

Dear Parents,

Halloween break! I can't believe how fast it has crept up on us. The class have had such a productive October. We have spent a lot of time in the school garden, making use of our very popular sand box, planting strawberry plants and admiring our growing beautiful Willow Dome. Thank you, Rebecca (Holly's Mum) for the great help!



We also received some wonderful news. After huge dedication and work last year, the school won a 'SFI Discover Science and Maths' plaque. The class were absolutely delighted with the achievement (as you can see from their faces 😊) and have committed to continued enthusiasm in science and maths going forward.



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

Literacy/Phonics

We continued with our Enid Blyton collection of stories and are currently on 'The Pole Star Family'. We have also spent much time building upon vocabulary relating to Autumn and Halloween. Here are some of the stories we have really enjoyed - 'Don't Hog the Hedge', 'Creepy Pair of Underwear', 'Little Acorns' and 'There is a Ghost in This House'.

A huge emphasis was put on building upon their creative thinking skills, especially in terms of story-telling, they have also practiced their prediction skills, their summarisation skills and even made their own book covers. Very impressive!

Senior Infants have been revising Group 3 and 4 of their Jolly Phonics along with the second two groups of tricky words. They have also been given readers for homework (very exciting) which they are encouraged to read **every night**.

First class have been focusing on Final sounds -st, -ft, -nt, -sk, -lt and have also been doing a blast of Jolly Phonics (group 5). Again, **nightly reading** of their readers is extremely important and will support further learning.



Gaeilge

In our class, a huge emphasis is put on making Irish a **living language** and we've been very fortunate with our Student Teacher, Orlaith who is a gaeilgeoir. She has reinforced our aim in a fun and interactive way by introducing more fun songs, games and key vocabulary to the class. They are loving it!

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

- Oíche Shamhna atá ann. (It is Halloween night)
- An maith leat __? (Do you like?)
- Is/Ní maith liom __ (I do/I don't like)
- Fuair mé an fainne. (I got the ring)
- Faigh __ dom, más é do thoil é. (Give me __, please)



Numeracy

We have focused hugely on number work over the past few weeks, primarily regarding number combinations eg. How many different ways can you make the number 12?

Eg. $10+2=12$ $5+7=12$ $4+8=12$

To reinforce this, they have also been rearranging counters in various ways to determine that the resulting number does not change.

Constructing number sentences was another aspect of their learning, this was done through problem solving.

Eg. Anna ate 9 sweets, Jenna ate 5 sweets. How many sweets did they eat altogether?

Number sentence: $9+5=14$



Aistear

Our theme for October was 'Autumn'. The children did loads of fun activities in the different play areas this month. In Roleplay, they pretended they were hibernating animals preparing for Winter and in Construction they built homes for the animals from our story, 'Don't Hog the Hedge'. Over the few weeks, our Art Station was also very busy, the children make hanging paper pumpkins, tissue paper ghosts and as a sensory activity used broccoli and paint to make Autumn trees.



The most popular Aistear activity this month, however, was designing our Autumn boxes. The children observed the different colours we see around Autumn. Using these colours as inspiration, they decorated their boxes with coloured paper and paint. They also ventured

outside into our school garden where they collected various foliage to make their boxes suitable homes for creepy crawlies and little animals. A lot of fun was had!



After mid-term, we plan on celebrating Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas. If there are any festivals or celebrations that you would like us to mark over the coming months, please let me know.

Finally, below is some fun photos from our Samhain party and attached is a recording of our 'Autumn Song'. The class worked very hard on their choreography. We hope you enjoy!

<https://fb.watch/93rvbi9Uq-/>



Have a super, safe and spooooooky Halloween break.

Kind regards,
Gráinne

