



St. Mary's Newsletter

December 2024

Sunflower Classes

The boys and girls in our Sunflower classes have been learning about the theme of winter and the different types of animals and clothes that are commonly seen during this time of the year, while also playing with 'snow' during our Tuff Tray time. The corridor outside the Sunflower classes is full of beautiful art with polar bears, icicles and colorful Christmas lights all on display. We also went on our community walks through the town and along the canal looking at the lovely Christmas lights, while we sang our Christmas songs in the classroom also.

Ms O'Grady's 1st Class

In 1st class we have been learning about what animals do in winter time. We also learned about Christmas traditions around the world. We have started procedural writing and learned how to make hot chocolate!
We have learned all about the earth and it's different layers. We had great fun studying brave explorers.

Junior Infants

Junior Infants have had a very busy term. We began learning our sounds, we have learned 10 so far!! We have also learned all about numbers 1-4. We had lots of fun identifying them in the environment.
We have created beautiful winter wooly hats in art and of course our festive Santa masks were greatly enjoyed.
Everyone is bringing home a clay Christmas decoration for their tree. We wrote a kind wish letter to Santa, and we went on a journey to the post office to send them to the North Pole. We had six weeks of dance lessons and have now started our new topic of athletics.
Mr Snuggles and Benny have been enjoying themselves in various peoples homes and we have loved reading about their adventures when they return.





3rd Class SSC

We have been very busy in 3rd class. We have been learning all about Spain and enjoying learning Christmas tunes on the ukulele.

We said goodbye to a teacher who has been teaching in our school for 32 years, we sang her a lovely song and said a poem to say goodbye to her. She loved it.

We also had a visit to the school from the chip van and the food was delicious.

We are focusing hard on our attendance in school especially for the Month of December. We all made posters for our Drive for 5-attendance initiative competition and we patiently await the results.

Mr. Campbell is teaching us how to play chess and we are enjoying this very much. It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the SSC, The Christmas tree is up and secret Santa is organised. Every day some lucky children get to pick a prize from the Advent Calendar.

We got to go to the Arts Centre to see a Christmas story during the week and we loved it.

At the moment we are researching all about the sun using the schools devices. We have learned a lot of interesting facts. Did you know that the sun is 150 million kilometres from earth!!!

Happy Christmas from 3rd class SSC

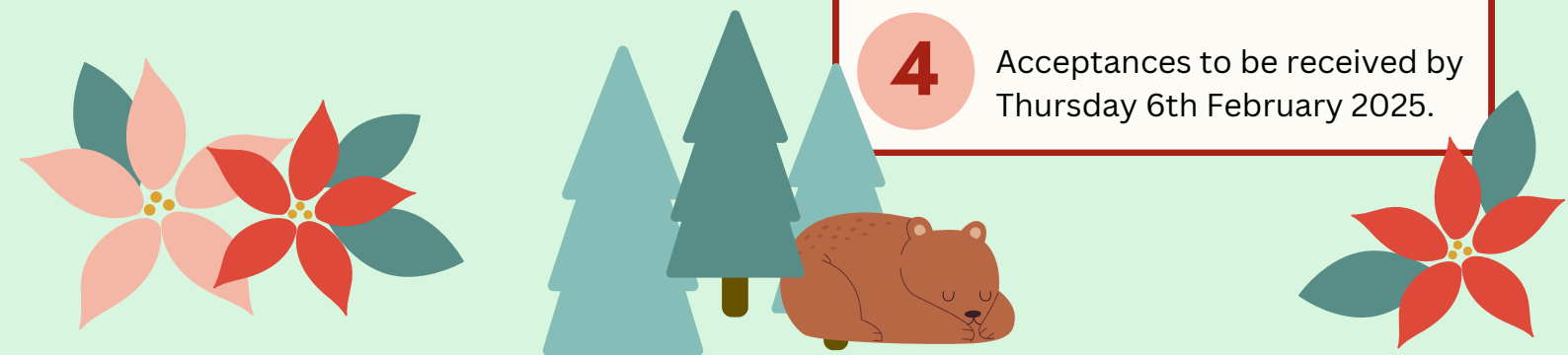


Website

Our website now offers you the option to translate it's content into your language of choice. Click on the globe icon at the top of the page and select your language.

www.stmarysmullingar.ie

Enrolment Dates

- 1** Enrolment Open January 6th - January 24th 2025.
 - 2** Application forms to be returned by January 24th at 2:30pm
 - 3** Offer posted Thursday January 30th 2025,
 - 4** Acceptances to be received by Thursday 6th February 2025.
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2nd Class Room 11

Room 11 has been super busy. We have been learning about procedural writing and we have written instructions and we have made sandwiches in our class, which were yummy.

In addition to this, we have been learning about climate change and how we can make changes to help our planet. We learned that small changes can make a big difference.

We have been getting into the festive spirit and we have been learning about advent and how people from around the world prepare for Christmas. We learned that the advent wreath represents God's love for us.



6th Class

6th Class have had a very busy first term! We have got all our secondary school places sorted out and chosen our Confirmation names.

We have enjoyed learning about World War 1 and 2, all about the country of Italy and Spanish language classes.

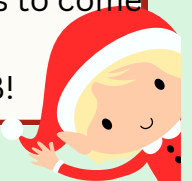
Sixth class have created many wonderful art pieces and conducted a range of experiments during science week.

The fortnightly trips to the library have also proven very popular and educational. All in all, it's been a great start and we are looking forward to what 2025 holds.

Ms McManus 4th Class

4th Class in Room 10, have had a great term! They have been very busy since Halloween! They have been enjoying their ukulele and Spanish classes – thanks Justin and Lina! Scandinavia and the Vikings have been a big part of this term, and the children did some phenomenal work on their projects. In PE, they have danced, played, and even did some gymnastics! The Student Council elections were a big part of November, and all the children who stood for election need to be commended for doing such a brilliant job. It was a very tight result! Congratulations to Max and Bella who are our new Student Council reps! There was no shortage of talent on display over the past few weeks, as the children showcased their talents in our Talent Shows. It has been so great to see some of what the are children interested in and are capable of! The school's Drive for 5, began with a poster competition and they continue to strive for great attendance. Well done to Niya, who won a prize for the best poster! The class celebrated their Surprise Points achievement with a PJ/Movie Day. It was a wonderful day, and the children deserved their treat! Room 10 continues their Christmas/Winter preparations and we have some lovely treats to come before the holidays!

Happy Christmas and happy holidays to you all, from the children in 4th Class B!





Ms. Nic Ruairi's 4th Class

Ms. Nic Ruairi's 4th Class have had a busy few weeks. We have been learning about the Vikings and their native homeland countries of Scandinavia. We are currently finishing up some project based work on this topic. We have been getting to grips with Decimals in maths. We have been getting into the Christmas Spirit with some winter themed art and Christmas songs during Ukelele class. We are really looking forward to exchanging our Secret Santa gifts next week. Merry Christmas from all in Ms. Nic Ruairi's 4th Class!!

2nd Class Room 2

Second class Room 2 have been trying their very best to come into school each day in December and have gotten some special rewards to celebrate their great attendance. We have been busy learning about how different Christmas traditions have come about in History and about the Diwali the festival of light. The children used clay to make their very own Diva lights which will be a lovely decoration for their houses at Christmas.

The children really enjoyed going to the Arts Centre to see 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens last week and are working very hard at their procedural writing genre this term. We have been ordering instructions and learning how to use Imperative verbs this week before starting to write our very own procedural pieces next week. The children in Room 2 are also really looking forward to having their surprise point party next week which has been well earned.

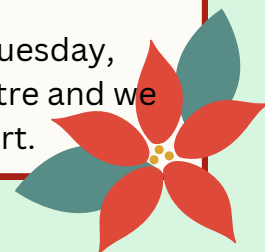
Mr McGuinness 3rd Class

This term third class were hard at work completing bar charts on all of our favourite things. We were very careful to be as accurate as possible with our rulers!. Third class were also very busy learning about the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso and creating our own cubist art.

5th Class

Fifth Classes are enjoying preparing for their performance of 'Braveheart of the Wild', a musical loosely based on The Jungle Book. They attend the Arts Centre every Wednesday for rehearsals, learn their lines at home and practise at school also.

The performance will be on Tuesday, January 14th at The Arts Centre and we would appreciate your support.





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Senior Infants

Senior Infants were very excited to begin bringing home our classroom teddy. Teddy has had lots of great adventures and they still have lots of homes to visit!

In Maths, we have been learning about patterns and 3D Shapes. We were able to spot 3D shapes in our classroom and around the school. We are making wonderful progress with our reading and writing too. In our Welcome to Wellbeing programme, we were naming and taming our feelings and learning that all feelings are OK. We learned all about Slide Breathing, or taking slow, long breaths in and out to help us feel calm. We have been exploring Antarctica and learning about the animals that lived there. We also learned about Tom Crean's adventure to Antarctica long ago. As a treat for all of our hard work this term, the two Senior Infants classes came together to watch The Grinch, it was great fun!

Drive For Five

We have received a great response to our attendance drive in December. All our classes have earned mini treats this month including pyjama day, homework passes, movie afternoons and extra yard time!

It was brilliant to see all the different activities happening because of our good attendance this month.

We also ran a very successful poster competition for our attendance drive. You can view the successful entries on our website!

www.stmarysmullingar.ie

HSCL

The parents walking group was very successful during term one. It has been put on hold during the cold winter weather and will be returning in the new year. Keep an eye on your emails as a few new exciting events are also planned.

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





Ms. O'Reilly's 1st Class

In 1st class room 6 we have been learning about:

Capacity in maths (the children brought in some bottles of different capacities for us all to look at) as well as place value - tens and units. We also brushed off the topics of time and money.

We have been learning about Christmas around the world and listening to other children in the class who celebrate Christmas with different foods.

We studied animals that hibernate during the winter and birds that migrate to warmer countries.

The children enjoyed the 'Christmas Carol' play in the Arts centre on December 4th. We started procedural writing after Halloween. The children have been learning how to write in a procedure form using steps. We have done procedures based on 'How to wash a woolly mammoth' and 'How to make a hot chocolate'.

The children have also been learning about the season of Advent and its importance. We have lit the candle of hope and peace over the past 2 weeks, and next week we will be lighting the third candle on our wreath which will be the pink candle representing 'joy'.

We researched famous explorers such as Neil Armstrong. Learning about the parts of the earth and the children are aware now that we live on the 'crust'. We completed some spaceships and planets as suncatchers for art.

The children are learning a new song with Gary from music generation using their own lyrics! We decorated Christmas trees using green crepe paper and used ear buds with white paint for the snow.

Our 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

2nd Class Room 13b

Room 13b had great fun investigating friction by making ramps for cars. We have also carried out experiments to explore magnets and thermometers. We have been working hard to earn dojo points for our Hot Chocolate Challenge at the end of the month.

