



# St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



## November



## Samhain

### Welcome to November's Newsletter

Dear parents and children,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to Christmas. The toy show tomorrow will get us all in the festive mood.

This month the children had assemblies with the theme of remembering those who died. The children decorated leaves and added the names of those who have passed away in our families. 2<sup>nd</sup> class have begun the process of enrolling for First Holy Communion and 6<sup>th</sup> class for their Confirmation. The parish is very organised and we are thankful for their support with this.

We continue to focus on pupil well-being. Children are doing mindfulness, marathon kids, go noodle for classroom exercise, yoga and each class has an additional outdoor time slot for learning. Homework has been standardised across the school with less being given to allow the children to have down time. This is important.

Thank you for your support with the Christmas card fundraiser, always a popular one. This year we will be also selling calendars. These will be out shortly. Each month has a photo of the class so it's a lovely one to keep for the future.

We are hoping to hold our School Christmas Carol Service outside during the last week in December. Unfortunately, this is for the children only. The classes will be kept apart as we will do three services to ensure we are not mixing the bubbles!

Thank you also for your continued support in relation to keeping the school open and safe. I hope the children are still happy to be back as I know the staff would feel that even though it can be stressful at times it is wonderful to be back teaching the children. Remember your child can wear extra layers to keep warm and please continue to make sure your child has a coat with a hood for those wet days.

This year we ask that children do not distribute Christmas Cards and please remember that no cuddly toys/any toy should come in from home. This is to keep us all safe. Thank you.

School closes on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December for the Christmas holidays at 12 noon for Ms Kiernan, 12.10 for Ms McKiernan and 12.20 for Mr Hall. All other children will leave according to their surname A- G at 12.20 H-N at 12.30 and O-Z at 12.40. Due to Covid, siblings of infants will go down according to their surname **not** with the infant classes as we would have done in the past.

Parent-teacher meetings will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February this year. We will be in touch after Christmas to let you know the format and the timing of them.

Mrs Murphy

Read on to see what was happening in school this month.

Science Week was an exciting week with lots of interesting activities taking place.

Lava lamps 3<sup>rd</sup> class

Making Butter in junior infants

Making Slime 4<sup>th</sup> class



Learning about sound.



Meeting our school hedgehog



### Green Flag:

Ms O' Mahony's class went to visit the beach to study litter, waste and marine life. They also practised their

long jump!



The student council/Yellow Flag under the direction of Mr Callaghan and Ms Kiernan organised a whole school competition called 'Someone like me'. This competition raised awareness around disability and how it is important to see the person not the disability. The children were very creative with a class making a video of their collective work. Here is a house designed for someone who lives in a wheelchair.



Some excellent posters highlighting that we are all different.



Many of us enjoy doing the same things.



See the person not the disability.

### Pet Visits:

Ms O Mahony's class have had various pets in to visit (socially distanced outside!) over the past few weeks. We have had lovely dogs and even a bearded dragon. The children had to speak about their pet. Here is a very well -behaved dog with her owner.





Finally, a big thank you to you all and to the Parents' Association for the purchase of notebooks for the senior children. We are working on integrating teaching and learning with ICT. The Parents' Association contributed €3350 for this project.

