

Lárscoil an Easpaig O'Gealbháin
Bishop Galvin Central School
Newcestown

Christmas Newsletter 2024



As our first term comes to a close, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the first term of 24/25.

Our new school building is up and running. We gained 2 classrooms, a large activity space, a meeting room and a sensory room as well as a soft play space. It has been a fabulous addition to the school and the extra space is already being well used.

We welcomed 16 Junior Infants to our school this year and they have settled in very well into Miss Hourihane's class. We held an Open Night during the month of October to allow prospective parents to visit the school and we are now accepting applications for the next academic year (25/26). Application forms can be requested from Lisa in the office or downloaded from the school website. <https://newcestownns.ie/>

Student Council

We elected our new Student Council in November. The members of our Student Council are Lily Mae Keohane, Roan Linehan, Darragh Sleator, Emily Otway, Noah Collins, Muireann Sullivan, Tom Barry and Ciara Sullivan. Since their election, they have organised our monthly Wellness Wednesdays as well as the activities for Indoor Lunches. We look forward to lots more planning and activities after Christmas.

School Garden

We have been busy closing off our vegetable beds for the winter. We also have been planting vegetables such as garlic, peas and broccoli and we look forward to seeing them grow over the winter months.

Biodiversity is an area that we have decided to focus on, so this year we made a pond to watch for insects and it has been a very exciting project. Don't forget to feed the birds over the winter months. You can use an empty milk carton, just cut a hole and put some seeds inside. They would be very happy to find it during the cold weather.



Teaching and Learning

Maths curriculum

The teachers attended the second primary maths training day on the 26th of November. Essentially the new maths curriculum does not change what the children learn but how they learn maths. It includes more learning through play and problem solving. It also provides more opportunities for children to be creative, take risks and be challenged. Occasionally ask your child how s/he got an answer... you might be surprised by the response as it may be a different way to how you would attack a maths problem. We encourage every child to think for themselves.

Science Club

The Science and Nature Club held a recruitment evening for pupils of 3rd and 4th classes on the 10th of December. The aim of the club is to encourage children to think about, talk about, and do science in a relaxed and fun environment. The 5 week programme of fun activities for children will begin on Saturday morning January 11th and end with a field trip on the 15th of February. Many thanks to all the leaders and volunteers who give up their Saturday mornings and make this club a huge success every year.

Science Week

The school celebrated Science Week on the 11th – 15th November. The children engaged in lots of Science experiments and STEM activities in their class. Each class explored coding using a “Smart Train” set. The children really enjoyed this and learned lots about coding.

Parents Association

The Parent's Association led by Terri O'Neill, Holly Deasy and Claire Collins have been very busy over the last few weeks. They met with prospective parents at the Open Night and were a great source of information for new parents. The Halloween disco is the highlight of every student's social calendar and it lived up to expectations. The Sensory Hour was a great addition to the night.

A clothes collection was also organised and many bags were dropped off to the GAA changing rooms

We were delighted to see Santa visit us on the 13th of December. There was great excitement on the day shared by pupils and staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents involved in the organisation of all these great events. All funds raised will be used to purchase maths resources, yoga classes for the children and yard games.

Activities

Rugby

Pupils from 3rd and 4th class have been training every Tuesday with rugby coaches from Bandon Rugby club. They will take part in a rugby blitz against other schools in Bandon Rugby club after Christmas. Rugby training will continue for 5th and 6th classes after Christmas.

Swimming

Students from 5th class and Mr. Bradfield's 6th class enjoyed swimming lessons in Bishopstown Leisure Centre in the last few weeks. 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Mr. Meade's 6th class will go to Bishopstown for swimming lessons after Christmas.

Debate Team

Our debate team have made it to the quarter final, of the Concern Primary School Debate Competition. They will debate against Ardfield National School, on Tuesday 17th December, over zoom. The topic for this debate is 'We should only buy fairtrade products' and our team are opposing the motion. They have learned so many skills including teamwork, communication, confidence and public speaking. We wish them every good luck in the quarter final.

Chess

Our chess club began in October for 3rd – 6th class with lessons for both beginners and for more experienced chess players. Over 50 students have been taking part and everyone's skill level is really improving. We are looking forward to hosting a chess tournament in February with many other schools taking part.

JEP Program

5th class are working hard with their Junior Entrepreneur Program. The students have been working hard coming up with individual ideas and group ideas that they will pitch to Dragon's Den in the new year.

Active School Flag

A new Active School Committee was established in October and we are working towards achieving our next Active School Flag in the coming 18 months. Our new committee members are Andrew O Callaghan, Ellie O Donovan, Kate Barry, Tadgh O Sullivan, Cillian Lucot, Robyn O Driscoll, Gavin Kerr, Grace Desmond, Aidan Twomey and Lauren Dollery. We held a Halloween themed Active Day in October which everyone enjoyed and we look forward to a Christmas themed day on Thursday. The school also took part in an Active Break Everyday Challenge for the past 4 weeks. We look forward to finding new and exciting ways to get everyone active in the next term.





Class news

Junior Infants really loved taking part in their first Christmas Concert this year, they especially loved learning new songs.

Senior Infants have had a brilliant half term. We were very lucky to have Mr. Giles with us for 3 weeks. Since then we have been learning about hedgehogs and now we are exploring the Arctic Circle. The children are also making great progress with their reading. Have a great Christmas from all in Seniors!

1st Class have been having a very enjoyable year with lots of learning and excitement. Highlights have included working with our buddy class on junk art and litter picking around the school, creating our own lava lamps for science week and more recently making 'Frosty' the snowman and performing in the Christmas play

2nd Class have been busy with some amazing activities! We've become authors and illustrators, creating our very own Christmas books. One special highlight was our visit to the airport, where we sang Christmas songs to welcome people home—it was magical and we really helped to spread Christmas cheer. In our classroom, we're also practicing kindness every day as a bucket-filling class, sharing compliments and doing our best to make each other feel special.

3rd class took part in 10 weeks of rugby coaching provided by Bandon RFC during the first term. The children had great fun learning new skills and a special thanks to the coaches involved.

4th Class have had a great first term in school. They have learned so much and their highlight was learning about the Ancient Egyptians. They worked together to research and create wonderful projects and art work for this. They loved presenting their projects to their buddies in 2nd Class.

5th class have had a great term with the highlight being their JEP (Junior Entrepreneur Program).

6th class had a busy term with many activities and days out. The girls' camogie team won the West Cork title. We attended the Coláiste na Toirbhirte musical 'The Winner Takes It All'. We also completed our swimming lessons in Leisure World

Green Flag:

Our Green Team, along with the whole school, has been very busy working towards our Green Flag this term, and completing our application. We are continuing to monitor our progress in relation to reducing, reusing and recycling, and our Action Day this term was a huge success! We completed litter picks with our buddies, designed creations using recycled materials, and the whole school wore green to raise awareness for this initiative. We look forward to many more activities in the next term!



