

»» KNOCKANEAN N.S.

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Take a look back at several events and activities that occurred during the months of November and December of the 2023/2024 school year in Knockanean N.S.



Intel Mini Scientist - Na Buaiteoirí



‘The Four States of Matter’
by Kiela,
Aurora,
Emily and
Alex



On the 25th of October, the judges from Intel Mini Scientist came to the school to judge the projects. A number of judges came on the day. They came into our classroom and looked at all of the different projects and spent around ten minutes with each group. They let us explain our projects and they wrote notes on their clipboards. When they came to our project, called 'The four states of matter', they asked us questions before we presented our project to them. We explained the four states of matter, which are plasma, gas, solid and liquid. As part of our project, we had gathered experiments that would demonstrate each state of matter. When the judges came to our group we took turns presenting and showing the experiments. Alex did an introduction to the project and then Aurora, Kiela and Emily took turns presenting. The experiment for the gas was a gas balloon, for the solid was ooblek, for the liquid was feral fluid which is liquidized iron and for the plasma was a plasma lamp. We showed them each experiment and while presenting the gas balloon filled with baking soda got stuck in the funnel but we managed to recover from this! We were worried that we made a bad impression, but when the other judges came we redeemed ourselves.

Later on that day we gathered outside the school building. All of the classes gathered around the judges. They began by announcing the category winners, and they received a huge round of applause. They then proceeded to announce the overall winners. We nervously awaited for them to announce the winners! When they announced that our project, The Four States of Matter, had won we looked to each other in surprise! Everyone gave us a huge round of applause and then we went to the top of the groups to meet the judges and Alex gave his introduction to the school. We then took a photo with the judges. When we got back to our classroom, Mr. O'Reilly made a speech and told us how amazing all of our projects were and how we should all be very proud. After school, we went to Lana in Ennis with some of our friends to celebrate and we all got ice cream and dinner. It was so much fun! The next stage will be the regionals in Shannon in a month or so. Overall we have really enjoyed the experience and we are so glad to get the opportunity to go to the regionals.

By Aurora Haziri, Kiela Ahearne, Emily Mulcaire and Alex Haugh



»» Clare cross country running final

On Tuesday the 14th of November, we went to Lees Road to compete in the school's cross country races for all of Clare. We left at around 10:15 and went on a bus. Mr. O'Reilly, Louise and Anne were the teachers that came on the day. We spent a few minutes warming up after we arrived. The younger pupils began to get ready for their races first. We walked around the track where we would be running to prepare for our race.

First the under 8 boys and girls ran, followed by the under 10 boys and girls, and the over 10 boys and girls were the last to race. We were delighted as we received some individual medals and all of our teams also won a medal. Our under 10 boys came 4th place, under 10 girls came 2nd place, over 10 boys came 3rd place and over 10 girls came 4th place overall. After the races we had hot chocolate and chocolate lollipops. We came back to school at around half 12, just before lunch time. We have really enjoyed competing in the cross country races and one of our favourite parts was getting the hot chocolate at the end of the races. Ruby's parents also brought a tent for us to use and it was great to have this to keep us dry. A lot of parents also came to support us on the day which was great.

By Ayda Ryan, Jessica Hassett and Ruby Courtney







Under 10 girls

Under 10 boys



Over 10 girls

Over 10 boys



»» Music club and Choir

Susan O'Neill, who is a singer from Ennis, recently came to the school to work with the music club and choir. On the first day that she came, she introduced herself and told us that she loves singing and song-writing. She mainly plays the guitar, and she sang us a song to give us an idea of the type of music that she likes. After this, we all got a piece of paper and we wrote down our thoughts about Christmas and words that we associate with Christmas. We then put the words together and looked for any rhyming words. This was our planning day.

The next day she came back and she had a song written for us to perform. The name of the song was 'Thinking of You'. We read through the song to get familiar with it. Then we practised the song together. After this we put in the harmonies and it sounded even better. The song is about someone who wrote a letter relating to what happens around Christmas. It is also based on the letters that all of the classes in the school wrote to the nursing homes. We thanked Susan for her help and since she left we have been practising the song with Amy, Louise and Conor in the music club and choir each week. We will be performing the song to the nursing homes around Ennis in the last two weeks of December. We are really looking forward to it and we enjoyed having Susan in to help us write the song. Her voice is amazing!

By Alison Casey, Ellie O'Brien and Maia O'Brien.





»» Fourth Class trip to see Aladdin

On Tuesday the 12th of December, the two fourth classes travelled to the Lime tree theatre in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. We went to see the Aladdin panto. When we arrived in Limerick we got a chance to eat our lunch. After that, we went into the theatre and found our seats. The theatre was packed and there were no empty seats! The panto then began. The story began with a boy called Alan who went to his grandmother's shop to help her out. Then we saw Alan clean a lamp and he had three wishes. He used one of his wishes to become Aladdin. Alan then travelled back in time to China and he met his brother Christine and his mother Twanky. Alan met Princess Jasmine in the laundrette. Princess Jasmine then went back to the palace and her mother, the queen, told Princess Jasmine that she had spent all of her money on a musical. The queen said that Princess Jasmine would now have to marry a very rich man, and she had to marry the man straight away.

Then the queen's advisor hypnotised her into making Jasmine marry Abanazor. Abanazor then had an idea to use Aladdin to get a magic lamp from the cave so that he would get three wishes. He tricked Aladdin into thinking that he was his great lost uncle. He got Aladdin to get the lamp and in the end, Aladdin, Christine, Aladdin's mother, Twanky and Jasmine's best friend went on the magic carpet and flew to save Jasmine. After the panto we got back on the bus and we each got a dream bar and a pack of jellies! We really enjoyed the panto and our favourite part was when they went on the magic carpet.

By Cillian Malone, Caoimhe McMahon, Adam Maguire and Jack Lehane

»» Cumann na mBunscol Football Final

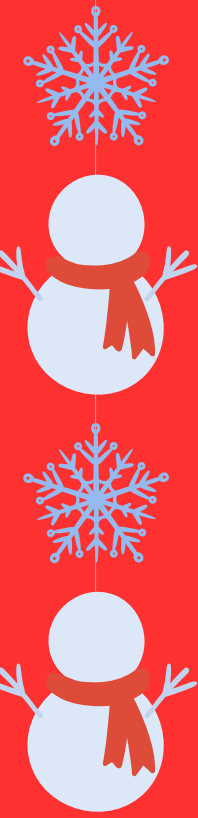
On Wednesday the 15th of November, the boys' football team travelled to Cusack park for the football final against Lissycasey N.S. We left early at 9:10 for the match which started at 10. Classes from 3rd to 6th came to support us on the day. When we arrived we went into the dressing rooms and got changed, and then we made the team. After this we went out onto the pitch and did our warm up. We went back into the dressing rooms for a pep talk from Mr. Curran, Colm and Cillian. We then took the team photo before the match began. Our captains Daire and Conor went to the referee, along with the Lissycasey N.S. team captain.

Then the match was finally underway. We scored the first two points and they came back and scored a point. After this they scored a goal and we knew we had to come back from this. We then scored two more points and the score stood at 1.1 to 0.4. At half time we went into the dressing room for a team talk and ran back out after. We got off to a good start by scoring the first point in the second half. The atmosphere was electric. We scored a few more points and a goal and then they managed to get a few more points and a goal. Towards the end of the match, there was some confusion with the scoreboard but we knew that we were ahead. In the final few minutes, we cleared the ball and scored a free to finish the game. The final score was 1.11 to 2.04. At the final whistle all of the subs ran onto the pitch to celebrate and we were on top of the world. Daire and Conor went up into the stand to lift the trophy with the rest of the team. There was so much excitement. We took pictures outside the park at the end. On the way back to school, we stopped at the shop to get treats. When we got back to school, all of the classes had come outside to welcome us home and to celebrate. After school that day we went to the Grove for a meal to celebrate with the team. We are so proud of our team and it was a great day for all.

By Daire Cullinan, Tadhg Downes and Oscar Deegan







»»» Carol singing

The choir and music club visited some nursing homes around Ennis during the last two weeks of December. They visited Carrigoran, Clarecastle Daycare Centre and Cuan an Chláir. To prepare for these visits, we wrote a song together with Susan O'Neill called 'Thinking of You'. We also prepared other Christmas songs to sing to them. In the music club we play all instruments including fiddles, banjos, concertinas, tin whistles, harp, guitar, flutes and many more.

When we arrived at the nursing homes we set up all of our instruments and played our tunes. They all loved the songs, and particularly seemed to enjoy Fairytale of New York, Curragh Races, Isle of Hope and Thinking of you. In each nursing home they gave us a few sweets as a thank you, which was really nice. There was one particular resident who really enjoyed the music and said it was 'beautiful'. Another one of the residents played the spoons while we were playing and we thought it was lovely for her to join in. We really enjoyed visiting the nursing homes and our favourite parts were preparing the songs and getting to perform them for the residents.

By Cadhan O' Loughlin, Mila Flannery and Fionn Ryan



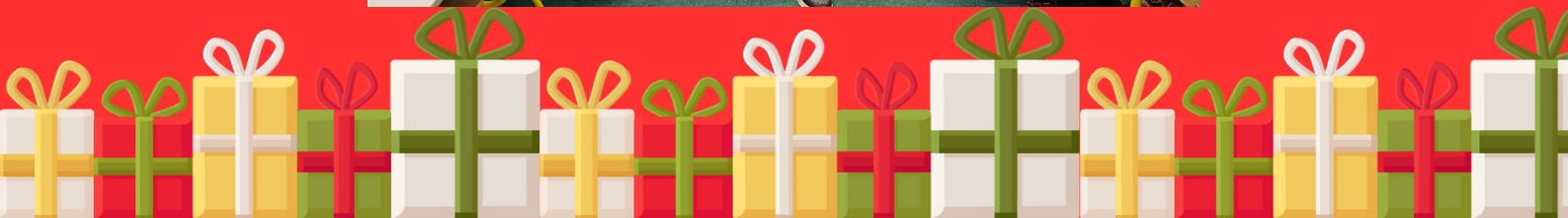
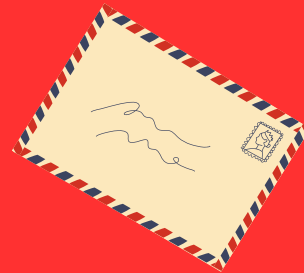
»» Intergenerational Letter Writing

Every class in the school started to write letters to people in several nursing homes in Ennis on Monday the 4th of December. In 6th class, we brainstormed what we would like to put in the letters. We were given a sheet with ideas to help us scaffold our letters. Each pupil was assigned a name of someone from the nursing homes. We each wrote a draft of our letters to get our ideas down on paper. We then wrote our final drafts. After this we began to design the envelopes that we would be putting them in.



Then we began to write the cards. We used lined paper for the inside and then we designed the outside of the cards. Some of the things that we wrote in the letters included facts about ourselves, our hobbies, and we also asked them some questions about themselves. It was hard to think of things to write at first but then we got into the flow. We then drew pictures and designed them based on Christmas, using Christmas symbols such as reindeer, snowmen, etc. It took us a few days from start to finish and we enjoyed designing the cards the best. To add to our cards we made word searches for the people to complete. We hand made these word searches as we thought it would be a nice activity for them to do over Christmas.

By Eoin McInerney, Caoimhe Mockler and Ava-Kate Clancy



MERRY

XMAS

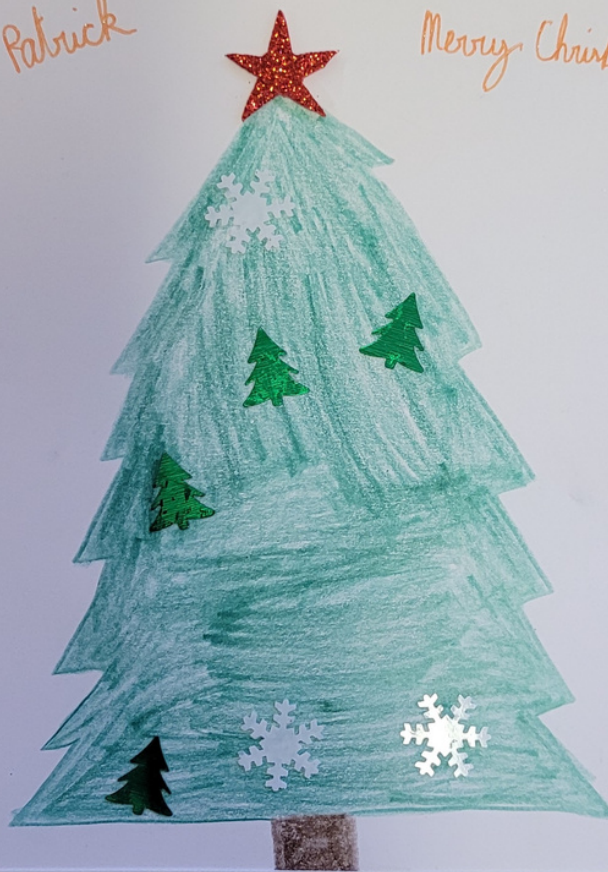
Michael



Sample
Cards

To Patrick

Merry Christmas!



Knocknarean N.S.
Knocknarean,
Ennis.

Dear Jerry,

I hope you are keeping well I am writing to you from knocknarean N.S. I am in 2nd class and I am eight years old.

In my spare time I love to play soccer once a week and running twice a week.

I hope you are looking forward to Christmas. I love Christmas becuase when I go down stairs



Sixth class Ice skating



On Monday the 11th of December the two sixth classes went to Limerick ice skating rink. We left the school at around 10 in the morning. We travelled on a bus to Limerick with Colm, Mr. O' Reilly, Louise and Souhila. When we arrived to the ice rink, we took off our shoes and gave them to the staff. They then gave us the ice skates and we put them on. It was packed and there were so many people on the ice rink. In total we had an hour to spend on the ice rink. Most of us had been ice skating before, so we knew how to get onto the rink. Some of us used penguins on the ice rink to help us balance, and then others skated around the rink. It was really fun. Almost everyone fell over at some stage and some people got soaked from falling over so many times! After the ice skating we went to Arthur's Quay shopping centre and we had 15 minutes to go around before meeting back up again. We got sweets there to enjoy on the way back. To finish off the day we went to Newmarket playground and we spent around 40 minutes there. Then we headed back to school and it was almost home time. We had a great day and we would definitely recommend ice skating to everyone, it was class!

By Milo Leahy, Conor McMahon, Thomas O'Connell and Amy Fahy



»» Third class constructions

On Monday the 4th of December we started our wooden crib projects in third class. One of the parents, Bernie O'Driscoll, came to help us. She brought a drill, screwdrivers, the wood and some nails. We are making one crib each. The first step was to sand down the pieces of wood. Some of the 6th class came to help us while we were working. They helped us to screw in the nails and to use the drills. We all had a piece of wood for the bottom, the back part and two pieces for the roof. One piece of the roof was longer than the other, and we had to line them up to make the roof shape. We assembled our cribs and drilled all of the pieces into place. We then sanded the cribs some more to make them nice and smooth.

The day after we began making the crib figures. We are making baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the three shepherds, the three wise men and some animals. To make the figures we mixed 400 grams of plaster of paris with water and this made a paste. You have to let it sit for a while and then stir it with a spoon. You then pour the plaster into the moulds and you let it set for about an hour. When they are set, you take them out of the moulds and then you can decorate them. We will also be adding straw, moss and bark to our cribs to make it like the Nativity scene. We have really enjoyed making the cribs and our favourite parts were using the drills and decorating our cribs. We would like to thank Bernie for all of her help and for providing the materials.

By Jesse O'Driscoll, Ella Kirrane, Mason Gaorgiulo and Teddy Courtney.





>>> Heritage in schools

On Monday the 27th of November, a woman called Marina came to our school. She visited both second classes and the third class. Firstly she told us about whitethorn and blackthorn trees. She told us some facts about them, including that the blackthorn tree is poisonous to humans. The leaves of the blackthorn tree are oval in shape and the whitethorn leaves are wavy. She then showed us a hawthorn tree that she brought in a plant pot. She told us that fairies guard the hawthorn tree and after this we all got a chance to tie ribbons on it to make wishes. She also told us that people can collect the thorns and flowers from the hawthorn trees to make tea and medicine.

Marina brought in some pictures of different types of trees in Ireland. She also brought flowers in a jar and we were able to smell them. They smelled like tea and they were very strong. After this we did some drawings of the different types of trees with chalk on card. While we were drawing she told us more facts, like that you usually find the whitethorn tree near a well, which was interesting. Some people also say that if you cut down a hawthorn tree you will get bad luck! We really enjoyed our time with Marina, and our favourite parts of the session were drawing the trees and smelling the flowers in the jars.

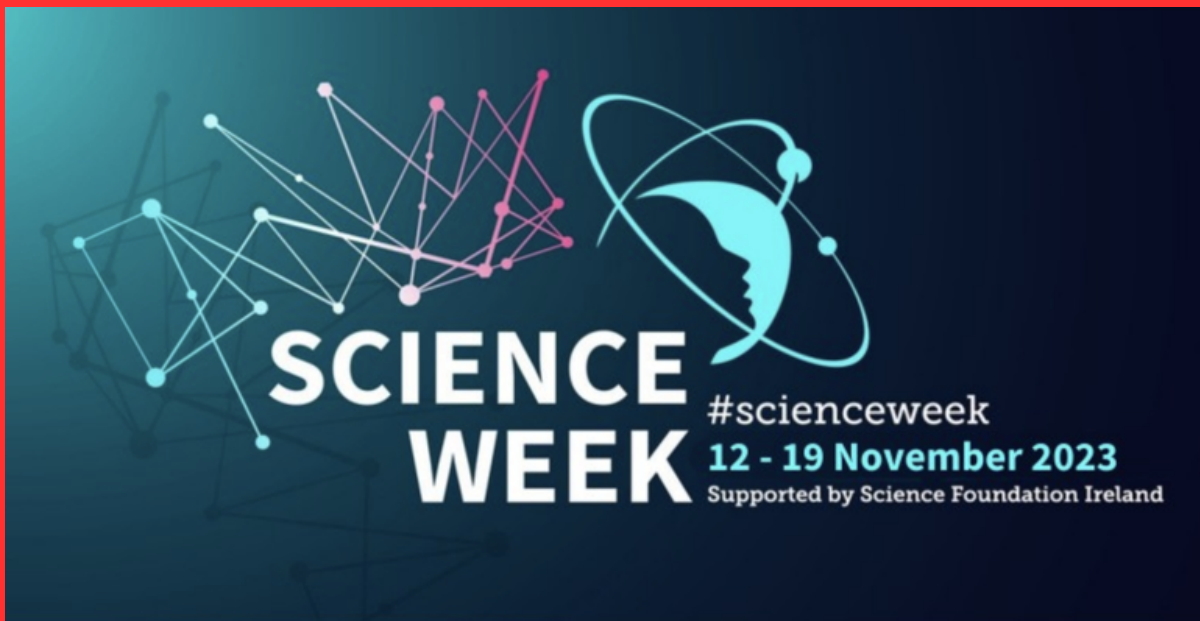
By Kacper Pawlowski, Yvanne Smyth, Darren Geoghegan and Aoibhín O'Brien





»» Science week

Science week took place in primary schools across the country during the week of the 12th-19th of November. Classes in our school engaged in a variety of science activities, experiments and challenges. Everything from magnets, to lava lamps, to gummy bears and slime were explored by pupils. A number of classes also attended workshops to learn about plants, animals, space and more. Pupils really enjoyed exploring science through these activities and working together while exploring!







»» STEAM Workshop

On Tuesday the 21st of November, Niamh O’Dea came to work with third class on a STEAM project. Firstly, she explained that she only had one shoe and she wanted us to make her another shoe. We were then split into groups of 5. She showed us a powerpoint and went through all of the steps. We had to make a plan and figure out how to design our shoe. Each group had to measure her foot and her ankle, and we drew sketches of what we wanted to make. We had brought in materials like plastic, bottle tops, CDs, cardboard and newspaper the day before. Then we set to work, and she only gave us 15 minutes to make the shoe! One of the most useful materials was cardboard as we could use it to make the shape of the shoe. Some of the groups also made logos for the shoe such as nike, crocs, etc. Then when we finished the shoes we all went outside to test them out. Niamh had to try on each shoe and see if she could walk across the yard. Some of the shoes broke, but most of them worked really well! We really enjoyed the workshop and we will be doing another one in December. Our favourite parts of the workshop were planning in our groups and building the shoes.

By Ben Hanrahan, Kieran Fitzpatrick, Sophia Keane and Eva O’Reilly

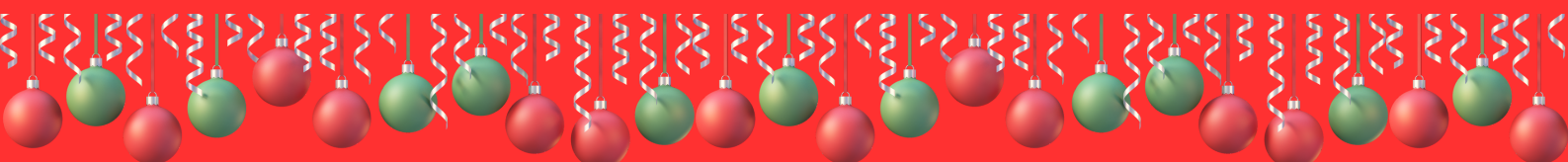
»» Intel Mini Scientist - Regional Final

On the 30th of November, Aurora, Alex, Emily and Kiela went to the Intel headquarters in Shannon for the regional mini scientist final. We arrived in Shannon for 9am. First we set up our stand with our materials and posters.

Then Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Curran arrived. Following this, the judges came around to look at our experiments. We showed them our multiple experiments and gave our presentations. Alex said his speech at the start, where he told us about the project. The judges appeared really interested in the topic and they asked us various questions. We then had time to eat the goodie bags that they gave us. Science Phil from RTE then came out to provide some entertainment, he performed some really cool experiments!

After this, the judges gave a speech about how wonderful every project was. We waited in suspense as the judges announced the top 5. We couldn't believe when they called out Knockanean N.S.! We then went up to the top of the room to receive our medals and our trophy. After this we took some photos in the lobby. We then headed back to school to celebrate and each class got a box of sweets. The next stage will be the All Ireland final in February in Dublin. We are looking forward to it and we are so proud to have got this far.

By Aurora Haziri, Emily Mulcaire, Alex Haugh and Kiela Ahearne



BOM 2023- 2027: The following along with myself are the members of the new BOM which has been approved by the patron. Regina Monahan (Chairperson), Micheal Glynn, Karen Brennan, Ronan O Halloran, Mary Hanrahan, Helena Dixon and Michael Clohessy.

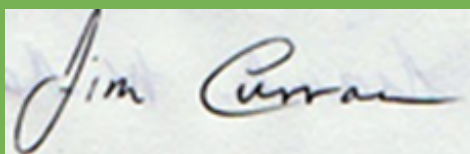
This newsletter is a look back at some of the events of the past term as seen by the pupils. More photos of these events can be seen on our website.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our school community- parents, pupils, Board of Management, Parents Association and staff for all their hard work, dedication, commitment and help, in what has been a very busy term.

On behalf of everybody here I want to wish Joe O' Reilly and his family all the best as he takes up the new role of principal in Miltown Malbay after Christmas. I want to thank Joe for his years of service to the pupils and families of Knockanean.

Have a wonderful Christmas everybody and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well on January 8th.

Yours sincerely,







*Wishing you a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New
Year from all staff and
pupils in Knockanean N.S.*