

CLOUGHDUV NATIONAL SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2020

Christmas Newsletter



Dear Parents,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, let us take a look back at all that has happened here in Cloughduv N.S. in this most unprecedented school year. The children have settled back into school so well after such a long and unexpected break and have adapted to new routines and procedures easily.

Junior Infants

Our newest members of the school community here in Cloughduv started their learning journey in 'big school' with us on Tuesday, 1st September. Welcome to our Junior Infants - Emily, Daniel, Charlie, Ian, Alex, Trish, Caoimhe, Dylan, Abigail, Clodagh, Mia, Thomas, Kelsie, Patrick, Ava, Killian, Lucy, Joey, Eva, Sadhbh and Hailey.

Information Meeting for New Parents

Ms. Julie Harrington, Junior Infant Teacher along with Ms. Linehan held a virtual information meeting for all new parents on 23rd November which was very well attended.



Halloween

Pupils had great fun dressing up for Halloween on Friday, 23rd October. It was lovely to see all the wonderful costumes and some of the teachers even got in on the act! The Parent's Association organised goodie bags for each child on the day.

Football Training

All children from Senior Infants – 6th Class received weekly football training sessions from Colm Crowley of Rebel Óg Coaching. These sessions were held outdoors in September and October.

UCC Students

During the first term, we have been joined by Laura, Ruth and Shannen, students of Early Childhood Education & Care in University College Cork. These three ladies spent their placement in Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class. We hope that they gained valuable experience in our vibrant early years classrooms and we thank them for their energy, enthusiasm and hard work during their placements.

Student Council

Congratulations to the newly elected Student Council for the 2020 – 2021 school year. Our new student council is made up of Keeley, Grace, Conor and Jayden.

UCC Art Project

Mr. O'Callaghan's 5th and 6th class are currently engaged in an art project in association with Tadhg Crowley, Curator at The Glucksman Gallery and University College Cork. The children partook in a Zoom meeting with the artist and having been provided with various art materials are now engaged in a number of artistic activities based on a response to a number of artworks from The Glucksman Gallery which are hanging on their classroom walls.



Science Week

This year, Science Week took place from 8th – 15th November and the children in Cloughduv N.S. engaged in a number of scientific investigations over the course of the week. Some of the experiments included creating rainbows with hot water and skittles, observing how flowers drink water, observing the effect of soap on 'germs' and creating rockets using balloons and string!

Interactive TV

We have recently purchased a state of the art Interactive Smart TV. This mobile TV can be moved to any classroom / hall in our buildings and allows the children the opportunity to engage with interactive online content. It is also being used for webinars and Zoom events that are now part of school life for both students and teachers.



ICT Staff Training

All staff members have undertaken significant training in ICT in the past number of months. Our 'new normal' has seen a move to online platforms for many activities that were previously held in person and thus necessitates upskilling in new technologies. All staff have received training in the use of our new interactive TV from our IT supplier Paul Tobin. All staff have also received training via Zoom on the use of the SeeSaw online education platform. Individual staff members have also completed summer courses and online training in various aspects of ICT in recent months.



Road Safety Webinar

3rd and 4th Classes joined with 65 other schools and over 1200 pupils in attending a virtual road safety event organised by Cork County Council in collaboration with An Garda Síochána. They watched a presentation on road safety via Microsoft Teams on our new Interactive TV. All children subsequently received a High Viz rucksack cover from the RSA.

Virtual Visit of Bishop of Cork, Fintan Gavin

The children in Cloughdun N.S. along with children throughout the Diocese of Cork & Ross received a virtual visit from Bishop Fintan Gavin on Wednesday, 9th December at 12 noon. The virtual visit was streamed to all classes via Youtube.

Christmas Performances

At this time of year, we usually enjoy gathering in the school hall or church with all parents to enjoy a festive concert showcasing the wonderful talents of all our students. Such gatherings unfortunately are not to be this year, but we still marked the occasion in an appropriate but festive manner, while still observing all public health guidance. Each class came together for their own performance which was videoed and then shared with all families using the SeeSaw platform. It wasn't the same as a live performance in a packed hall but we had lots of fun creating and performing and we hope you all enjoyed viewing it.

Reopening

Our school is reopening after the Christmas break on Wednesday, 6th January 2021.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and looking forward to seeing you all in 2021. Stay safe during the holidays!

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir
Is mise le meas,
Sylvia Linehan (Principal)