

Scoil an Chlochair

January-April 2024

We have had a great start to the new year here in Scoil an Chlochair. The school is a hive of activity daily. There is so much learning going on in every classroom. I love greeting the children in the corridors and seeing such happy, smiling faces. It was great to welcome everyone back after their Easter break.

Congratulations to all the children in 6th class on making their Confirmation. Congratulations to 3rd and 4th classes on their participation in Peace Proms and Mullingar Voices. Wellbeing week was a roaring success in the school last month. Wellbeing homework every night was a big hit! Congratulations to all the teachers and pupils on a wonderful report after our curriculum maths inspection. There is excellent teaching and learning going on in every classroom.

The children continue to visit me in my office every day to show me their fantastic work. Here in the school we are all determined to ensure there is a positive and nurturing learning environment for the children. We are all so proud of them.

We hope you enjoy our School Newspaper. A lot of work goes into it and thanks to all the teachers for helping me pull it together. Enjoy!!!!



Dates for your Diary

Elevate School of Dance: Begins Wednesday the 10th of April for 6 weeks

Autism Awareness Week: Monday 15th-Friday 19th April

Hot Meals: Starting the end of April

Do This in Memory Mass: Sunday the 21st of April (this is the last one)

Bring and Buy Sale: Friday the 26th of April

First Holy Communion: Saturday the 11th of May

May Bank Holiday: Closed Friday the 3rd and Monday the 6th of May

June Bank Holiday: Closed Friday the 31st of May and Monday the 3rd of June

School Calendar 2024-2025

| Date | Information |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Thursday 29 th August | School opens at 8.50am |
| Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st Nov | Mid-term, school closed |
| Friday 20 th December | School closes 12pm for Christmas |
| Monday 6 th January | School reopens at 8.50am |
| Monday 3 rd February | School closed |
| Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February | School Closed |
| Monday 17 th March | School closed |
| Friday 11 th April | School closes 12pm for Easter |
| Monday 28 th April | School reopens |
| Monday 5 th May | School closed |
| Monday 3 rd and Tuesday 4 th June | School closed |
| Friday 27 th June 2025 | School closes 12pm for Summer |



Denotes half day



Since Christmas we have been very lucky to welcome 8 wonderful children to the school. Their classmates, teachers and SNAs have been so welcoming and helpful since they arrived. A big welcome to Bella and Maddie Nannery (3rd), Nour (4th) and Aissa (1st) Coumes, Ryan Burns (Senior Infants Green), Arthur Soares de Oliveira (Junior Infants), Tom Gannon (1st) and Pietro Da Silva Dourado (6th) who is missing from the photo. Best of luck everyone.

STEM Grant: LEGO



We were very fortunate here in Scoil an Chlochair to be one of the very lucky schools in receipt of the STEM grant. Our school received €9575. On the 27th of February, Robert McHugh came to the school and delivered our SPIKE essential robotic kits. The children in 2nd and 5th class had a tailored workshop each for 90 minutes. The staff also received 2 hours of invaluable training after school. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children in the school. The LEGO will be ours to keep and benefit all the children in the school. We are very excited to get working on this.



The children in 3rd class participated in Peace Proms on Sunday the 4th of February in the RDS. They were absolutely outstanding on the day. The orchestra, musicians and all the acts were absolutely incredible. It was a day that the children will never forget. A sincere thanks to all the teachers who accompanied the children to Dublin and to all the parents who were in the audience. It was worth every minute of preparation and we hope to do it again with other classes in the future.



The children had an enjoyable week working on their wellbeing and kindness. During this week we raised the kindness flag. Well done to the children and teachers for participating in so many wellbeing activities! €365 was raised and donated to Pieta House.

Let's Celebrate!



We are so proud of our "Let's Celebrate Wall" in the school. The children deserve this space to show the rest of the school just how wonderful they are. Well done everyone.

Our Sacred Space



We are so proud of our “School Charter” which is visible in our “Sacred Space” inside the reception area of the porch.



News from the Junior Infant Room.



One of our themes last term was "The African Market". The children roleplayed at the fruit and veg stall, baked goods stall and the craft stall. In the small World Area, they made miniature markets in shoeboxes using wooden blocks and playdough. There was quite the queue of little figures at their stalls. In the Construction Area, the children built market stalls with fabric canopies, they built farms which supplied the markets with meat, fruit and veg. The children really enjoyed the Junk Art Area which was looked after by the student teacher where they created all sorts of animals, etc. The class looked at the book "Handa's Surprise" and they learned to identify various African fruit and animals.



“The Vet” was the topic of our next theme. We learned about the job of the vet, Springtime, baby animals and chicks. In our Role-Play Area the children enjoyed being vets and looking after animals with hurt legs, broken wings, etc. In the Small World Area we had a Vets Surgery as well as boarding kennels for all the sick dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, farm animals, etc. The children created animal homes in the Construction Area and in the Sensory Area they added playdough whiskers to pictures of cats, collars on dogs, fish for the fish bowl, etc. The picture book we used for “Book Talk” was “Mog and the V.E.T.” by Judith Kerr. We had lots of fun with this one. We also made a digital book called “Our Favourite Pets”.



The class thoroughly enjoyed our “Bring your Pet to School Day”. Thank you to all the parents who brought in pets. We had dogs big and small, cats, hamsters and a lizard.



The latest theme which we are in the middle of is “The Puppet theatre”. We have been listening to lots of fairytale stories, doing puppet shows, eating popcorn at the theatre, selling snacks during the interval, building houses for the Three Little Pigs, etc



Of course, alongside all of this we have been busy learning letter sounds and blending sounds to make words. The children are doing a great job of sounding out the letters and reading short words. It's great to see their faces light up as they achieve new skills. In Maths we have done lots of activities based on numbers 0-5. Next we will be doing the topics Weight, more 2D Shapes and Data.



Great fun was had by all on Lá Glas with our treasure hunt and parade



I hope all our Junior Infant families had a lovely Easter and everyone is ready for the summer term. Can you believe these little kids are in their last term of Junior Infants? We have so much to look forward to with lots of learning inside and outside the classroom, more Aistear play themes, Sports Day and the highlight of the year – our school tour! Let's hope the weather improves soon. Thanks for all the parental support with homework etc. It really pays off.



Spring News from Senior Infants Green



Let's have a lookback at all the fun learning that has happened in Senior Infants over the last few weeks!



Here the children are pictured just before their Easter egg hunt. The children had so much fun and everyone was very happy to go home with a lovely easter egg! Thanks to the parents association for organising this for the children.

AISTEAR

We've been busy exploring various themes during our Aistear time. Our most recent themes include: The Estate Agents, The Garden Centre & The Sports Shop.

Aistear is our favourite time of the day, the children show fantastic creativity and imagination during this period and we get to join together with our friends from Senior Infants Yellow!

Check out our roleplay stations during Aistear:



Here are some pictures from other Aistear stations:





Well-being Wednesday: The children had a wonderful Yoga session with Mary.

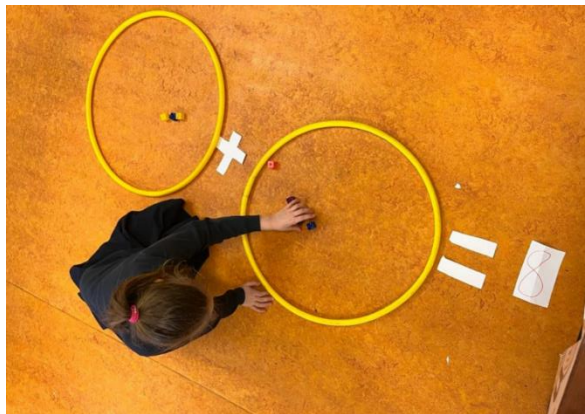


Mindfulness Monday: Taking some time to read a story!

The children have been working very hard at their phonics and diagraphs. With lots of games and interactive activities the children are creating more and more words each day – what a clever bunch!



- We have completed all our numbers 0-10!
- Explored spatial awareness using bee bots
- Analysed time through days of the week, months and clocks!!
 - And so much more





And finally, we celebrated St. Patrick's day on Lá Glas in school. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day as the children dressed in green, walked in a parade through the town, danced in a mini céilí and sang Ireland's call !!



Thanks for reading our Spring newspaper, we hope you enjoyed reading it as much as we did creating all these memorable learning experiences!

Until next time,
Slán!



Senior Infant Yellow News

We have been super busy in Senior Infants Yellow since our December Newspaper. We were very busy selling houses in the Estate Agents, trying on jerseys in the Sports Shop and building a bowling lane so we could have some fun bowling. We started off the Spring Season stocking up on seeds in the Garden Centre and filling pots with soil for planting. We will also be super busy in the coming months in the Zoo and on the Campsite.



Wellbeing Week



Mindfulness Monday:
Mindfulness Colouring



Thankful Tuesday: Gratitude Flowers



Well-being
Wednesday: Yoga



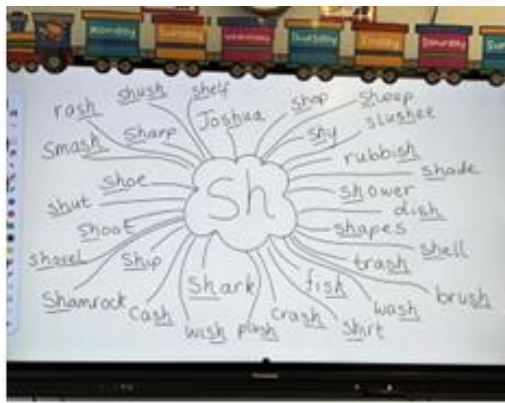
Well-being Wednesday: Be the T in Kind

Lá Glas



We have also been brilliant Mathematicians – we have finished our number stories up to 10. We have been learning our seasons, months and days of the week. We have been working on adding numbers from 0-10 and we have made flowers for each number including all their number bonds.





We have been busy working on our vowel and consonant digraph sounds with various tasks and activities in class.



Easter



Here we are before the Easter Ball Hunt. We had an absolute ball (literally) trying to find their number on a ball hidden in the yard and collect our Easter egg. A huge thank you to the Parent's Association for organising the event for the kids.



We had a lot of brilliant occasions to celebrate in March with Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day & Easter that we were so busy making fabulous art. Here are our Easter Bunnies. We hope you had a lovely Easter break and we are really looking forward to what is ahead for the remainder of the school year.





1st Class News



1st Class have been very busy over the last couple of months. We've celebrated Mother's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. We also had our Wellbeing Week in February where we got to raise our Kindness Flag.

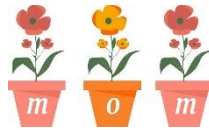


We focused particularly on our feelings as part of our Wellbeing Week. We watched the movie 'Inside Out' and created some cool silhouette art of the different characters and feelings that are inside of our bodies.





We welcomed two new students into our class since December. Tom arrived in February and Assia joined our class just this week. We are so happy to have both boys in first class with us.



For Mother's Day we created these lovely photographic messages.



We had lots of fun taking part in the Easter egg hunt which took place before the Easter holidays. We also enjoyed creating lots of different Easter themed art. We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break.



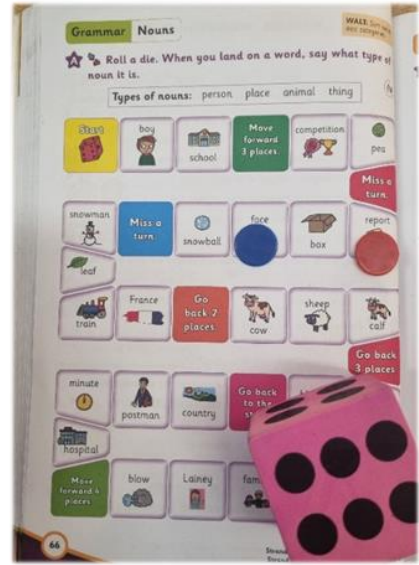
2nd class News

Well done 2nd class for working so hard during the Spring term. Have a look at what we got up to below!



English

We did some **active learning** during our grammar lessons. We played a board game to help us learn about nouns.



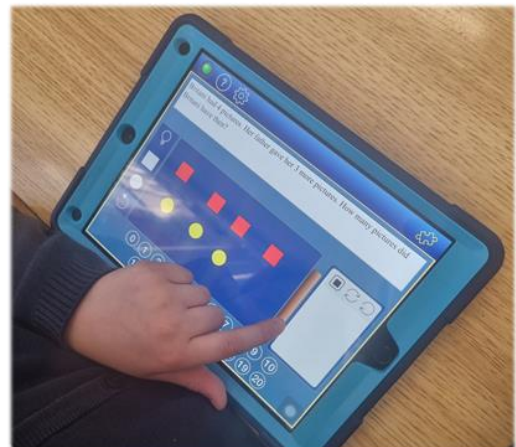
LEGO

We had a workshop on robotics and now we are working hard every week making lego and coding it to perform different challenges.



Maths:

We did word problems on the iPads as part of our maths stations.



We got very creative for "Anything but a bag" day!



Art

We created some Funky Easter Bunnies in art.



Whole-class reward

We worked towards a pizza party for the Spring term.



3rd Class News



Congratulations to 3rd class who performed their hearts out in the RDS in Dublin on Sunday the 4th of February. The whole school is very proud of them on how they behaved and performed. It's safe to say that the children and even the adults had great fun dancing and singing throughout the show. As part of Wellbeing week we had the opportunity to perform a selection of our songs for the whole school. Every child from Junior Infants to 6th class were singing along with us. I am very proud of each and every one of the children for their hard work and dedication which shone through on stage. We had pizza to celebrate. 😊

We have some great news from the STEPS STEM programme we got word that out of 700 entries only 30 entries were picked for the final and one of entries from Kilbeggan was picked. Massive congratulations to 'The Big Engineers Team' who created a project called 'EAL Station'. The EAL station is a device which aids people with limited English while they are doing their shopping helping them find the items they need. The shortlisted projects will now be judged by a panel of external judges and an awards ceremony will be held in May.

We celebrated Well-Being week by practicing mindfulness, being grateful, raising our kindness flag, participating in art lessons and having no homework or tests for the week
😊 We had a really enjoyable week and we are already looking forward to when this week comes around next year.





On Friday the 23rd of February 3rd and 4th class took part in a GAA blitz in Kilbeggan Shamrocks. The weather was not going to deter us and the mini games took place on the astro pitch. There was some great individual and team performances and the children really enjoyed the day. We had some young budding referees from 6th class who did a great job keeping the games fair. We would like to thank Alan Mullins from Rosemount for coordinating the day.



4th class news

4th class preformed at Mullingar Voices on Saturday the 3rd of February. The children were just fantastic and a great night was had by all. I am so proud of all the boys and girls. We celebrated with a pizza party 😊



We have had lots of fun and treats in 4th class over the past few weeks. We were learning all about France so we had a French breakfast. We also made pizzas as part of our procedural writing. They were yummy!



We had some fantastic ideas for our ‘Anything but a bag day’. The idea behind this was to encourage the children to be creative and to think of ways to reuse or repurpose items they already have at home. Well done to Lara for being the 4th class winner on the day.



3rd and 4th class participated in a GAA blitz in Kilbeggan Shamrock's pitch on Friday the 23rd of February. We had great fun despite the rain.





We celebrated Well-Being week by practicing mindfulness, being grateful, raising our kindness flag, participating in art lessons and having no homework or tests for the week 😊 Thank you to Ms. Campbell for organising lots of lovely activities for the children.



Finally, a massive well done to 'The Big Engineers Team' who created a project called 'EAL Station' as part of the Steps Young Engineers Project and are through to the final 30 out of 700 submissions. The EAL station is a device which people who have limited or no English can use while doing their shopping to help them find items they need. The shortlisted projects will now be judged by a panel of external judges and an awards ceremony will be held in May.



5th Class News – Spring 2024.

Well done to 5th class for a very productive last term and all their hard work! The upcoming break is well deserved. The children have all been really enjoying the swimming lessons over the last few weeks and have made wonderful progress on their water skills.

We look forward to partaking in some more GAA training and dance lessons, after the Easter break.

Also, a big well done to all the fifth class pupils for their hard work and performance which led to wonderful feedback both in parent teacher meetings in February and our school Maths inspection in March.

The children also really enjoyed partaking in our Green schools ‘Anything but a bag day’ initiative back in February, and we had some wonderful bag replacements! Well done Cian for being the fifth class winner on the day!



The children also had a wonderful week in early March, partaking in all the activities for Wellness Week. The children had a ‘no-homework’ week and instead were encouraged to carry out mindfulness, physical activities, listening to music, etc. During school, the children partook in lego activities, art classes and walks and fun outdoors.



Fifth class have also been selected to partake in the Lego Education programme, and we had a really informative and enjoyable training session from Robert at the Creatie Hut. Since then, the children have partaken in some really enjoyable lego sessions in class. Later in the term we hope to be doing a demonstration of their lego work!



And finally, a massive well done to two of our 5th class pupils who, with a very small select group, were responsible for the beautiful new mural in our GP room. Well done Ana and Emily!



I hope you all have a well deserved rest and a wonderful Easter break!

6th Class News - March 2024.

The last few weeks have been extremely busy here in 6th class.

1. **Confirmation** - Confirmation went very well in the Cathedral of Christ the King on 6th February 2024. Everyone looked great. Well done to Amy who read very well.
2. **Parent/Teacher meetings** – the parent meetings went extremely well. The students have worked hard this school year and their efforts were evident in their assessment results. They should be complimented on their work efforts.
3. **First Lego League** – 4 months planning and preparation went into the Lego League which took place in TUS Athlone on 8th February. The holistic approach to learning (S.T.E.M. – science, technology, engineering and maths) really interested the students and lead to pair and group work, planning and implementing, communicating and expressing, talk and discussion, active learning, exciting hands-on learning, applying and problem solving, design skills, integrating and connecting and robotics programming in the classroom. Presentation of their learning on the day was complimented by the judges. Well done 6th class. The competition was of high standards. All had a great day.





4. **Science Blast** – our chosen subject to research for Science Blast 2024 was ‘Roller-coasters, Why We Don’t Fall Out.’ So we planned and researched the science behind our topic. We discovered the meaning of gravity, acceleration, g-forces and potential and kinetic energy. We designed and built three different rollercoaster models. These were complex and demanded lots of patience. Working in groups, the students worked hard and the final models can be seen below. The students presented their project to the judges and again, their work and effort was recognised and complimented by the judge. Well done all.



5. **Maths Inspection** – the Inspectors informed the school that they wanted to take a focus group from 6th class and talk to them about their experience of maths and their learning this year. No pressure Mr. Davey. The central theme – The First Lego League. Thank you to parents who signed the consent forms. The chosen 12 students by the Inspectors spent 40 minutes talking and discussing maths. Feedback from the Inspectors was very positive. All students spoke and gave an honest view of their experience of maths. A special mention to Aodhán,

who was personally mentioned by both Inspectors as being polite and knowledgeable in both maths and the Lego League.

6. **Final word** – 6th class must be complimented for the standard of work they have put in and continue to put in, but also for their behaviour. Two trips out and no issues. I am very proud of you all. Keep it up.

Butterfly Room News

We have been busy here the last few weeks in the Butterfly Room. All the children have been doing great work and enjoying some activities and time with their classes also. Below are some pictures of what we have been doing.

We had a fun morning at the library having a look at books and we also got to play with their new interactive activity board. All the children had great fun.

We were busy with St Patricks week art, Mother's Day art & Easter art and activities. We enjoyed our non- uniform days and our St Patricks Day 'Green' walk. We had great fun wearing green and celebrating.

We have been busy with swimming, GAA & dance classes the last few weeks also. Here are some photos of us showing off our moves!

We have been busy making different things each week. We have made some healthy smoothies, green milkshakes, rice krispie squares, pizza, cupcakes and brownies.



