

Newsletter November 2021

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher meetings will take place from the 22nd to the 29th of November. Times will be sent to all parents this week. Due to Covid-19 the meeting will be conducted by telephone. If you are unable to take the call please put a note in your child's homework diary.

2nd Class Library Visit

On Thursday 14th October, we went to our local library in Gort to meet Mary Murphy who wrote a very nice book called 'Only a tree knows how to be a tree'. We read the book in class before we went. Mary told us that she grew up in Kilcolgan, Co. Galway but that she now lives in Dublin.

We asked her who the illustrator of her book was as we could not find the name on the cover of her book. She told us that she was both the author and the illustrator! Her drawings were fantastic. She drew wonderful pictures of all the types of living things that live on our planet and we talked about the special nature of each living thing- including us!

Afterwards, we all drew pictures on a huge white sheet that we were all sitting on about all the different living things in the book. When we worked together we drew a masterpiece!

We really enjoyed our visit to the library and we gave Mary 10/10 for her book!

STEM Workshop

To mark Science Week 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes participated in a STEM workshop on Friday the 12th of November. The children really enjoyed it. Here is some feedback from 6th Class:

"On Friday we did a Lego STEM workshop and it was very enjoyable and fun. We started off talking about dinosaurs and we built our own dinosaurs that could move around with motors. When we were done we had time to experiment and modify our own stuff we made and it was a blast. If I were to ever get the chance to do it again I definitely would."

"It was great fun, we got to learn about different types of species of fascinating dinosaurs and then we moved on to the lego which was so fun and easy. I would definitely rate them a 10/10 for all the fun they gave us"

Foróige

Gort Youth Group "Foróige" will visit this week and next week to do two STEAM workshops with 5th Class and 6th Class. They will do two workshops based on the areas of science, technology, engineering, art and maths. We look forward to their visit.

"How to Catch a Star"

Branar Theatre Company have adapted Oliver Jeffers How to Catch a Star and we will be streaming this wonderful show into classes from Junior Infants to 2nd Class on the week of December 6th. Many children will be familiar with this book already and we hope they enjoy the stunning puppet show.

Hurling

3rd Class and 1st Class have been enjoying hurling for the past few weeks. We are very grateful to Gort Hurling Club for this. Thanks to Ms. Brenda Killilea who helped to organise it.

Credit Union Art Competition Winner

Congratulations to Shuqi Lin and Taylor Burke both pupils in 5th Class who won prizes in the Art Competition that was held by the Credit Union in October. Well done Shuqi and Taylor!

Anti-Bullying Week

This week the children from Junior Infants to 6th class will take part in Anti-Bullying week. They will learn all about difference, acceptance and what to do if they or anyone they know is being bullied. We look forward to some fun on "Odd Sock Day" when the children and teachers can wear odd socks to show that we are all unique and that it's OK to be different. The children will also design Anti-Bullying posters to demonstrate that we are a bully free zone.

Peace Proms

We are delighted the Peace Proms is coming back in February 2022. Pupils from 3rd to 6th class will be preparing songs for the concert. We can't wait!

Active School Flag (Renewal)

It's time for Gort NS to get moving again. A committee of pupils from 1st to 6th Class has been selected. Our aim is to walk the distance of Coole Park to The Cliffs of Moher (53 km) over the next few months. The younger classes are combining their efforts to walk 53 km but 3rd to 6th are attempting the 53km individually. Our lunchtimes are more active now as each class gets the chance to use skipping ropes, hula hoops, beanbags or soft balls.

We will keep you up to date with all our activities in the coming months. Try to encourage your children to be more active and to move more at home. Thank you for your support.

Board of Management Agreed Report

The last Board of Management (BOM) meeting was held on the 7th of October. At this meeting the BOM welcomed everyone back to school. A special welcome was extended to all new pupils and staff members. Congratulations to the pupils who received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in August. Sympathies were extended to Mr Michéal Moloney on the death of his mother. Sympathies were extended to Mrs Judith Gantley on the death of her father in law. Sympathies were extended to Breda O'Connor on the death of her mother in-law. Work is now underway for the planning application for the new school building. The next BOM meeting is scheduled to take place on the 9th of December 2021.

School Closures

There will be a half day closure on Friday the 17th of December to facilitate training in the Primary Language Curriculum for the staff. The Tubber Rd Building will close at 11:50am and the Convent Building will close at 12 noon.

Christmas Holidays - School will finish on Wednesday 22nd of December. Children on the Tubber Rd. finish at 11:50am and children in the Convent finish at 12 noon. We will return to school on Thursday the 6th of January 2022.

Road Safety

Please speak to your child about the importance of road safety on their way to and from school. It has been brought to the school's attention by drivers in the area that some children have poor road awareness and we would like everyone to be safe on the way to and from school especially on these darker days. If your child has a hi-vis jacket please encourage them to wear it.