

Dear Parents,

The first month of 2022 complete, thank goodness! We've had a busy few weeks in Senior Infants and First class and the time has flown. Have a look below at what we've gotten up to:

### Literacy/Phonics

This month our book choices were based on our Aistear theme, 'Chinese New Year'. The children had great fun reading the 'Chinese New Year Story' which taught them about the Chinese zodiac and the competition between the animals. They also learned what their zodiac animal was which caused a lot of excitement!

Both Senior Infants and First Class started their Rainbow reader this month also. For the next few weeks, this reader will be used as homework and will be consolidated in class through group reading and targeted work on comprehension skills (prediction, categorising, recalling, key word spelling reinforcement etc).



### Gaeilge

For the month of January, we have been focusing on the theme, 'Sa Bhaile'. During Irish lessons, the children particularly love coming to the top of the class and demonstrating the meaning of the different phrases. We find Conor's teddy, 'Hug Me' very useful for explaining things too!

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

- Tá sé in am dul a chodladh (it is time to go to bed)
- Cuir na héadaí isteach sa chófra éadaí (Put the clothes in the wardrobe)
- Tá tuirse orm (I am tired)
- Múch an solas (Turn of the light)
- Las an lampa (Turn on the lamp)
- Oíche mhaith (Good night)



## Numeracy

Senior Infants have been working on 3D shapes and days of the week. Below are some ways you could help you child with these topics:

- Ask your child to share the day of the week every morning.
- Ask them what day yesterday was? What day will tomorrow be? Etc.
- Do a shape hunt around your house to find spheres, cylinders, cubes, cuboids etc.

First class have started tens and units which is an extremely important topic for them. We have been doing a lot of hands-on work using cubes. It is a tricky concept, but they are progressing excellently.

If you would like to do more work at home, please try this website -

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/place-value/place-value-charts>



### Aistear

Our theme for January was, 'Chinese New Year'. The children had fun in all our different stations including our Chinese restaurant in our 'Roleplay Area', our Great Wall of China in our 'Construction Area' and our 'Art Area' where they made amazingly colourful Chinese lanterns.

The station which really stood out, as usual, was our Science Experiment Station. We observed how mixing vinegar and bicarbonate of soda caused a reaction which made our noodles dance. An additional reaction was the shock on the children's faces when everything started fizzing 😊





That's all for now.

I hope you tackle February with the same enthusiasm as our lovely Lola below! 😊

Gráinne

