

Dear Parents,

A month in already, it's crazy how the time flies! The children are settling in very nicely into Senior Infants and First Class. New friendships are forming with the joining of the two classes and the addition of a few new wonderful pupils. It's also important to acknowledge the old friendships that are strengthening which is a wonderful thing to see.

We've spent a lot of September implementing new routines and classroom procedures. The children now have classroom jobs which they take very seriously. I believe that these responsibilities are so important to encourage the children to take ownership of and pride in their class. It is going very well so far!



Below is a brief overview of the work we have done over the month of September:

Literacy/Phonics

We have begun reading a collection of Enid Blyton stories which the children really enjoy. I find reading stories to the class really beneficial as it gives them the opportunity to retain key information, it strengthens their ability to sequence a story, it gives them the chance to analyse characters and provides them with a richer bank of vocabulary.

We have also been focusing hugely on phonics which will continue into October.

Senior Infants have been revising Group 1 and 2 of their Jolly Phonics along with CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, blending and initial, final and medial sounds eg. What sound is missing in 'C_T'? The answer is 'A'.

First class have been focusing on Consonant digraphs eg. Sh, ch, th, wh, ph, Final sounds: -nk, -st along with a revision of blending from last year.



****Please remember to regularly practice sounds and blending with your child.**

Gaeilge

This year, we have started a new Irish interactive programme, called Bua Na Cainte. The children have really enjoyed the songs, poetry and games that this programme provides. We have also focused hugely on gaeilge neamhfhormúil (informal Irish). I'm sure you have noticed the children greeting me as gaeilge every morning, this use of Irish in their everyday environment has been really wonderful thing to see grow and develop.

Some of the key phrases we have been working on which you could implement at home:

- Dia duit? Dia is Mhuire duit. (Hello)
- Conas atá tú? Tá mé go maith (How are you? I am good)
- Faigh ___ dom. (Get ___ for me)
- Go raibh maith agat. Tá fáilte romhat. (Thank you. You are welcome)
- Tá ocras orm / Tá tart orm. (I'm hungry / I'm thirsty)



Numeracy

This month we focused on a lot of revision with both classes. I'm finding that the spilt class is fantastic for helping the First Class revise previous topics (number formation and composition of number) and reinforce key knowledge while also giving Senior Infants the opportunity to stretch their ability (subtraction/problem-solving) without any unnecessary pressure or expectation. We also learned how to play the fun number game, 'Eleven'.



Aistear

Our theme for September was 'Me, Myself and I'. The children did loads of fun activities in the different play areas (Construction, Smallworld, Roleplay) but their favourite this month was the science experiment. We analysed the affect heating and cooling had on food that we eat at home eg. Eggs, butter and chocolate. It caused much discussion in their groups and was extremely entertaining!

Photos from our 'Me, Myself and I' theme:



*I would like to give a special shout out to First Class for the great work they have done on their cursive writing. I have seen a huge improvement since we started. They should be so proud of themselves!



Finally, we are very fortunate for the month of October to have a visitor in the class. Orlaith is a Gaeilgeoir who has a huge drama and arts background. Her participation in the class will mean that I will be able to do an even bigger phonics blast over the course of the month which will be very helpful for the class.

That's all the news for now! I will send you a similar email next month to let you know what we did during the month of October.

Kind regards,
Gráinne