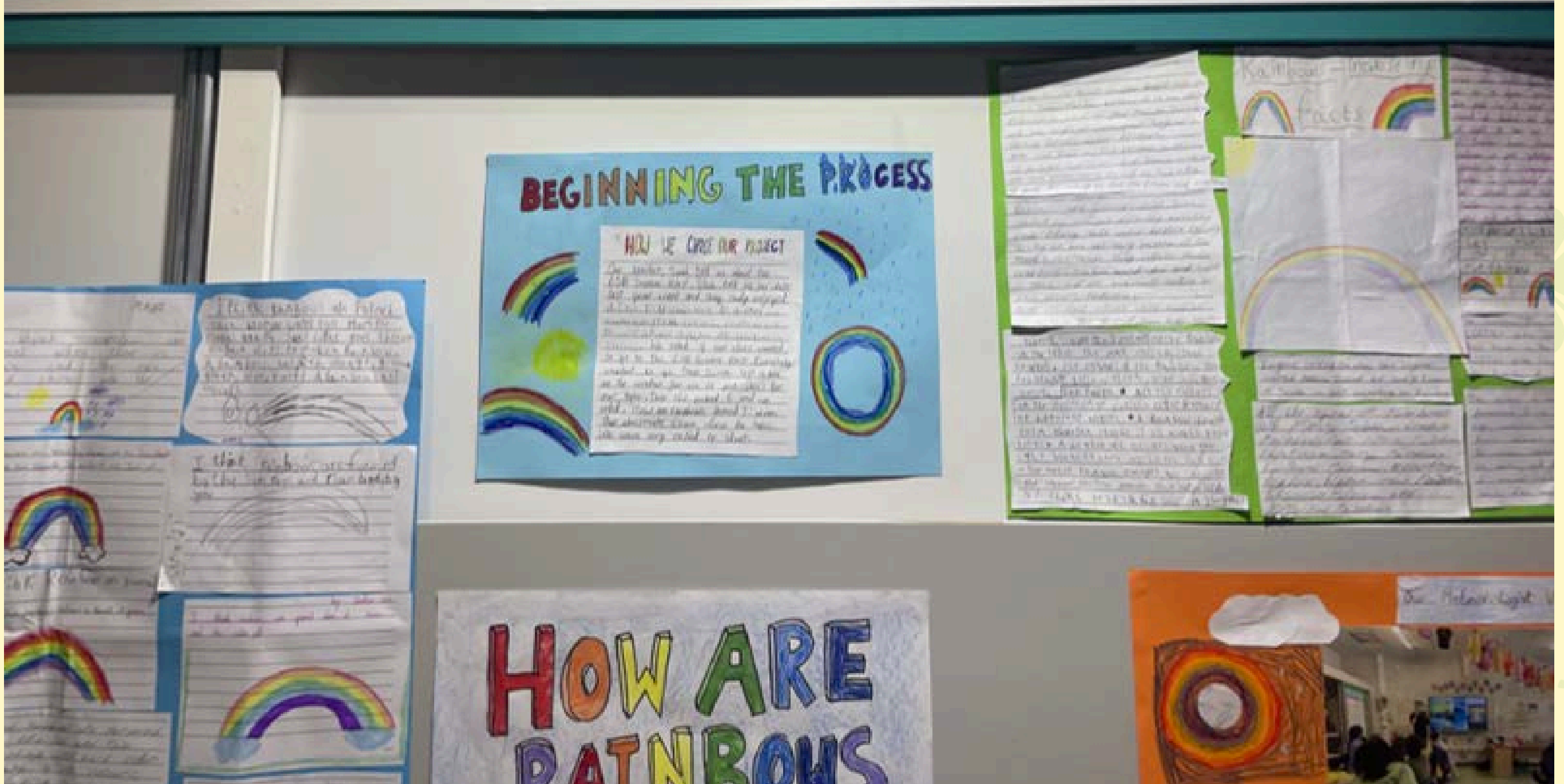


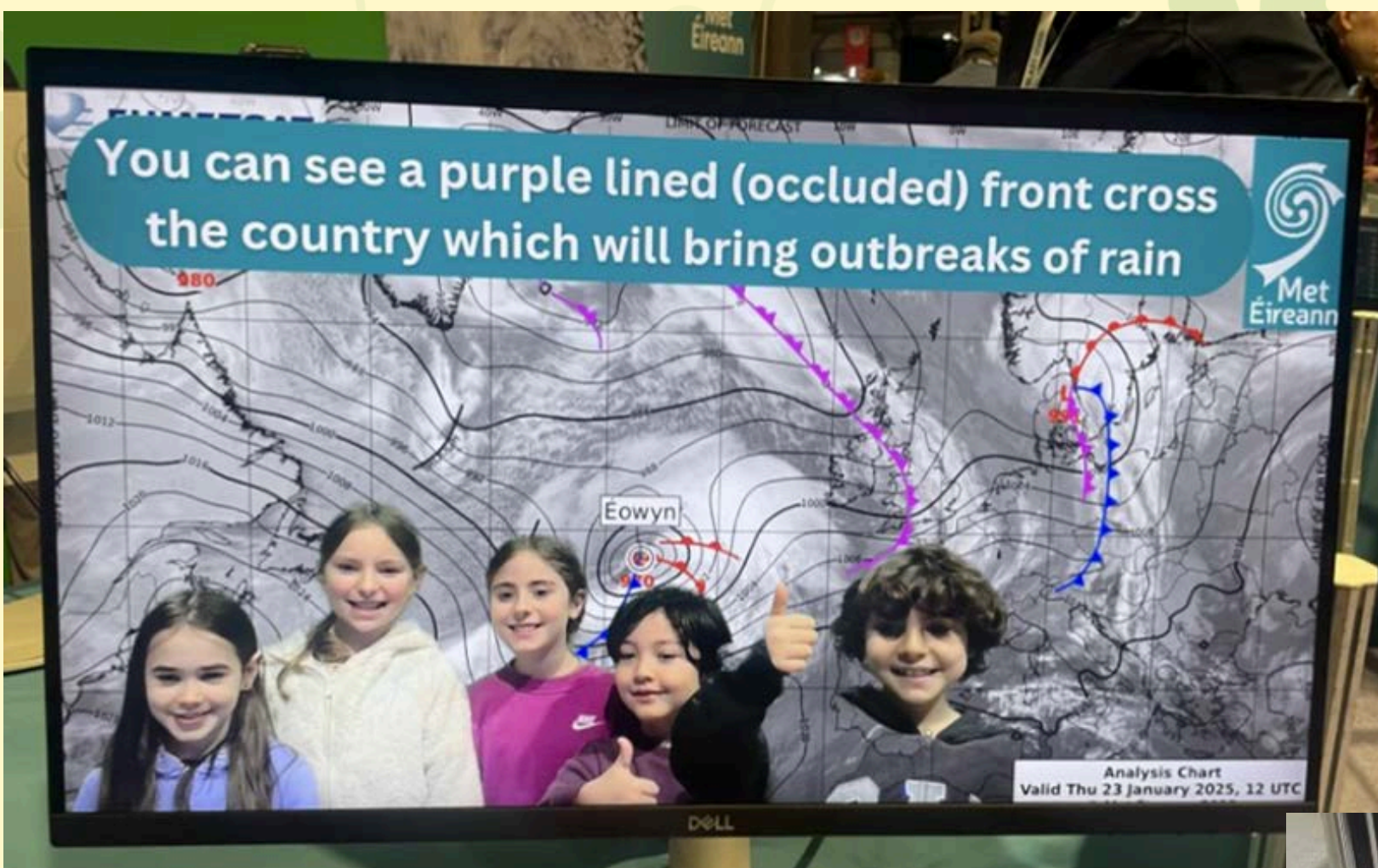
ESB SCIENCE BLAST!

3C continued their very busy month by also taking part in the ESB Science Blast in the RDS.



How are rainbows formed? Stepaside ETNS - Stepaside, Dublin 18





WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

We had a fantastic week celebrating the joy of reading across the school. A huge thank you to everyone who made it special:

Guest Readers: Thank you to the parents and guardians of Junior Infants through 2nd Class who volunteered their time to share stories with our students.

Gallery of Readers: Our "Caught Reading" photo display in the hall was a hit, showcasing our students' creativity and love for books in all sorts of cozy and silly spots.

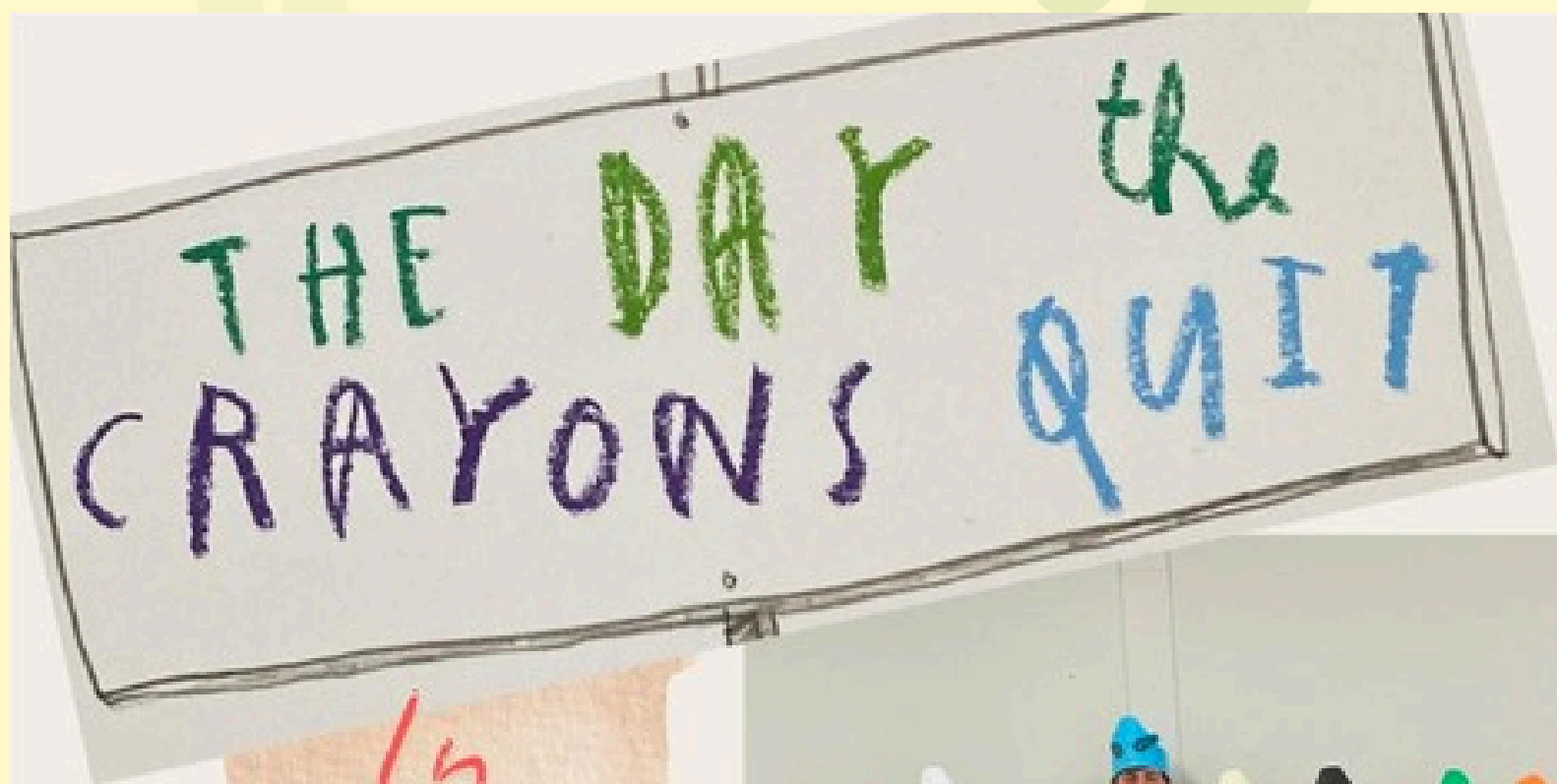
Character Parade: The school was buzzing with excitement as students brought their favorite characters to life through costumes, props, and artwork.

Community Spirit: We finished the week with a wonderful Book Swap & Coffee Morning on March 6th. It was great to see so many parents sharing recommendations and finding new treasures to take home.

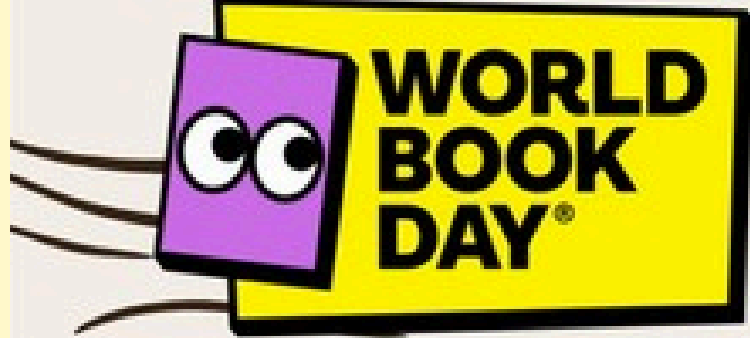


WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



In SETNS



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

KINDNESS TREE CHALLENGE

As outlined in our last newsletter, we have been working towards filling up our Kindness Trees since February Mid Term. All classes are working on improving their behaviour on yard, with three main points to focus on:

Gentle Play
Kind Words
Including Everyone

There has been a marked improvement on the yards which has been so lovely to see. This is a collective effort from all students in each year group to make their whole yard a more gentle, welcoming and inclusive space where everyone feels safe and happy.

A huge 'Well Done' to all our classes who have kicked off their leaf gathering this last fortnight. Classes will be brainstorming with their teachers to come up with whole class rewards for reaching 10 leaves. Keep it up everyone!



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2026

We had a wonderful celebration of Irish language and culture in our school during Seachtain na Gaeilge this year. A huge thank you to Ciara Mooney, Third Class teacher, who organised a fantastic programme of events for the week.

Pupils across the school enjoyed a wide range of activities including a lively Seisiún Ceoil, creative litríocht writing, paired Irish language activities between classes, beautiful artwork, buddy reading events, and a fun and challenging Tráth na gCeist.

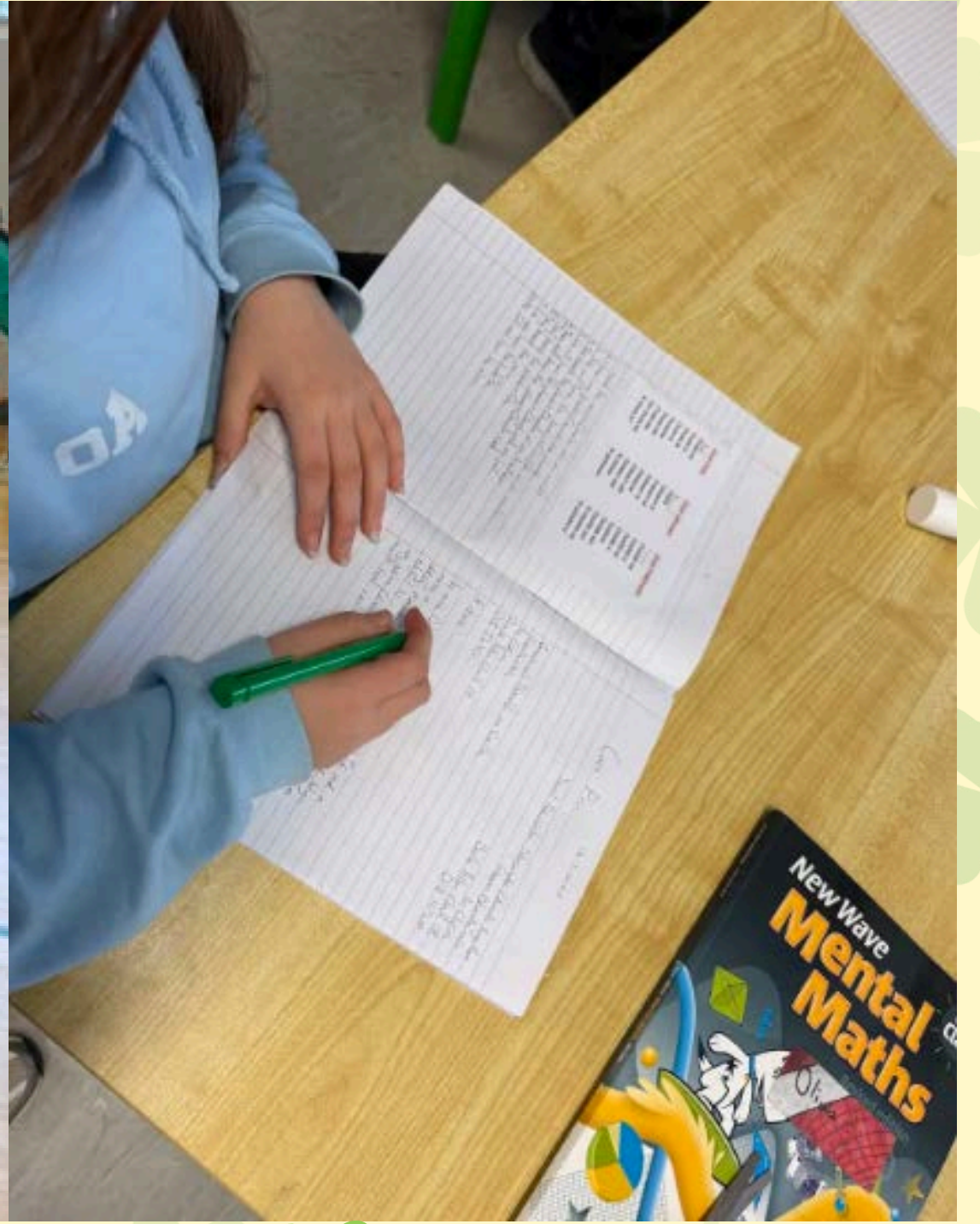
It was wonderful to see so many pupils and staff embracing the Irish language throughout the week. We would like to thank all of the teachers and SNAs who got involved and supported the activities.

We were also delighted to celebrate with our neighbours Taobh na Coille, who kindly invited us to visit and then returned the visit to our school. It was a lovely opportunity to share our culture, our language, and our music together, and it was the perfect way to kick off the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh to everyone who helped make the week such a success!



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2026



Scóil Náisiúnta Stepanide Educate Together, Gleann Bheallairmín, An Chéim, Baile Átha Cliath 18 D18 H7W6.

Gaelscoil Thocht na Coille, Beallairmín, an Chéim, Baile Átha Cliath 18 D18 TK40

A chara

Dia duit! Conas atá tú? Is mise Sharleen. Tá mé dha bhliain deag d'aois. Tá mé i Rang a Sé i Stepanide E.T.M.S. Is scoil mhéascatha í agus ní chaitheam éide scoile. Tá mé i mo chéim an Chéim. Tá cáigeas i mo theaghlach. Tá beirt deartháiríochas agam. An bhfuil deartháiríochas nó deirfiúracha agat?

Is breá liom peil agus ag spórt. Is aithníonn liom ag coradh agus ag seirbhíochas clárúcháir.

Ar scoil is maith liom corpóideachas agus mata. Is fear liom tionscail. Cén t-abair is fearr leat?

Scríobh chugam go luath!

Is mise le meas, Sharleen.



PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY!



Hello everyone! My name is Ethan, and today on March 13th I got to be the principal for the day!

Let me tell you all about the day that I had and some of the jobs I managed to tick off my to do list in one day!



First, I got to make a morning announcement to welcome everyone to the day. Then I visited some classrooms, they all did such amazing work! I got to do a yard inspection and from what I saw, everyone was including everybody and being kind. Then I hosted a student council meeting about some prizes for the kindness trees and did a riddle for the day (what has a face but cant smile?) can you get it? one of my favourite parts of being the principal for the day was getting to see everything a principal has to do, and also the intercom. lastly the winner of the kindness leaf was 4th class! so that was my day as a principal.

PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY!

