



Welcome to the Christmas Edition of School News December 2025



Christmas Picture Competition

Congratulations to everyone on their brilliant artwork in the Christmas Art Competition. The winners this year are:

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Junior Infants	Willow Perry	Rachel Sero	Harry Daly
Senior Infants	Emily Lily Veselá Brewer	Orla Tuffy	Annabelle Lalor
1st Class	Ava Grace Shipman	Robert Hudson	Éabha Mulvany Giovanna McAuliffe
2nd Class	Ramona Sheridan	Rosa Sloyan	Dolly Jepson-Jones
3rd Class	Simeon Wong	Hannah Godly	Cameron Cope
4th Class	Ralph McKeown	Liam Flynn	Sienna Higgins
5th Class	Yvanna Wong	Marcella Jepson-Jones	Nathan Linehan
6th Class	Hannah McQuade Isabelle Lamont	Lily Bennett	Arthur Sheridan Ethan Turner





St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you all for donating so generously to our St Vincent De Paul hampers project. This year we gave toy and sport vouchers to the families to buy presents and gifts along with Christmas pyjamas and the food donations. The hampers will be delivered on Sunday evening to all the families.



SAPA

Last Friday the Sapa team was delighted to welcome around 140 children to our Christmas Disco. As well as being a great social event for our children with plenty of music, games and prizes we managed to raise a wonderful €1,250 which will go towards worthy projects at our school. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped make the night such a success.

We look forward to welcoming parents to our Charity Coffee Morning event on Friday. Thank you so much to the many people who agreed to bake goodies for the coffee morning. All donations received on Friday will be forwarded to Focus Ireland.

Finally, as 2025 draws to a close, we'd like to wish all of the children and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Wonderlights

Written by Cameron Cope, 3rd Class

3rd Class were very lucky to be invited to see Wonderlights in the castle. We had a wonderful time playing in the lasers and dancing with disco balls. We also saw Santa and got selection boxes at the end. We had a look inside a fire truck and petted the Garda horses too. We got some more goodies at the stalls at the end. It was a great evening!



Say Yes to Languages

5th and 6th Class completed a fantastic 10-week Spanish module as part of the Say Yes to Languages programme. This initiative gives students an engaging introduction to modern languages and aims to inspire continued language learning at secondary level. Pupils explored connections between languages, helping to strengthen their literacy skills in both English and Gaeilge.

Thank you to Ms. Hoffman for delivering the Spanish lessons, and to Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Gillen for their support in working with 3rd Class to facilitate the programme.



House Points Day

Children wore in their House Points colours to celebrate their House Point teams. We are very pleased with all the points the children are earning through respectful, kind, helpful behaviour around the school.



Around the Classes

It has been a fun-filled, festive month in **Junior Infants** as the children have been preparing for Christmas. The play and learn theme this month was 'Santa's Workshop'. The children were very creative as they designed and made toys in the construction zone. They had great fun in the role play and small world zones, taking on the roles of Santa and the elves as they made and delivered toys for Christmas. In the creative zones, the children made snow globes and Christmas trees, while in the junk art zone they practised wrapping presents. In maths, the children focused on data, collecting and sorting information about their favourite Christmas movies and songs, and they also learned about the number formation of 1 and 2. The children especially enjoyed learning about simple coding and directional language as they used Bee-Bots in festive-themed activities. In Irish, the children learned about An Nollaig, and in English they continued to learn their Jolly Phonics sounds. They have also been singing lots of Christmas songs and enjoying all the festive cheer in the classroom. I hope everyone in Junior Infants has a wonderful Christmas and enjoys a well-deserved break.



Senior Infants have continued their hard work this month, as well as covering some interesting and fun topics in play and learn. They have been writing more and more, starting to form sentences and working really hard on their finger spaces and sounding words out. They have been working on the 'magic e' and looking at other alternate sounds that might be used. In their play and learn topics they looked at farms, making handprint chicks, setting up and playing with the farm small world, as well as writing stories inspired by the story of Farmer Duck and What the Ladybird Heard. The class then turned their attention to winter, thinking about the Arctic and the animals that live there. The children loved learning all about Arctic foxes, polar bears and more. They did some beautiful art using paints to make the Northern Lights and drawing polar bears to go on the top. Since then, they have been immersing themselves in Christmas themed activities! The children have loved doing role play in the post office posting cards, and in Santa's workshop - making, wrapping and delivering presents! They made some great Christmas cards, and have also been working hard on learning the songs for the Carol Service. In maths they looked at collecting data onto bar charts, partitioning numbers out and looking at the properties of some 3D shapes. A massive well done to all of Senior Infants on a fantastic first term. I hope you all have a lovely restful break, and a very Merry Christmas.



December has been a very busy and exciting month in **1st Class**! In maths, the children have been learning all about ordinal numbers and place value, using fun activities and games to help them understand these new concepts. In English, they have been working very hard on improving their handwriting and learning how to write full sentences. The children have shown great pride in their written work and have made fantastic progress. Tá an Nollaig ag teacht! In Irish, they have been learning all about Christmas vocabulary and traditions through songs, stories, and oral language. They have been very creative in art this month. The children decorated beautiful Christmas candles, created magical winter wonderland scenes, and spent lots of time carefully working on their entries for the Christmas colouring competition. In science, they have been learning all about winter, including the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees, and observing how nature changes during this season. In geography, the children learned about Irish seals and how to tell the difference between grey seals and harbour seals, which they found fascinating. In history, they learned about the famous author Hans Christian Andersen and enjoyed retelling our favourite stories that he wrote. 1st Class have also really enjoyed practising their songs for the Christmas service, and the children have shown great enthusiasm and confidence while singing. In SPHE, they learned about teamwork and the importance of being an upstander to bullying rather than a bystander, helping us to be kind and supportive classmates. They are all feeling very festive and so excited for Christmas! Ms Dodds hopes all the children have wonderful, happy, and restful Christmas break, and will miss them in the new year!



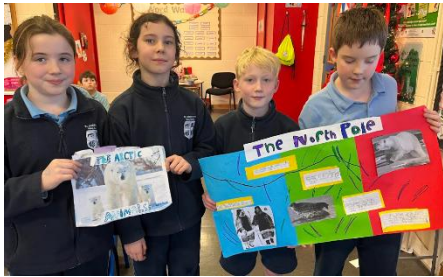
2nd Class enjoyed a festive month of December. Their main focus was the Christmas nativity play which took place on the 12th of December. It went amazingly well and all the children performed in such a professional way. Their hard work over the last month really paid off and they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to perform their drama for both the junior classes on Thursday and their parents/guardians/grandparents on Friday. Everybody had such a happy-clappy time! 2nd Class also got to enjoy their first taste of swimming lessons in school, travelling to the PSLC for their lesson. The class had such a good time in the pool developing their swimming skills. In SESE, the children studied how Christmas is celebrated around the world and found it very interesting learning about how different countries and cultures celebrate the holiday season. In music, 2nd Class took part in the whole school assembly in the church celebrating the Christmas holidays. They sang songs and read out different parts for the Christmas nativity story. In art, the Christmas competition was a big focus for the class where they drew and coloured amazing Christmas drawings of their favourite



festive things such as snowmen, Christmas trees, reindeer and Santa's sleigh. They will finish the term and the calendar year with a Christmas jumper day on Friday, showing off all their beautiful Christmas sweaters before the break for the holidays. 2nd Class would like to wish everyone a lovely and safe Christmas break. Nollaig Shona!



3rd Class have been busy and enthusiastic learners in December! In maths, pupils explored the very practical topics of money and time, enjoying lots of hands-on games and problem-solving activities through fun and interactive maths stations. In English, the class learned all about idioms and had great fun playing rebus games. Ms. Hoffman was especially impressed by their excellent word knowledge and strong puzzle-solving skills. In Gaeilge, pupils worked on the topics "An Aimsir" and "An Nollaig", with a particular focus on improving their pronunciation while reading. Their confidence and accuracy are growing all the time. In SESE they were excited to find out about life in 'Yakutsk' one of the coldest cities in the world. They were inspired to continue their research into cold places and completed amazing projects on Polar regions. Through engaging with the projects, the pupils developed research skills, critical thinking and organisational skills as well as how to work well with a partner. In PE, they completed their first module of swimming lessons in PSLC and have begun GAA skills with our new coach Jason. In art they made origami houses and drew amazing pictures for the annual Christmas picture competition. They had great fun doing a STEM challenge of Make the Longest Paper Chain from one piece of paper. They performed their songs and readings beautifully at the carol service and helped to act out scenes from the Nativity to accompany the celebration. It has been a fantastic term for 3rd Class & the special outing to Wonderlights was a fitting reward for all the great effort and positive attitude exhibited by all! Have a wonderful Christmas break!



December may have been a short month, but it was certainly packed with fun, learning, and excitement in **4th Class**! In Gaeilge, they learned all about 'An Nollaig' and enjoyed reading beautiful seasonal stories as *Gaeilge*, including the lovely tale *An Chéad Oíche Nollag*. The children really enjoyed exploring the language through festive themes and stories. In maths, they began working more closely

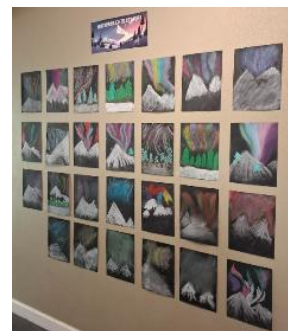
with their tables, and the children have been putting in fantastic effort preparing for their Friday quiz each week. They also studied multiplication and division with larger numbers, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and determination growing every day. For science, 4th Class studied the brain, integrating our learning with wellbeing. The children learned about the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala, and how to recognise and manage an amygdala hijack. This led to some great discussions about emotions, self-control, and looking after their mental health. Creativity was in full swing as they took part in an art competition, with some very special and thoughtful entries produced by the class this year. A huge part of our December was dedicated to preparing for our incredible Christmas play, *What Christmas Means to Me*. The teamwork shown by the class was truly outstanding. From choreography and costume ideas to prop design and performance, every child played an important role. The dedication, collaboration, and enthusiasm were a joy to witness. The show was an absolute treat to watch, and most importantly, the children loved every minute of it. It was a wonderful way to finish the term and a moment everyone in 4th Class will remember fondly.





December was a really fun and busy month in **5th Class**. They started GAA in Bridgefield which the class are enjoying. They got very creative with lots of Christmas art and enjoyed decorating the classroom to make it feel festive! In Gaeilge, they made colourful Christmas word art to show off the vocabulary they have been learning, which was a great way to combine language and creativity. They also learned about Italy and the Renaissance and completed

some great projects, including making brochures to encourage people to visit Italy and creating Canva PowerPoint presentations on ancient Roman structures. In maths, they focused on shapes and triangles and learned how to accurately draw a triangle using the correct tools. In English, the children had lots of fun writing letters to Santa, trying to convince him to put a famous villain, like the Grinch, back on the nice list. This helped practise giving reasons and putting together a strong argument. Overall, December was full of learning, creativity and Christmas cheer in 5th Class!



December has been a wonderfully busy and festive month in **6th Class** filled with creativity, learning, and seasonal cheer.

In science, pupils put their engineering skills to the test by designing and building bridge models. They explored strength, balance, and structure, working collaboratively to problem-solve and test their designs. Our budding authors became digital storytellers by creating Christmas story eBooks that combined imaginative writing with illustrations and ICT skills.

These festive tales were a joy to read and showcased great creativity. In geography, pupils travelled the globe as they learned about the tundra regions of the world, discovering how people, plants, and animals adapt to extreme climates. The Christmas spirit was very much alive in art, where pupils enjoyed a range of Christmas-themed activities, producing colourful, festive pieces that brightened the classroom and corridors. Irish learning continued with enthusiasm as pupils explored "Nollaig" in Gaeilge, learning seasonal vocabulary, songs, and phrases, and using them confidently in class activities. Music filled the school as classes practised songs for the Carol Service, preparing beautifully for this special celebration. The dedication and effort of the pupils were evident in their singing. 6th Class were delighted to welcome Leave No Trace Ireland, who visited the school to promote environmental awareness and responsible behaviour. Pupils learned valuable lessons about caring for their environment in an engaging and practical way. To finish the term on a joyful note, pupils took part in Secret Santa, spreading kindness, generosity, and festive fun throughout the class.



December Anti-Bullying Topic

The anti-bullying topic for December was 'What to do if you see bullying happening'. Classes explored how to be an upstander not a bystander and ways they can take action if they see bullying happening

Assemblies

There were two assemblies held during December. The first assembly was led by Ms. Dodds and 1st Class and through drama and song they highlighted the importance of teamwork.

Our second assembly was our Christmas Carol Service in St. Andrew's Church on Thursday where the children told The Christmas Story through readings and songs.

