

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> class have had a great start to 2024. We have learnt about Antarctic explorers, we have focused on improving our fine motor skills, we have designed our own cities, learnt through play, and we have also been taking part in the Fyffes fittest school competition.

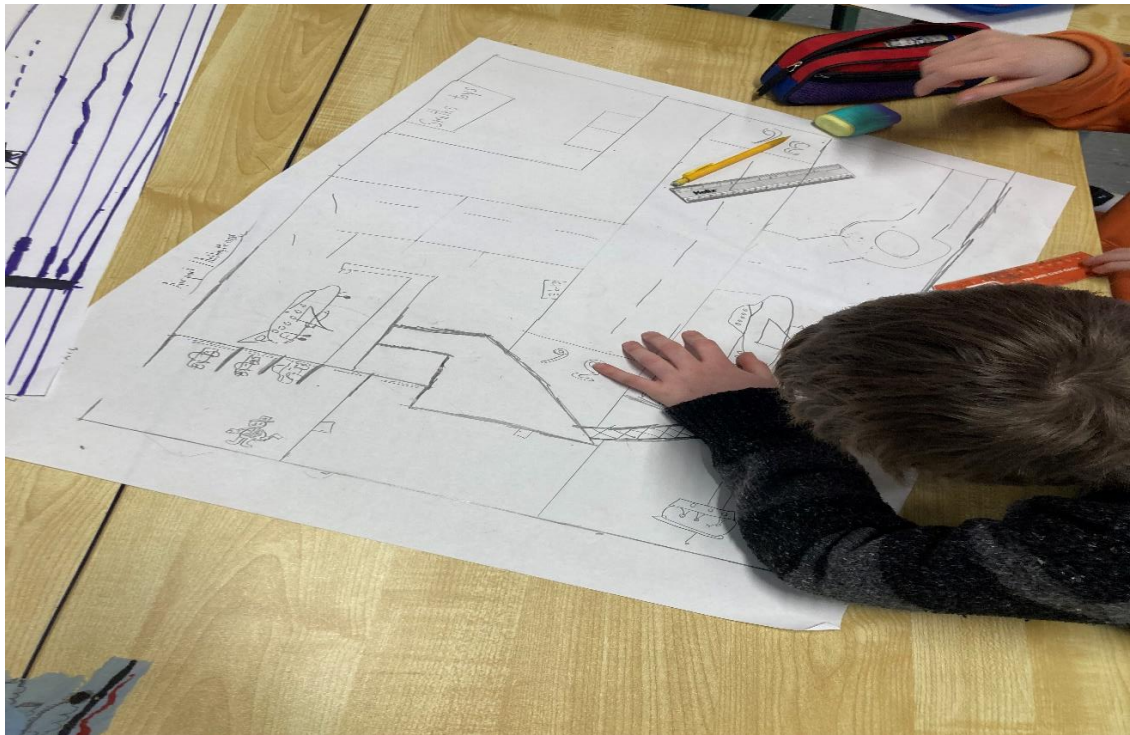
Here are some of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class students taking part in the Fyffes Ireland's fittest school 2024 competition.



The Fyffes fittest school Ireland competition focuses on children exercising as part of their movement breaks in school. There are 10 key exercises which the children are learning and doing as part of the programme. These exercises are connected to the primary school curriculum's *move well move often* programme. Each week we log our activity and receive banana points, we're competing with schools all over the country.

### **Numeracy**

During January the children learnt all about shape, space, symmetry, lines and angles they also revised other topics through hands on games and activities. On Friday mornings the children still focus on hands on maths tasks and games, this has helped them to reinforce what they have previously learnt in class, we continue to add new resources to the classroom which has made these games more engaging. During the week the children also participate in a variety of critical thinking activities including maths eyes, would you rather, which one doesn't belong and number talk. Pictured below is a photo of one of the cities that was created. Their cities had to contain regular and irregular shapes, parallel lines and had to have a code that brought you from one location to another using terminology like clockwise and anti-clockwise to direct you.





## English

This month the children have been focusing on narrative writing. We have done this through a structured approach looking at how we construct stories. The children have created settings for their stories, looked at potential problems that might arise in their stories and how or if these are resolved in the end. They also created their own characters, describing their appearance, behaviour, interests and their role in the story. The students have written a draft of their story but are continuing to add and edit as they go. The children are also given an unstructured time in the class in which to explore their writing, this happens during our free writing time when the children are given a choice board which allows them to decide what they want to write about.



## Geography and History

This month the children have been finding out all about the famous Irish explorer Tom Crean and his expeditions to the Antarctic in early 1900s. They completed projects in groups along with art work of the three famous boats that Tom Crean travelled in. The children were amazed to find out that he ran away from home when he was just 15 to join the Navy and they loved learning about all of his adventures and dangerous experiences.





The children learning collaboratively through play.



Some of the children in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class modelling our new Woodstock ETNS jerseys after basketball training.

It has been a great start to 2024. We have a lot of exciting things to look forward to this year starting with our Forest School adventures which start this Wednesday!

Best wishes,

Philip