



NEWSLETTER

March 2020

From the Principals Desk

Room 1

Room 1 have been learning a lot about spring signs: flowers, sunny days, baby animals born at spring. We also have been working a lot on our life skills. We have been working on dressing up, washing our hands, tidying up after ourselves. During March we also focused on animals as part of our core vocabulary.

We have been working on each of the 10 words daily and the pupils are learning about their favourite animals. For Maths, we are focusing on the colour green. It's a very important colour as its part of the traffic lights. We are identifying it within our classroom environment and also when we are outdoors. The pupils in room 1 are enjoying exercising outside on our mini-trampoline.

Room 2

Hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well in these strange times. There was great learning going on in Class Two this term. The children are really enjoying learning through Aistear and having the different areas to play, interact and learn in. They love music and dance time each day and are requesting their favourite songs to play and sing. The children have been working hard on their communication skills and using their words and Lámh signs when they want something and are becoming more independent each week with hanging up their own coats and bags, getting their own snack / lunch to eat along with any utensils they need without any adult support. Keep up the great learning at home! Looking forward to seeing you all soon when we return to school!

Room 3

Dear parents, we hope you are all well. We have put up some school work goals that we would invite the students to continue working on during this school closure. The students have been working hard on their IEP targets so if they could continue working on these at home too it would be very beneficial.

Before the closure we had great fun at our St. Patrick's Day disco, we made lots of art work for our display board and experimented mixing colours and ingredients during sensory messy play. They students also enjoyed trips to the local shops as part of their social training programme.

Room 4

This term class 4 visited various local community activities to build upon their social skills. We visited the National history museum and explored the history of Dublin through the ages. The students also wanted to experience using the train so we went to Maynooth for the day. We visited Cabra library to set up accounts and enjoy the books on offer there. Currently students are working from home on their functional numeracy, literacy and life skills. Lorraine

Room 5

Hope you are all safe and well! This term, class 5 have been working really well in relation to their life skills, social skills and numeracy skills. For social outings, we have gone swimming, coffee shop, Tesco and the school shop. Pupils are encouraged to pay and order independently. If at all possible, please continue to work with your child on life & social skills at home during these difficult times. In class, we have been working very hard on understanding money and time activities. We incorporate these through role-plays. All pupils really enjoy this and have great fun. One of our pupils is preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. Therefore, we have been busy little bees, going to the church, singing in the choir and making art displays. Students really enjoyed making lots of art work for our spring display board and St. Patrick's Day. Take care of each other, stay safe and hopefully see everybody back in the classroom. Kindest Regards, Leanne

Room 6

Dear parents,

I hope I find you all safe and well. In this time of great change and uncertainty I know if we all do what is asked of us we will overcome this. I have forwarded school work and homework which I hope will help you all. Do only as much work as you have time for and don't feel under pressure to do all the work as I have included a variety of tasks for different types of learning. Before the break pupils in room 6 were enjoying weekly focus and social groups. This gave the children in room 6 a chance to mingle and socialise with children from other classes be it at art, games, choir or fieldtrips. We have been sowing and planting herbs and flowers in the classroom. The children really enjoyed this activity and I feel if it is at all possible to continue this at home. One of our pupils is preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. On a daily basis we have been visiting the Church for choir practice and in class we have been finishing off displays and artwork for this special occasion. Several of the children have been attending drama class while more of the class are learning new skills in home economics. Huge progress has been made academically and behaviourally this spring. In circle time we have made huge progress with receptive and expressive language,



active learning, problem solving and play. Social skills are extremely important where children gain self-esteem and confidence. Room 6 is a class where there is respect for hard work in a caring environment. We enjoy one another's company and seek to reach our full potential. I know the children will be missing their friends and school and hopefully they will be playing and learning together again soon. And please don't forget to tell them that David says "hello"

Room 7/8

Students from class 7/8 are almost finished their Junior Cycle 2 programme and have done wonderful work. We celebrated the birthday of one of our pupils Louise who turned 18!

We enjoyed a fabulous lunch to celebrate Valentine's Day and the students did amazing art work. Preparations are underway for a class trip in the new term. All students are looking forward to the Easter holidays. Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus, students have been enjoying digital learning at home. Under the watchful eye of their parents and from the direction of John, class 8 have found novel and exciting ways of expanding their education.

Room 9

Hi everyone, we hope you're all well and keeping safe during this testing time. Before the closure of school, room 9 was a hive of activity, all the lads were working very hard and enjoying each-others company, the formation of many friendships among the students has been so pleasing to see and the overall dynamic of the group is very positive. The lads have been putting a huge effort into all their PE activities, and their ability to work as a team during many of our active activities (relays/ games that consist of running/catching/throwing - e.g. hockey, basketball, football etc) highlights and emphasises how far they have come as a group. The lads have been working very hard within the confines of the classroom, however, active learning tasks such as community outings to the local shops (practice communication/social/numeracy - money skills) and fieldwork activities have undoubtedly had a positive impact on both their learning and indeed their relationships with one another. Before school closed, the lads put a huge effort into decorating the classroom in anticipation for St Patrick's Day, the lads created some stunning pieces of art, including Irish flags, shamrocks, leprechaun hats and the age old famous rainbow overlooking the ever illusive pot of gold! The group took real pride in showcasing their hard work and again it was a real team effort.

Last week I have sent work for your child that can be completed at home on a daily basis.

This will be added to on a weekly basis.

Core subjects like numeracy and communication and language are studied daily.

I would like the children to work on three areas in both numeracy and literacy daily.

They are all short 10/15 minute tasks be it a game, a worksheet, ICT or a practical.

Different options have been given as children enjoy the different tasks.

There is a huge emphasis on personal care and hygiene since the COVID 19 outbreak and I will attached clips and social stories relating to this topic.

Feelings and emotions lesson is very important because the children are missing their friends and have a lack of understanding of what's going on at the moment

I would recommend Fun and educational role play tasks such as "Home Shop" - during this task students can practice their language/communication skills and their numeracy skills (using money - real money / print off and enlarge pictures if you have access to a computer/printer, if not use this as an opportunity to be creative and create your own (with your child's assistance) - materials required pencil,crayons/ colouring pencils/paint/paper etc

While it is very important we all adhere and follow to the government instructions regarding COVID-19, it is important that we look after our physical well-being and continue to develop gross motor skills. A simple game of catch or hide and seek, a small obstacle course in the back garden (implement rolling, jumping, crawling, lifting), games that implement kicking/catching/throwing of a ball - (football/basketball/tennis/cricket/hurling). All these activities can take place in the confines your own property, among family members who reside together, a brisk walk (adhering to the instructions and guidelines regarding COVID-19) on a daily basis would also be very beneficial.

Regards,

Colm

Room 10

Room 10 have had a busy term. We have begun our social outings to the shop and to the cafe for hot chocolate. There has been a big focus on life skills, and we made pancakes together to work on some kitchen skills. The class are continuing to work on life skills at home, including making their bed, preparing breakfast and personal care skills. Our core vocabulary has been based on clothes and animals and the class have been working hard on learning their Lámh signs for these topics.

Home Economics:

In this term, Home Economics focused on healthy meal preparation and the use of electrical appliances safely. The students cooked Mushroom Soup, Vegetable Soup and made smoothies using the hob, blender and smoothie maker.

Students are also working really hard on JC2 and School Leavers Programme folders including worksheets which reinforced their practical classes.

On Pancake Tuesday, class 7 and 8 participated in the preparation of pancakes for the whole school. Approx 120 pancakes were made and they went down a treat across the whole school.

Shaesta

P.E.

Hello all,

Hope you are keeping well, safe and healthy during these difficult times. It is so important that we look after ourselves mentally, physically and emotionally. There are numerous different physical activities and games on our school website that can be done indoors and with little or no equipment.

We've had a very busy year so far. We have been undertaking games, skills and drills from the games strand of the PE Curriculum. Not to mention creating some amazing dance moves and routines from the dance strand.

Fintan, from Cricket Ireland, came in to give us a training session on Table Cricket which we will be adding to our PE Programme. This is played on a table tennis table, which was kindly donated to us recently.

Tom and Eamon, from Fyffes Fit Squad, came for a visit and after doing a physical session with us, everyone received their own water bottle and banana.

We brought several classes down to the local park for an outdoor PE class using the gym equipment there. Everyone worked really hard and got to try all the different pieces of equipment from the strider and elliptical to the shoulder and chest press machines, just to mention a few. A great time was had by all.

Following the success of the project last year, we have been working closely again on a collaborative art and physical activity project with a local third level college. We would hope to have this ready as soon as possible.

We were thrilled to receive a donation for a treadmill. We have been using this in our PE hall on a regular basis, getting everyone walking and active.

Well done to everyone on all their hard work.

Keep safe, keep healthy, keep well and keep active.

Claire

