

# St. Mary's Newsletter

October 2024

## Junior Infants

We are having lots of fun settling into junior infants. We went on an autumn nature walk recently looking for signs of autumn around us. We have a campsite in our rooms for play time. In Irish, we have been learning about Bia and Oíche Shamhna. We started working on our pencil grip with tracing activities. In art, Room 16 made caterpillars and Room 17 made bear cubs.

Hello  
Autumn!

## Senior Infants

Senior Infants in Room 14 and 15 have had a wonderful start to the school year. We have been learning all about the seasonal changes in autumn and the animals that are going into hibernation. In literacy, we are enjoying our free-writing and our reading in small groups. We explored Data in maths and found out the most popular ice-cream flavour in our class! We have also been doing lots of counting practice, counting backwards and forwards. Gary, from Music Generation, has brought lots of fun to Senior Infants with maracas and castanets, which we loved playing with. In Art, we loved using paint to print some Halloween-themed pictures. This week, we were very excited to start Dance with Sarah from the Art Centre - ask us to show you some of our moves!

## 1st Class

Dance in Arts Centre 6 weeks  
Music Generation has started with Gary. Autumn Art, portraits, spooky skeletons.  
Maths- number fun for maths week.  
We are working very hard on our handwriting in Room 8 & and aiming for our pencil licenses.  
SESE - History of halloween, halloween around the world looking at different places on the map of the world and how other countries celebrate it, pumpkin explosion in Science using vinegar and baking powder. Also learning about autumn and how the seasons change.  
Music - Gary is back with us every Wednesday and we are enjoying music and getting used to the beat using shakers.  
Maths - we recently completed our halloween maths assessment and we have been busy learning to skip count in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's.  
English - focusing on the topic of recount writing and last week and this week the children were talking about '10 things found in their wizards pocket' and exploring this was silly and fun!  
PE - we finished up with dance 2 weeks ago, the children are enjoying the athletics strand as they are practising 'planting' and 'throwing' a beanbag.

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## 2nd Class A

We have been very busy in 2nd class A this term. We have been working very hard at our cursive writing and learning about the writing genre of reports. We went on an Autumn nature walk and wrote a report all about what we saw and the signs of Autumn around the town.

We were very lucky to have Sarah teaching us dance in the Arts Centre this term also.

She taught us some different dance positions and even a spooky monster Halloween dance. In Geography we have been learning about the different stages of the water cycle and we learned how to read and create our own floor plans. In History we explored some Irish Myths and Legends and also learnt a lot about what life was like in the past for our grandparents and what school was like for them. In Science we looked at how animals change and adapt to the seasons and about the different parts and functions of plants. The children loved learning about the different types of trees in the area and creating some beautiful Autumnal art using the leaves they collected.

It has been a fantastic term in Second class and we have been working very hard at earning surprise points and reading our class novel 'Fantastic Mr Fox'

## 2nd Class- Room 11.

This term we have been learning about recounts, we have been using time adverbials to show the reader the order in which events took place. We have been learning about Rosa Parks who was a very brave and influential lady who stood up for what is right and changed the lives of so many people around the world.

## 2nd Class B

2nd Class in room 13b have been very busy since starting back in school this academic year. We have already completed a full term of Dance lessons in the Arts Centre which the children really enjoyed and ended with some spooky Halloween-themed dance routines! We participated in our first Assembly of the year and a few of the children were awarded their Pencil License for excellent handwriting. The children have begun to learn cursive or joined writing in class which is a huge milestone for them. As Autumn crept in, we have been learning lots about this season from farmer's harvesting to leaves falling and much in between. The children all went on a lovely autumnal Nature Walk to explore the local area and collected a great selection of leaves and fruits for our class nature table.

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**Sunflower Rooms** This month in our sunflower rooms we looked at our Autumn leaves on our daily walks, collecting some along the way to use for our artwork in class. We went on our adventures to the playground also where we had lots of fun. In class, we did some artwork as we moved towards Halloween and began to sing our Halloween songs. We looked at our numbers also and played with our tuff tray where we made some big sandcastles. We have had a great month in school!

## 4th Class A

Ms. Nic Ruairi's 4th Class have had a wonderful time settling back into school. They have learned about the wonderful artwork of the famous Dutch artist, Vincent Van Gogh. They also explored his country 'The Netherlands' and became familiar with some of the landmarks, customs and traditions there. The children created their very own 'Sunflowers'. The children have been learning about the writing genre of 'Recount Writing' and Ms. Nic Ruairi has been extremely impressed with their final drafts entitled 'The Best Holiday Ever'. Well done to all the children in 4th Class A!

## Our School Website

Don't forget to visit our school website to keep up-to-date with all the activities and events in St. Mary's Primary School and to see photos and examples of the pupils' work!

Visit us at

[www.stmarysmullingar.ie](http://www.stmarysmullingar.ie)

## 5th Class

In Mr Campbell's 5th Class, preparations are in full flow for our Jungle Book play in January. Everyone is excited to get up on stage and show off our dancing and acting skills. Also, we've been learning to play chess, a bit more practice and we'll have a few grand masters on our hands. Everyone here has had an eventful first term, roll on term 2!!

## 3rd Class

3rd class have had a fantastic first term. We have been working really hard on our handwriting and are very excited to have begun multiplying. Every Wednesday we have been developing our musical ear in our Ukulele lessons with Justin. Well done 3rd Class on a fantastic term!

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## 5th Class Room 12

Room 12 have been very busy getting ready to audition and rehearsing for the show The Jungle story.

We have been learning all about Mullingar in the past and other topics in history like the Aztecs. The children are currently doing research for a project that they will be presenting to the class on the Aztecs.

The class learned all about bridges and their construction amongst many other things. The children designed and constructed their own bridges and did a wonderful job. We had a visit to LIDI farm where we learned all about growing of fruit and Veg and got to see the greenhouses and gardens . We saw a big garden full of pumpkins and we also got to take a pumpkin back to class.

The boys have started football training and are enjoying that.

We have set up a wonderful library area in our classroom and everyday a group gets to sit and read in it. We have been lucky enough to receive a wonderful selection of books to choose from, of every genre.

We are getting ready for Halloween in R12 and have started to decorate the classroom. The children are looking forward to making some of their own decorations. We are also entering a National Halloween Art Competition where the lucky winners will win a 50 euro Voucher for Smyths toy store and a set of Halloween annuals for their class if lucky!!

Wish us luck.

## 4th Class B

4th Class in room 10, settled back into school with ease. They gave their new teacher, Ms McManus, the warmest of welcomes and made her feel right at home! They have been very busy in all subjects and showing their skills and talents along the way. They studied the Netherlands in Geography and found out about some famous Dutch people, including the artist, Vincent Van Gogh. They recreated some of his famous works. Most recently, they have been exploring "the Happy Art Movement", and were inspired to create some neo-pop art pumpkins! Tim Burton was a big feature this week, with lots of Burton inspired portraits being done. Science brought them into the world of the respiratory system and they created their own using straws and balloons! Maths Week was a very busy one – and the children took part in many games, activities and real-life challenges! Our trips to the library have been so exciting and the children have enjoyed spending time in their reading corner with SpongeBob, Patrick and Mickey Mouse! It's been a busy term but they have had lots of fun along the way! Well done to all the children in 4th Class B!

Hello  
Autumn

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## 6th Class A

The children from 6th Class A were delighted to receive their hoodies within the first week of school.

Soon after we visited the Lidl 'Farm to Fork' where we identified certain fruit and veg and got to take home some potatoes and tomatoes.

I nGaeilge bhí muid ag foghlaim faoi 'Mé Féin' agus 'Sa bhaile' agus staidéir focail ag baint le Samhain agus Oíche Shamhna.

We have been busy working on the 'Recount' genre of writing and our stories to do with a 'Robbery in Mullingar', thankfully all of the teachers involved in these stories are innocent bystanders and not thieves!!

We also enjoyed a few trips to Mullingar Library where most children now have their own library card. We very much enjoyed an 'Author Event' by Nicola Pierce who told us all about her book 'The Spirit of the Titanic' and the research that went into it. We have been hard at work in Maths where so far we have studied Place Value, Lines and Angles, 2-D Shapes, Addition and Subtraction and Time. We found the International Time Zones fascinating and remembered all of our family and friends around the world.

We have been busily preparing our projects on 'The History of the GAA and Bloody Sunday', learning off the rivers, mountains and lakes in Ireland and Europe.

The children had great fun working on their 'marble run' STEM project. We also had our first Preparation Mass for Confirmation and Enrolment Ceremony and the children are busy picking a Confirmation Name and Sponsors for the big day.

In Modern Foreign Languages the children have also dabbled in a little Spanish with Ms Lina. Ms Lina was very busy teaching words to do with Greetings such as Hola, como estas?, chao, adiós and muy bien.

We have also started off our Weaving Wellbeing programme for 6th Class 'Empowering Beliefs' where we explore and examine the factors and levels of thought that influence decisions and choices.

Finally, Garda Donellan visited the school to discuss the safety of the children during Halloween and possible dangers that they can avoid.

6th Class A wish all of you a Happy & Safe Oíche Shamhna.

## 6th Class B

6B have had a great start to the new school year (and their final one in primary school!). We have already been on a tour to Lidl Farm where we learnt so much about how plants grow and where our food comes from. We have also done some fun science experiments such as growing cress seeds and turning flowers different colours. The children in 6B are very artistic and have created some wonderful pieces of art. We are looking forward to what the rest of the year brings.

**HSCL.** Parents have been very active taking part in our walking group every Friday morning. We meet at 9:15am at the school gates for any parent who would like some fresh air and a chat!!

If you need to contact HSCL, ring Seánie at (087) 6380897 during school hours.