

# ST. MARY'S NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2025

## Pre School Classroom

The children in the Sunflower rooms have been very busy learning all about winter. We looked at pictures, sang songs, played with arctic animals, ice and water in the tuff tray. We have been very busy the last two weeks getting ready for Christmas. We have made some amazing art work which is displayed in the hallways. We have had some messy fun in the tuff tray making it snow with oats and playing with Christmas decorations in shaving foam. We looked at Christmas pictures and played instruments while singing along to Christmas songs.

## 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 of examples of pupils' work!

Visit us at  
[www.stmarysmullingar.ie](http://www.stmarysmullingar.ie)

## Junior Infants

We have settled well into Junior Infants and really enjoying all the new and fun things we are learning.

We have been busy learning the letters of the alphabet and lots of new sounds. We have started to blend our sounds together to form words. We are having fun counting and learning to form numbers 1 - 5.

We learned all about Winter this month. In Irish, we have been learning about Daidí na Nollag. We have been singing some Christmas songs and everyone is excited for our holidays.

## School Age Classroom

We have enjoyed learning about Winter and Christmas this term. We created lovely art pieces that we are proud of. We also learned some Christmas songs that we performed for our parents. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas.





# Merry Christmas



## First Class

1st Class have been busy little elves this half term. We used our engineering brains and constructed fabulous houses. We also made fabulous bird feeders. We saw multiple pictures of birds feeding from the feeders in people's back gardens, which was super exciting!

Both classes focused on the inventors, Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison and marvelled at their inventions. We also spoke about what we ourselves would like to invent and we drew our plans. These were presented to the class!

It has been wonderful to learn all about Planet Earth in Space. We learned just how hot the inner core of earth actually is!

The children have been very busy preparing for Christmas making lots of lovely decorations. We also learned a lot about the traditions for Christmas in other countries. We have a wealth of different nationalities in our classes. We counted up to twenty different countries! Everyone shared a bit about their own country's tradition which was so special.

## Senior Infants

What a wonderfully busy and exciting term we've had in Senior Infants!

We have been working very hard preparing for our Christmas play, Ralph the Reindeer. The boys and girls have put great effort into learning their lines, songs, and actions, and we are so excited to welcome all our parents into the school hall to watch our performance. It's shaping up to be a fantastic show! In the classroom, we have been making great progress with our phonics, especially blending sounds to make words. The children's confidence and skills are really growing, and it's lovely to see them using their new reading abilities every day.

In maths, we explored 2D and 3D shapes, learning how to transform, rotate, and identify them in the world around us. We also learned all about data—collecting information, creating graphs, and interpreting what those graphs tell us. We enjoyed lively dance sessions with Niamh from the Arts Centre and had great fun during our special hot chocolate party. We've also loved our weekly music lessons with Gary, which always brighten our Wednesdays. It's been a fantastic term full of learning and excitement. Well done, Senior Infants!



## Second Class

2nd Class Room 2 and 11 have been learning about procedural writing in English. The children enjoyed following instructions and making things in their class.

In science, the children learned about magnetism. The children did an investigation to find items that were magnetic.

In art, the children used chalk to create a winter background and drew polar bears to create art. They also used clay to make divas.

In Maths, the children have been learning how to skip count in 2's, 5's, 10, and 100's. They have been learning how to add and subtract using lots of different strategies.

In music, the children have been learning how to sequence the steps for a dance routine and in music, the children have been learning how to compose music and use different instruments with rhythm.

In religion, the children have been learning about Advent. They have been listening to stories from the Bible and learning about how to show kindness during the period of Advent.

## Third Class

What a very busy and exciting term it has been for Third Class R1 and R3! The children have worked incredibly hard across all subjects and we are so proud of their efforts and achievements this semester.

In PE, the children took part in swimming lessons and made fantastic progress in the pool. They have also been developing their skills in handball and have really enjoyed getting the opportunity to play and practise outside.

In Music, Third Class have been doing exceptionally well learning the ukulele. They have worked hard to learn new chords and have been especially enjoying practising their Christmas songs, which sound wonderful.

In Maths, we have been learning how to tell the time, both on analogue and digital clocks.

In Gaelge, the children learned all about ionad siopadóireacht and took part in role play activities during Drama to help reinforce their learning. These activities were lots of fun and really helped build confidence in Gaelge.

In English, the children have been learning about procedural writing. As part of this, they wrote and followed procedures for making rice crispy buns which was a very enjoyable and tasty activity for everyone.

In Art, we explored the work of Pablo Picasso. The children created their own self-portraits inspired by his style, and the results were truly amazing.

In Science, we learned all about sound and carried out the "dancing rice" experiment, which the children loved. We also discovered many interesting facts about the sun and how it affects our world.

We are extremely proud of Third Class R1 and R3 for all their hard work, enthusiasm and progress this term. Well done to everyone!

We would like to wish all our pupils and families a very happy and restful holiday season. Happy Holidays from Third Class R1 & R3!



We  
wish  
you  
a  
Merry  
Christmas

### Fourth Class

Fourth Class has been very busy since Halloween. We have taken part in many exciting activities, including creating Viking boats and beautiful origami art pieces. We also began reading our class novel, Matilda by Roald Dahl, which we are thoroughly enjoying.

In Mathematics, we have been learning about 2D shapes, lines and angles, and fractions. We also attended swimming lessons, which everyone found both fun and enjoyable.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Fourth Class for winning the school attendance award! Well done to all the students for their excellent commitment to school!

### Sixth Class

Sixth Class are developing their skills in creating effective presentations through SESE. They explored the topic of Italy and produced Google Slides presentations, which they confidently presented to their classmates. In Science, pupils are learning about the human body, with a particular focus on the heart and lungs.

They designed, conducted, and presented a range of experiments to the class, including investigations on volcanoes, non-Newtonian fluids, rain, lava lamps, vinegar and egg whites, and the concepts of day and night.

In History, the class studied influential human rights activists such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., and are currently learning about World War One. As part of STEM activities, pupils designed and built free-standing Christmas trees, while some children are also developing their knitting skills by creating teddy bears. To celebrate the festive season, Sixth Class painted doors and windows around the school and created their own decorations to brighten the classroom and hallways.



## Fifth Class

Our 5th classes have been very busy this term. We had a great time celebrating Science Week and we were delighted to get to the Arts Centre on the 12th of November to learn about the Solar System. It was very educational and also a lot of fun! We took part in some activities to mark Anti-Bullying Week. Well done to all the children who took part in the Anti-Bullying Week Art Competition, and well done to our winners!

Our Aladdin rehearsals are in full swing now and we are working hard on scripts, lyrics, choreography and staging. There is so much to do, but we are making great progress and are really looking forward to the 29th of January 2026!

We finished our Weaving Well-being programme in SPHE and have begun looking at Walk Tall, where we are learning all about Taking Care of Our Bodies. This includes looking at Food and nutrition and the importance of eating well and moving well. We took some time this term to look back over our Classroom Rules and the School's Code of Behaviour. Next term we will be looking at the Stay Safe programme.

In Geography we learned about the EU, and looking at some of the countries in the EU. This month we are looking at the way people celebrate Christmas and winter around the world. It is amazing to hear about the traditions in other countries, and we have been looking at how these traditions compare and contrast with traditions in Ireland. In Irish we are learning about An Nollaig (Christmas).

History last month brought us on a whistle-stop tour of farming in Ireland through the ages, from the very first farmers thousands of years ago up to modern times. We are looking at the history of Florence Nightingale and her legacy in the world of nursing.

We continue to read as often as we can, listening to our class novel, reading for enjoyment and pleasure and taking our monthly trips to the library. We're trying to extend how long we read each day.

Well done to the children who took part in a Christmas STEAM activity. They had to make a Christmas tree that was at least 30cm tall; was free-standing; had at least one recycled/reusable part; and it could not have any new items bought for it. We were absolutely thrilled and blown away with the standard of trees that came in. The children were more than up to the task and used their science, engineering, maths and art skills to make some of the best trees we've ever seen!

5th Class continue their Christmas/Winter preparations and we have some lovely treats to come before the holidays (including a games day this week!)

Happy Christmas and happy holidays to you and yours, from all the children in 5th Class!

## HSCL

A reminder that Seán Ó Máirtín is our Home School Community Liaison.

The number to contact Seán is 0876380897, his email is [seanomairtin@stmarysmullingar.ie](mailto:seanomairtin@stmarysmullingar.ie) and he is contactable during school hours.