



Scoil Phádraig Naofa

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all in our school community a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

This newsletter captures many of the wonderful moments the boys and girls have enjoyed in SPN this term. SPN is a busy, vibrant school - I hope you get a sense of this as you enjoy our Christmas newsletter. We are immensely proud of the school environment we cultivate here in SPN. I would like to acknowledge the kindness, dedication and expertise of all our staff here in SPN.

We all also greatly appreciate the support of our whole school community, including our Parents Association and Board of Management. Both continue to be a constant support for Scoil Phádraig Naofa, helping to ensure our school receives all that is required to help ensure a safe learning environment for all.

I would also like to commend the boys and girls of Scoil Phádraig Naofa. The pupils of our school have truly been outstanding over the course of this term. I greatly admire the enthusiasm with which they regularly represent themselves and their school at so many events. They richly deserve a well-earned rest, and all the joy that Christmas time should bring for our children.

Now is a time for family, togetherness and gratitude for all that we have. I hope this Christmas brings you all cheer and plenty of those family moments of togetherness and joy that will form life long memories for all the boys and girls of Scoil Phádraig Naofa.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Edward McCarthy

Príomhoide

Dates to remember:

Christmas Holidays at 12 Noon on Friday, 22nd December 2023.

School reopens at 8:30am on Monday January 8th 2024



Welcome to School

It was on a bright sunny morning in late August that the doors of Scoil Phádraig Naofa opened for a new school year. There was great excitement, happy greetings and chatter as children caught up with their friends and teachers. It was also a special day for all those who were joining SPN for the first time, whether in Junior Infants or in another year group. We would like to extend a warm SPN welcome to all.



Jersey day

Although the Rugby World Cup 2023, did not end as we may have hoped, the children at Scoil Phádraig Naofa participated in the excitement and build-up for each game. On Friday October 13th we wore green for ‘Jersey Day’ and to cheer on our team in Paris.

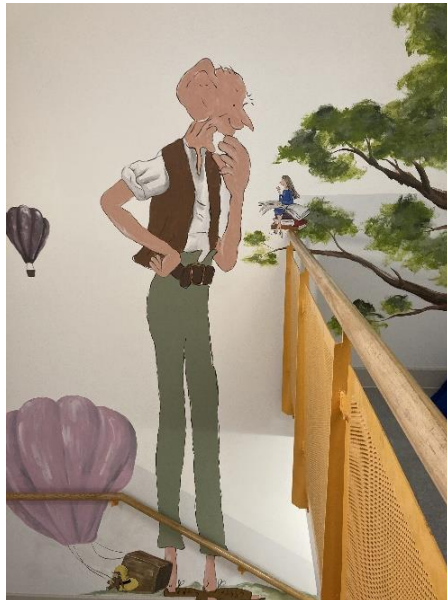
Pupils in Junior Infants took the opportunity to design their own rugby team jersey – some of which very extremely colourful and fun! We certainly have some future fashion designers within our school walls!!





Painting in school

Our SPN staff continuously look for new opportunities to encourage learning and discussion within the school. The work completed by local artist Caitlin O’Gorman, has certainly provided many a conversation in recent weeks. Our school entrance is now welcoming and friendly, whilst the Senior Infant stairway is truly magical. Caitlin’s paintings depict an array of some of SPN’s beloved book characters, including ‘The Gruffalo’, ‘Matilda’ and ‘Where’s Wally’. Once the paintings were revealed, the exclamations of “ Oh look”, “ Wow” and “ I found Wally” echoed up and down the stairway.





Welcome Club Spraoi

Club Spraoi was an additional after school provider, who joined us at Scoil Phádraig Naofa for the new school year, in August 2023. Pupils enjoy a range of activities and a snack following the end of their school day. The children can continue to participate in their after school SPN favourites e.g. Crafty Kids, as they can 'pop' in and out of the Club Spraoi classrooms which are located within our school building.



Swimming

Our SPN swimming sessions were organised a little differently this year. As a result, pupils from Second Class to Fourth Class participated in their swimming module this term. It was an early morning beginning for many pupils, as the bus attempted to collect and leave SPN promptly, so that pupils could be 'diving' into the pool for 9:30am. The teachers enjoyed observing the development of pupil confidence in the water, following instructions from the swimming instructors and the excited chatter on the bus journey.

Many thanks to all those who ensured that the children arrived promptly for the bus each Tuesday morning.



Lord Mayor visit

Lord Mayor, Cllr Kiernan McCarthy visited us in the early days of September. The Lord Mayor met with pupils and staff in the halla. We were treated to stories from Cork in years gone by and children had an opportunity to ask the Lord Mayor a range of questions. We celebrated his visit with the extremely valuable 'Homework Pass', which was all the more valuable, as we were treated to a few beautiful sunny days in September.



Karate

Barry O'Regan, Rising Sun Karate, began the new school year with the return of previous pupils and the addition of our new Junior Infants. Pupils have worked tirelessly to develop their skills and competence in many areas with dedication and focus during the term.



Senior Infants

Our pupils in Senior Infants have been very busy with a number of creative Art projects this term. The children created their very own Tiger paintings after reading the classic story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' with their teacher. They designed very detailed self- portrait drawings which they displayed with great pride.



Irish Dancing

Miah Kiely of Kiely-Walsh Academy of Irish Dance, returned to SPN this August to another busy year. All the children enjoyed their 'Irish Dancing' lesson as part of the PE Curriculum during the school day. Our after school Irish Dancing classes also returned with Miah and Marie each Tuesday afternoon.



Rang Gaeilge

With the support of SPN teachers, our children who attend Rang Gaeilge, are sure to have lots of fun. The children have great fun 'ag imirt cluichí, ag labhairt as Gaeilge, and there is great ' spraoi agus craic as Gaeilge'. It is lovely to hear the happy laughter echoing down the corridor after such a busy school day.



Sciath na Scoil Autumn 2023

A new school term saw the beginning of a new Sciath na Scoil football campaign. We had a large group of dedicated senior pupils who worked together during training after school. A strong team spirit is encouraged and fostered amongst the children.



Both the SPN Girls Football team and the SPN Boys Football team met with various schools around the county. They approached each match with determination and enthusiasm. They progressed through the Sciath na Scoil campaign, reaching the semi-finals, but unfortunately they did not qualify for the final on this occasion.



Well done to each member of the SPN Football teams and to your coaches and supporters.



Self-portraits in Junior Infants

Our new Junior Infants spend the initial weeks making new friends and studying a range of topics for example 'Myself'. The boys and girls in Junior Infants studied their reflections and facial features using small hand held mirrors. They then used this knowledge to draw their own self portraits which they enjoyed displaying in their classroom.



We have a number of 'budding' portrait artists residing in Room 3 and Room 4 this year.



Tennis

Our tennis groups have continued to enjoy and develop their tennis skills during this first school term. With the support and guidance of their tennis coaches, pupils have developed their eye / hand coordination, ball skills and fore hand this term.

There will be a number of Tennis tournaments in the coming months.



Soccer Blitz

It was on a bright November Monday morning, pupils in Fourth class opened this half term with a trip to Carrigaline for a Soccer Blitz. The children had an opportunity to meet and play against a variety of teams from Cobh and Monkstown. It was a busy and energetic first day back at school, but it was also a lot of fun.



Each Friday morning pupils from Fifth and Sixth class meet with Amy from Rowing Ireland in the halla. The children have an opportunity to work individually on the rowing machines which are positioned in the halla. There are many tired glistening faces to be seen at the end of each session.



Crafty Kids

This is perhaps one of the firm favourite after school activity at SPN. The children have an opportunity to gain experience in all areas of the Art curriculum. Children use paint, sharpies, glue, fabric to work on individual pieces of art, whilst having a chat and laugh with their peers.



Rinka

The children in Junior Infant to Second Class met with Colm each Monday morning. This energetic fitness class places a strong emphasis on non -competitive activities. The children had an opportunity to continue the development of their fine and gross motor skills.



Assembly

Our School Assembly made a welcome return at the end of September. It is an important time when the entire school comes together. We celebrate our recent achievements, birthdays and share thoughts and prayers based upon a central theme. Recently Third class students shared information about Biodiversity to celebrate Science Week 2023.



Homework Club

Our SPN teachers, provide a guiding hand and encouragement to those who attend Homework Club after school. The club is available to those from First Class, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The children have an opportunity to chat to their friends, complete their work and play some games before heading for ‘freedom’ and home at 3:10pm.

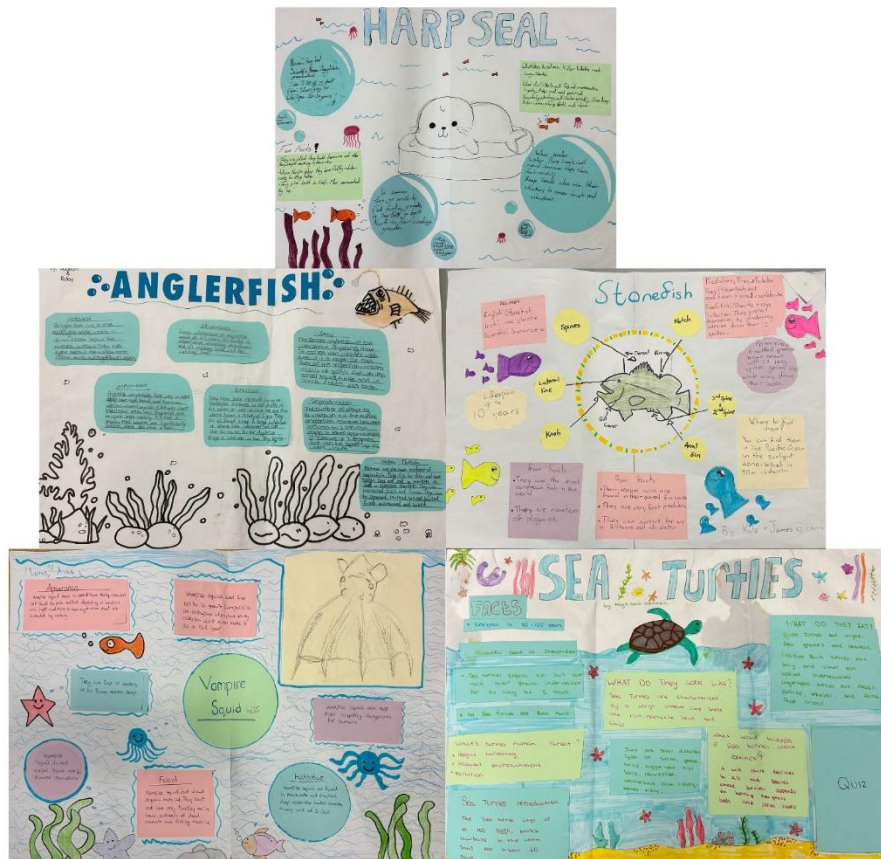


Douglas GAA

In November we were very fortunate to have a visit from the GAA Football County Championship trophy. Several members of the winning team are part of our school community.

It was reported that the final match was a rather tense affair, where Douglas GAA met their opponents Ibane Rovers. As the match progressed Douglas were winning, however Ibane Rovers came back to level the score. In the final 10mins as the ball sailed over a defender, the Douglas Goalkeeper saved the goal and kicked the ball away to win the match.

As a result SPN were treated to the beaming smiles as our Champions proudly displayed their trophy.



Lifetime Lab

Our Sixth Class pupils participated in a Marine Biology workshop with a tutor from the Life time Lab. Children had an opportunity to study Sea Life, Sea Creatures along with gathering an insight into Unusual Sea Creatures. Following the visit the children worked on group projects relating to Sea life, which also included the important aspect of working as a team and identify specific tasks and roles for each team member.



Aistear in Junior Infants

Aistear provides children with an opportunity to discover and learn through play and hands on experiences. This term, children in Junior Infants followed a number of Aistear themes e.g. The Doctor's Surgery. Our pupils constructed hospitals, they applied plasters to 'poor Teddy' and took on the role of 'doctor', 'nurse' 'receptionist' and 'patient' during role play.



Douglas GAA

Gavin joins us from Douglas GAA each Thursday morning for Gaelic Football coaching. The children come armed with gumshields and energy as Gavin 'puts them through their paces' with a variety of drills and skill development.



Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual SPN Scholastic Book Fair took place in late October just before our midterm break. There was a frisson of excitement in the air, as the children waited to visit the book fair to browse along the shelves and make their selections. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive Parents Association at SPN. Volunteers from the Parents Association worked tirelessly organising, setting up and running our fair - Thank you!

When our book fair closed for 2023, we had sold in excess of €7,500 worth of books. A sincere Thank you to all for your very generous support. We look forward to enjoying our new books in our classrooms.



Lego Club

Our Lego Club, is one of our most recent after school additions this term. Initially this is available to pupils in First and Second Class, where the children work as a creative team on specific tasks. These tasks encourage pupils to discuss, design and create a variety of themed projects e.g. modes of transport, shops/shopping centres. The buzz of activity and thoughtful discussion relating to their projects is very rewarding to see.



Baked Goods!!

Our pupils in Fourth to Sixth class, have developed some introductory skills in baking during the term. Children were introduced to basic food hygiene, organisation and weighing ingredients, and following the sequential steps of a recipe. These life skills integrate many curricular areas and provide an opportunity for discussion, fun and perhaps most importantly...yummy baking. The 'Rocky Road' was a particular favourite!!



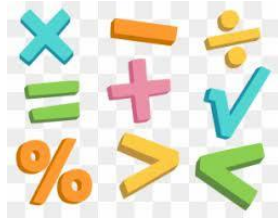
Handwriting in Junior Infants

The skill of handwriting and correct letter formation is always a milestone for new Junior Infant pupils. This year our students developed their skills using playdough, finger painting and tracing activities. This ensured that learning and skills development was fun, active and provided opportunities for a chat with our new friends.



Sustainable Uniforms

The SPN Parents Association organised another successful Uniform Exchange during the term. A large number of school uniforms and tracksuits were re-homed. This green initiative supports our schools “green” policy and it will occur on two occasions each year. Thank you to all those involved with organising he uniforms and for all those who supported our drive to be more sustainable.



Maths Week

Maths Week 2023, ran from 14th – 21st October this year. Children and staff had the opportunity to engage in a variety of additional fun Maths tasks such as a Daily Maths Puzzle which was emailed to all classes each morning along with activities such as a QR Maths Trail.

The sound of enthusiastic voices ricocheted up and down the SPN hallways as children completed their Maths trails, treasure hunts and an assortment of practical Maths activities.



Chess Club

Our SPN Chess Club began in early September with the support of our SPN teachers. The large group of attendees are continually developing and honing their skills. Currently pupils have studied the position of pawn to checkmate with more to follow. It is envisaged that our SPN Chess Club will participate in an upcoming Chess Tournament in February 2024.



Cork School of Music

Some of our children from SPN enjoy attending Music Bugs, and other music lessons with the Cork School of Music after school class. As the Christmas festive season approached the musical notes of Christmas tunes echoed along the school hallways each Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We hope that all the parents enjoyed their special concert.



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Road Safety

As we move into the Winter season with it's dark nights and mornings, we keep in mind the importance of Road Safety. Third class attended a Road safety webinar which was very important and beneficial especially as we were heading into the long dark mornings and nights.

LIONEL BART'S **Oliver!** JR.

SPN Musical 2024

The curtain will rise on the SPN production of 'Oliver' on **April 17th** at The Everyman Theatre.



Auditions for the SPN Musical of 2024, Oliver, began at the end of October. Keith Greene from 'Bellvue Academy of Performing Arts' and Ms O'Duffy (Room 4 class teacher), Musical Director of the Monfort College of Performing Arts and Ms. Anthony opened the auditions in late October. It provided pupils from Fifth and Sixth Class an opportunity to audition for a variety of roles.

The audition committee were enthralled by the acting and musical talent, the high level of preparation, and the enthusiasm as was evident by all those who attended the auditions.

Auditions and Call backs



Meanwhile those sitting outside the door were busy with their last minute preparations. There was great excitement, energy and a few nerves as children from 5th and 6th class auditioned for their respective roles.

The children reliably informed us that they prepared for their audition by listening to songs, singing songs in the car and some prepared by singing in front of their cousins.

One participant admitted to "feeling excited", whilst another admitted to "doing it for a little bit of a giggle", and another to "feeling a little bit nervous". One budding actor had gained some experience from last year and said, "I got a part last year too, it was really fun".



Halloween

Our first half term concluded with our annual Halloween dress up day. That morning as the school gates opened we were greeted by Ghosts, Witches and a host of Marvel characters. We all had a fun day at school with a variety of activities and treats.

Although we were celebrating the beginning of the half -term we are ever mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks to our very generous school community we collected just over €2000.00 which we donated to the Irish Red Cross Gaza/Palestine Appeal. A heartfelt thank you to all. ❤️



Roots of Empathy **Racines de l'empathie**

Pupils in Fourth class recently began participating in the Roots of Empathy programme. This programme addresses the feelings and emotional side of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum. A baby and parent are due to visit every three weeks during the school year. The instructor coaches the children to observe the baby's development and to identify the baby's feelings. Children are supported to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.

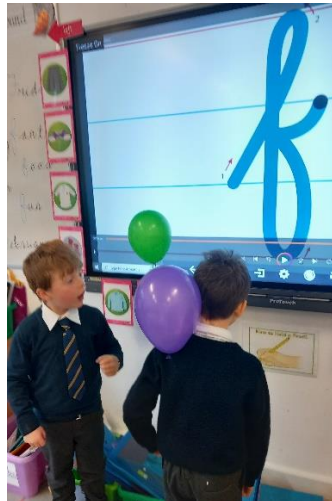


Our annual Parent Teacher meetings occurred in mid-November. Whilst it was a busy few days, the teachers enjoyed meeting with the parents of the children in their respective classes and having an opportunity to share all the great work and efforts made by each child in their class.



Science week

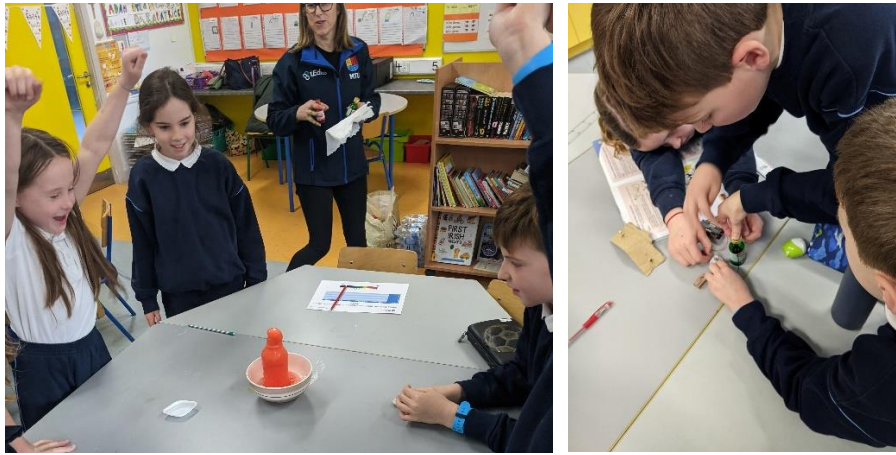
Our Science Week 2023, was an extremely busy and active week. Many classes participated in a wide range of practical experiments and activities. Pupils in Senior Infants created Sound Shakers using every day materials, they had opportunities to play with ‘dancing raisins’ and continued to have fun with static electricity and balloons.



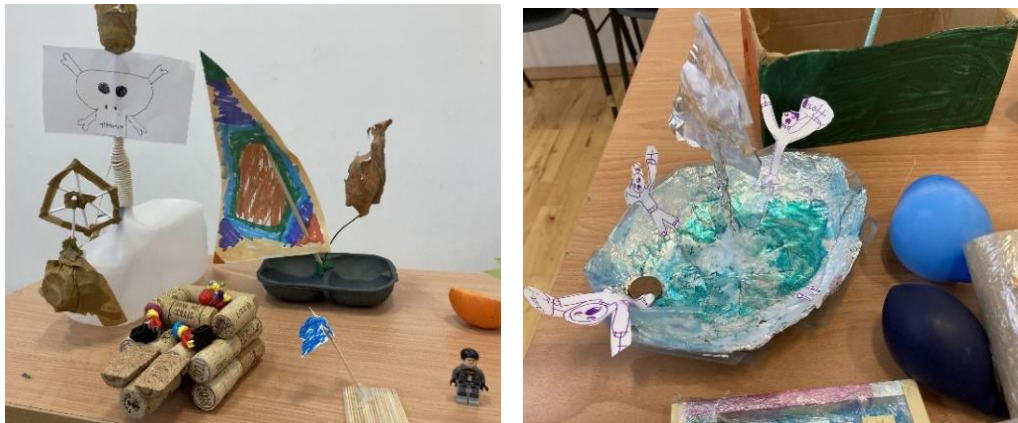
We were very lucky to have a number of parents who were available to visit a range of classes this year. The children in Third class, studied Acids, Bases and Lava under the direction of a member of MTU staff, for a fun interactive class.



The children made lava lamps in small groups, which focused on many aspects in the Science curriculum. It was a very exciting morning for all the children as was evident from the exclamations of wonder which could be heard across the classroom.



As another Science Week drew to a close, the children from SPN were bubbling with enthusiasm and interest in all matters 'Science'. Thank you to all our visiting Scientists and to our Science Squad for organising the events.



First Class boat building

As part of Science Week 2023, children in First Class were set a task! The children were asked to design and make a boat which would *"float for 10 seconds in water with a 5 cent coin on top"*, using only recycled materials. The children were buzzing with ideas, thoughts and designs during this entire process.



As was evident by the wonderful boats which arrived to school, we have many promising engineers in our midst. Thank you to all the 'back ground' boat builders at home, the children really benefitted from your support with the construction suggestions and ideas.

SPN Science Fair

During the middle of November SPN celebrated Science week. As part of our celebrations, a Science Fair was held in the halla. Children had an opportunity to display their work and provide practical demonstrations of their Science experiments. As you can see, the wonder and amazement on their faces was a joy to see.







Shoe Box Appeal 2023

A sincere thank you for your most generous support for the 2023 Shoe Box Appeal. This year we collected an astounding 280 shoe boxes. These incredible gifts will provide such cheer and happiness to many children who are in need. This year our boxes of love will support the Mahon Resource Centre, the YMCA, and St. Vincent De Paul. Thank you. ❤️

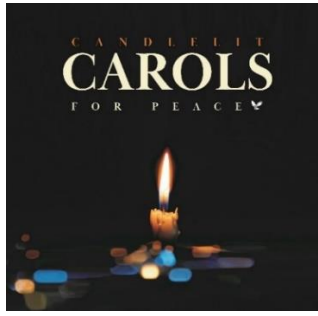


Douglas Community School Christmas Show

The children in Fourth and Fifth Class travelled together to visit Douglas Community school during early December. They were treated to a production of 'The Wizard of Oz' and guest appearances by a host of other Disney characters. It was a fun filled morning full of dramatics and laughter.



Once again our girls in Fourth and Fifth Class were 'on tour' again! On this occasion they were invited to attend the 'Winter Wonderland Musical' at the Ursuline Secondary School in Blackrock. The children enjoyed a fantastic show and 'soaked up' the Christmas cheer.



Carol Service at St. Patricks Church

As the final few days counted down to Christmas Eve, Third Class pupils were invited to participate in the 'Candlelight Carols For Peace' at St. Patricks Church. The children sang beautifully with empathy and enthusiasm. It was a truly magical night for all. The proceeds from the evening went to the Irish Red Cross.



Christmas Quiz

Our Annual Christmas SPN Quiz took place in the halla during our final week at school. The children from Fourth to Sixth classes assembled in their teams eagerly awaiting the beginning of the quiz. The questions were based on a wide range of topics with prizes galore awarded to the winning team. Many thanks to all those who organised the quiz and Congratulations to the winning team.



Student Council

As we approached the final two days of term, the SPN Student Council organised some Christmas fun. The Student Council planned a Christmas Jumper Day for all students to enjoy. With the donations gathered on the day, the proceeds will be used by the Student Council to fund their upcoming SPN activities.



Artist visit

Tess Healy, a crafting expert from New Zealand visited pupils in Second class at the very end of term. Tess carefully guided the children in their creative endeavours. The children had an opportunity to create a hand crafted class Wreath along with Snow globes. During a question and answer session, the children 'peppered' Tess with a multitude of questions about Christmas Day celebrations in New Zealand.



Christmas Nativity 2023

The community of SPN came together with our families and friends to celebrate the Christmas Nativity. Both the Junior Infants to Second Class followed by pupils from the senior school, Third to Sixth Class travelled to St Patricks Church on Friday December 15th to share in the joy and magic of the Christmas message.

