



St. Patrick's Newsletter

Safety Awareness

As our school year progresses, and we endeavour as always to keep each child safe in our school environment, we thank all the parents who help us with this task by trying to keep our school grounds free from unnecessary traffic, therefore minimising the risk of injury to all the children in our care.

We would also encourage all children and adults to continue to use the walkers' gate and follow the pedestrian path right around to the school entrance, rather than take the potentially more dangerous route up the driveway or across the top car park.

Our Walk to School Day was on Monday 29th October. Pupils, teachers and parents met at the car park opposite St Patrick's Church and outside Supervalu on the Greenhaw Road. It was the weekend after the clocks went back, so it was a lovely bright, dry morning. The aim of our walk was to encourage our pupils to make walking to school an appealing, preferred choice. Please join in our Walk to School in 2nd and 3rd term, some of our many on-going activities to highlight and promote walking to school.



Miss S Quinn (Safety Awareness Co-ordinator)

The Religious Life of our School

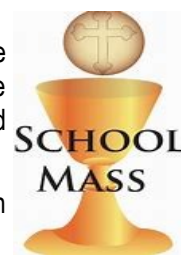
The Primary 4 children and their parents attended the launch of the 'Do this in Memory of Me' programme, a parish based programme of preparation for First Communion centred in the parish celebration of the Sunday Eucharist and in the home. The programme facilitates parents' / guardians', families' and the parishes' active involvement in the preparation for the Sacrament. It complements and supports the work of our school Sacramental preparation. Our parish youth worker, Mrs Kathryn Ellis, outlined the programme. Each P4 class will host a mass in St. Patrick's church throughout the year.



Our P5-P7 attended our beginning of year mass on 27th September. It was a lovely ceremony with Fr Mc Caughey noting how reverent our children were during the Mass. Fr Mc Caughey wished the whole school every blessing for the academic year. Our thanks to Fr Mc Caughey for all his support.

Our class assemblies began this year on Monday 8th October. Parents will be notified when their child's class will be having their assembly. Finally, some important dates for your diary - Confirmation - Thursday 28th February and First Communion- Saturday 18th May.

Many rehearsals are under way for our annual school Nativity Plays. Watch this space! **Mrs Comey (RE / PDMU co-ordinator)**



Foyle Film Festival

The Foyle Film Festival Education Programme returned this year with a diverse range of local and international films, presentations and hands-on workshops from Monday, November 19 to Friday, November 30. As part of Foyle Film Festival, the P.6 year group attended Brunswick Moviebowl for a special screening of Incredibles 2 on 23rd November at 10am. Mrs Smith's class also attended a Sound and Vision workshop based on the Incredibles 2 movie on 20th November and Mrs Moore's class attended an Animation with Ipad workshop on the same day. We are delighted that our pupils have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to meet with experts from the local film industry in a masterclass and workshop situation. Our pupils explored different animation techniques to communicate the story through the making of collaborative clips, all of which used 'green screen'. Perhaps we will have planted the seed for some future animators from St Patrick's! **The P.6 teachers.**





Children who received Silver and Bronze Certificates for Attendance in 2017 –2018.



Children in the Foundation Stage who received Attendance Certificates for 2017-18.

School Attendance

Regular school attendance is a very important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Each year, there are just 190 statutory school days. If your child were to miss one day a week for their whole time at school, they would miss the equivalent of two years' school!

As you can see, each year, a large number of pupils in our school achieve 100% attendance; showing that this is an achievable target. In addition, a number of pupils have achieved this level of attendance for a number of years. We are very, very proud of the excellent attendance in St. Patrick's. Pupils with excellent attendance in St. Patrick's are rewarded with certificates at assembly. Well done to our many pupils who have excellent attendance records.

Mrs. Mc Sheffrey (Vice Principal)

R.N.I.B visit.

Donna and Danny, from RNIB, visited each of the P.3 classes recently in relation to their topic 'Mighty Me'. The visit highlighted issues relating to visual impairment. The children were taught to guide when blind-folded. We saw many valuable resources, such as liquid / colour indicators and sports equipment adapted to allow the partially sighted to participate using other senses too. We saw a football with an interval rattle and we viewed Harry Potter in braille. It was a very enjoyable and informative visit.
The P.3 teachers.



Accelerated Reading

There are over 27,000 reading practice quizzes available on books from over 300 publishers on Accelerated Reader. We would encourage parents to monitor their child's / children's progress on Accelerated Reader. The dedicated online book-searching tool **AR BookFinder** is publicly available to pupils, parents, teachers and librarians, so that they can identify appropriate books that are of interest. Our pupils receive regular feedback from AR and teachers can monitor pupils' independent reading. We celebrate successes in Accelerated Reading. Word Millionaire awards are given out at assemblies by the principal, Mr Devlin.

Mrs C. Mc Connell (Accelerated Reading and Library Co-ordinator)



**Accelerated
Reader**

Children in Need



Well done to our band of P.6 children who dressed in fancy dress costumes and stopped traffic. They raised an amazing £1600 for Children in Need!! Log on to our fantastic new website to view the other photos.

C.R.E.D.

We wanted to highlight C.R.E.D even more this year than usual, so the C.R.E.D. noticeboard has been given a very colourful facelift. Please take a minute to stop and look at the noticeboard and familiarise yourself with the main groups which are embraced by C.R.E.D. It is a very eye catching display which shows us that we are all different and special. Diversity is good. If everyone was exactly the same, life would not be as much fun. Also, the very beautiful flower of hands, which was created by our P7 children, reminds us that we are each unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece.



Exciting Workshops.

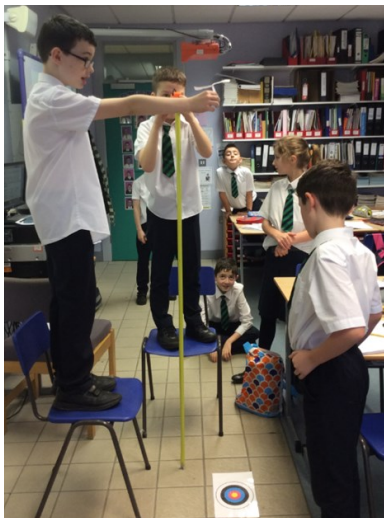
Derry City Council ran a Culture Quarter Week in November. The P4 classes were taught all about Diwali by Sumeeta, who is a member of the local Indian Community. It is always a very exciting and colourful holiday for the Hindus in India and throughout the world, including those who live in Derry. Diwali celebrates the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and is often referred to as the Festival of Lights. The children were taught very interesting facts about the festival and took part in a great follow up art and craft activity.

The P5 classes were taught all about Identity. The workshops looked at how we look different, act differently and believe in different things. This summed up the meaning of C.R.E.D. perfectly. The P6 classes took part in a workshop that raised awareness about Travellers and their traditions. Sinead Crumlish delivered a very interesting presentation and the children took part in follow up arts and crafts activities.

Anti Bullying



Finally, Anti-Bullying Week took place from 12th November – 16th November. The slogan this year was Respect. To highlight this week, the children and staff wore odd socks. Mr Devlin proudly boasted that he wears odds socks every day, so it wasn't a difficult task for him!! I don't think he would have won the best dressed feet competition. More effort next year Mr Devlin!! Again, there is a beautiful art display of all shapes, sizes and colours of socks in the main corridor which highlights that we should all respect each others differences. The children took part in many activities including posters, stories, poems, power points and even an Anti-Bullying Superhero Competition. Look out for the winning Superheroes in the corridor. **Mrs C. Doherty (Cred Co-ordinator)**



World Around Us

Our P.6 pupils visited Gortin Glen Forest park on 8th November and the 27th November as part of our Living Things topic. We had two absolutely brilliant days and the children learned so much by being out in the forest. On the 8th November, it was a lovely fresh day and we were greeted with the magnificent Japanese larch and the needles which had been shed all over the car park, giving it a desert like quality.

The pupils identified native and non-native trees through leaf identification tasks. They made an Andy Goldworthy inspired sun from maple leaves. They found out that native trees provide precious homes for much more wildlife than non native types, and that our ancient trees in Ireland support some of our rarest and most threatened species. In addition, they found out that the dead and decaying wood supports the countless invertebrate species that we have been finding out about in school. The children had great fun building homes for hedgehogs!

Our pupils also learned lots of fascinating facts about red and grey squirrels. They learned that the red squirrel, one of our favourite mammals, is classified as an endangered species. They found out that the decline is due to the North American 'grey squirrel' which has a population of around two million and carries a virus which is deadly to our native red squirrels. One group had the privilege of seeing a red squirrel up close! The pupils saw some red squirrel dreys, built out of sticks high in the trees, out of reach of predators. Both red and grey squirrels eat pine cones. When squirrels eat pine cones, the animals leave behind the cores and stripped scales. Our pupils were given the task of finding many of the cores which had been left behind.

On our return to school, Mrs Kerr's class had great fun investigating if the height of the tree affects the distance that the seed is dispersed. They dropped sycamore key models from a height of 160cm and from the top of the stairs. They found out that the height of the tree is significant in the dispersal of the seed.

The other half of our year group are due to visit Gortin Glens on the 27th November. We hope they have as good a time as we did! Many thanks to Mrs Mc Connell who set up the contact in Gortin Glen Forest Park for us. We hope to visit this venue annually. **Mrs Kerr, Mrs Moore, Mrs Adlard, Mrs Callan and Mrs Smith (P.6)**