

Scoil Mhuire Newsletter – November 2020



This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. We have had a very busy time in the school since our mid-term break. Well done to the children and teachers for all the hard work they are doing. Although things are different to usual, there is still a huge amount of activity going on in the school at the moment!

- **Junior Infants** had their school photos taken last week and will have their hearing tests and immunisations before Christmas. They really enjoyed investigating with magnets lately.
- **Senior Infants** had great fun learning about static electricity during Science Week. Who would have thought that you could actually stand on a balloon without popping it? – Check out their photos on the website.
- **1st classes** did a very interesting Science experiment with gummy bears for Science Week. Ms. Doyle's class have signed up to the 'Picker Pals' Programme with Intel where they get the chance to do some litter picking. They are enjoying the programme and love looking after the environment. Ms. Hughes' class made gorgeous Snowmen to add to their collection of artwork.
- **2nd classes** have beautiful elephants on display in their classrooms and during Science Week they had great fun making an explosion in a bag and carrying out the bouncy egg experiment! They have learned all about the Solar System.



There was great excitement in **3rd class** this week as they completed their studies on Egypt. They have lovely Egyptian Art on display outside their classroom and enjoyed an Egyptian day on Thursday where the children came to school dressed as Egyptians. Each child created a board game which included facts about Egypt. They would have loved to invite other classes to try out their games but unfortunately that was not possible with Covid restrictions but they played with their classmates and their wonderful board games will be on display next week in the corridors.

- **4th Class** have also had a great few weeks doing Science experiments. They especially enjoyed making butter and lava lamps. They have had a few GAA training sessions with Coach Michael and have lovely Christmas Art (cups of hot chocolate and Christmas trees) on display.



A huge well done to the **5th classes** who worked very hard on their excellent Mini Scientist projects which were presented and judged this week and which are now on display in the corridor for the other classes to see. This year they had to complete their projects on their own instead of as part of a group which was an added challenge. Ms Cleary's class have planted lovely flowers at the front of the school and Ms. Milner's class ran a marathon!!

- **The 6th classes** had their Confirmation Commitment Ceremony via webcam last week. Many thanks to Fr. Karl for celebrating the mass. Ms. O Mara's class had great fun creating domino trails to examine the effects of forces on objects. They also made fantastic Stopmotion pictures which are definitely worth checking out on the website. Ms Munroe's class did brilliant projects on the Native Americans, made catapults out of lollipop sticks when learning about forces and had great fun when they turned their classroom into a Christmas Workshop.
- There has been a lovely smell of baking and cooking coming from **Rooms 3 and 4** lately as they have been busy making pizzas, cupcakes and pancakes. They have also enjoyed a few lovely walks around Leixlip.



- ❖ The **Student Council** have reintroduced lunchtime activities - Junior Games and Senior Table Tennis. It takes a lot of planning to ensure that these activities are carried out in a safe manner and we say well done to them for their perseverance! They also organised a poster competition to promote the school's new Vision Statement and a whole school display where they asked each class to draw different coloured hand prints and used them as leaves on a large tree – it is a fabulous display that can be viewed on the website. The Council are working hard under the guidance of Ms. O' Mara and have really stepped up to the mark in challenging times and enjoy regular trips to the office to make announcements to the whole school.

- ❖ The **Folens Christmas Annuals** will be distributed this week to those who placed orders.



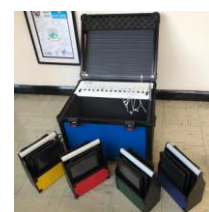
- ❖ There are lots of **displays of artwork** on the corridors which we will post to the website in the coming days.

- ❖ **Parent Teacher Meetings** for 6th, 5th and 3rd classes have taken place via phone over the past few weeks. 4th class parent teacher meetings will commence next week.



Last week we had a **Remembrance Service for November** to remember those who have died. Like with our assemblies, we had this via zoom.

- ❖ Ms. O Grady is working hard promoting **wellbeing** in the school and she has even created a trolley of wellbeing books for classes to read. We all look forward to 'Wellbeing Wednesday' every Wednesday.
- ❖ Thanks to Ms. Cleary for all her work on the website and looking after IT in our school. We are absolutely delighted with the 16 new Ipads and Ipad trolley which recently arrived and which was **funded by the PTA**. We are so grateful to the PTA for all they do to provide the extra resources for the children in our school. Unfortunately the PTA won't be having the annual Christmas Fair this year but they have organised a Christmas Raffle instead as a fundraiser for the three schools. If you would like to buy tickets for the raffle please go to www.idonate.ie/raffle/leixlipptaraffle. The PTA will also be selling the 2021 school calendars in December. Our share of the money raised from 'Strictly Come Dancing' will be used to replace the floor and improve the facilities in the school hall which we are all looking forward to.



- ❖ 3rd to 6th classes will attend **internet safety talks** next week provided by Barnardos.
- ❖ We recently updated our Internet Acceptable Use Policy and wrote a Remote Teaching and Learning Policy which can be viewed on the **School Policies** page of our website www.scoilmhuireleixlip.net.
- ❖ Due to restrictions we **will not be having a Carol Service or Open day** this year. Classes will however post artwork and maybe even a poem or song on their web pages towards the end of term. We will also be decorating the front of the school for Christmas as we had so many compliments about our Halloween display.
- ❖ This year as we are not having an Open Day, the Student Council will not be able to collect for the **St. Vincent de Paul** like they usually do each year. We do however still want the children to remember that Christmas is a time of giving and caring for others. We have decided that Our Christmas Jumper Day this year will be held in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul and children can make a small donation on the day. As always the money collected will go directly to Leixlip families in need of some help this Christmas.



County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) are promoting a Light Up Kildare Purple event on 3rd December to coincide with **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**. The aim of the day is to promote the rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities. To support this initiative, the school will fly a purple flag on the day.

- ❖ **We are currently accepting applications for enrolments for Junior Infants - September 2021. Application Forms are available on the website.**

Dates for your diary: School will close on Tuesday 22nd December for the Christmas holidays at 12.30pm and reopen on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

We are looking forward to lots more activities in December!!

