



NEWS @ St.Comgall's

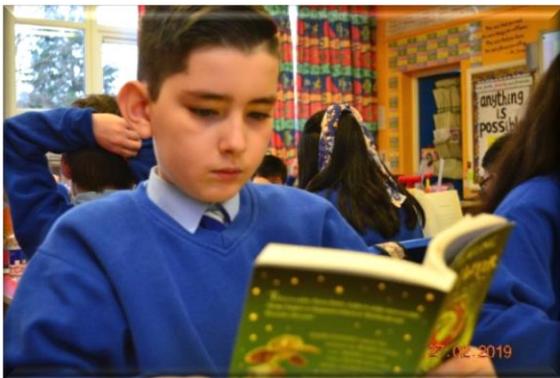
ISSUE 2: 2018 - 2019



UTV Live @ St. Comgall's Top Award School Makes the News



Thursday 28th February was a day for P.6B to remember. UTV Live came in to video us! Everybody was bursting with excitement. After break-time everyone got into their seats and waited eagerly for the crew to come in. Every now and then a van would pull into the school carpark and everybody would dash to the window. At last they came in. We were in awe as Judith Hill and the camera man introduced themselves. They put a mic onto Mrs Magee and asked her to continue teaching as normal. Then we started to do what we (and it's a fact!) do best – read! While we were reading the camera man passed all the tables showing all of us reading. When we finished that shot they placed stools near the front of the classroom for interviews. They first interviewed Mrs Magee. After they interviewed Mr Matthews. Mr Matthews remarked that in a world where books are competing with innovative modern technology it is great to see books coming out on top. After Mr Matthews finished the interview UTV started to interview students. They asked questions about the books we were reading. Finally, we all got into a huddle and finished the news report. We got this amazing opportunity because we are the best performing school in Northern Ireland for Accelerated reading! In St. Comgall's we have readers in our school, not just learners of reading.



By Aleena Juby P.6B





CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Christmas Jumpers were the order of the day to raise some money for school funds. The children had a wonderful time and the school was truly festive – every child and staff member took part. Great Fun was had by all!! We raised:

£2,078.05

This includes gift aid of 25% that our fundraising team have also managed to claim back! Wonderful! – Thank you all for your very generous donations and thanks to the Fundraising Group for their hard work.



Primary Schools Programmes

Cancer Focus NI visited all children in the school on Thursday 10th January. They spoke to them on a variety of topics from their Primary Schools' Programme.

The team from Cancer Focus NI told the children - Genevieve, our healthy farmyard goat visits schools with an important message about healthy eating and physical activity. Genevieve encourages her friends in P.1 & P.2 to get fit and healthy in order to win the Farmyard Olympics.

Genevieve also gives our P.2 children an important message about getting adequate sleep and keeping our bodies healthy.

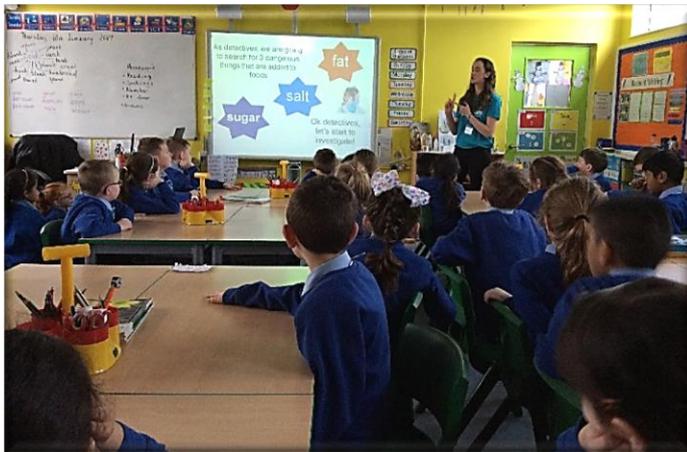
P.3 children become 'Fit Factor Superheroes' through this informative and fun-filled programme. It requires pupils to examine their lifestyle in terms of physical activity. They learn to differentiate between light, moderate and intense activity and to manage their time as they work towards attaining their 60-minute target of physical activity each day.

P.4 children became 'Food Detectives' when investigating the confusing labelling of processed foods. They will become experts in detecting the fat, sugar and salt content in foods. Pupils will develop decision-making skills to make better choices in the future about processed foods.

P.5 children learnt that skin cancer accounts for 30% of all cancer diagnoses in NI and is on the increase. Professor UV Ray supervises students using UV beads to investigate the effect of the sun on our skin. He also introduces pupils to the 'Slip, Slap, Slop, Slide, Shade' approach to sun safety when outdoors.

Our P.6 children learnt that pupils who experiment with smoking are at greater risk of becoming a daily smoker in adulthood. They joined the Smokebusters club and become aware of the dangers of second-hand smoke and how to avoid it. Pupils learnt about the nature of addiction to nicotine, sugar and other substances and develop skills to exercise self-control.

In Year 7 the harmful effects of the chemicals in a cigarette were highlighted, and through role play empowered pupils to use assertiveness skills to resist experimentation.



Northern Ireland Road

Safety Quiz

We went to the NI Road Safety Quiz on Wednesday 16th January 2019. It was at the Civic Centre in Mosley Hill. There were a lot of schools there including Antrim Primary and St. Joseph's. There were seven rounds of eight questions. The rounds included anagrams, road signs, word searches and general knowledge. At the end there was a four way tie for first place and we were one of them and so were Antrim Primary. The deciding question was very hard and in the end and we came 3rd. The prizes were presented by the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. We also got goodie bags, crisps and a drink. We are very proud of our achievement.

**By Eva Kelly P.7A, Darragh Brennan P.7B,
Luke Barro P.7B and Grace Lavery P.7A**

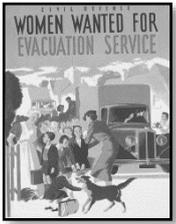


Congratulations and well done, Eva, Darragh, Luke and Grace.

Robotics Workshop with Sentinus

On Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th January, P4 and P6 took part in a robotics workshop organised by Sentinus. The workshop promotes engagement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths), with the children having the opportunity to problem solve and develop their coding skills. All of the children enjoyed learning about the role of robots in our world and they rose to the challenge of programming their own robots to complete a task.





St. Comgall's News



No. 38,351

ST. COMGALL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ANTRIM FRIDAY JANUARY 11TH 2019

ONE PENNY

Child Evacuees Ready to Leave Home



On Friday 11th of January P4C and P4A performed an assembly about World War Two. We all dressed up as evacuees. Most people had parts to say about what happened to the evacuees. At the start we all sang an evacuation song that we learnt with Antrim Primary, who were learning about World War Two as well. Everybody sang a rap at the end. We were put into groups and all of our groups had two verses to sing. Before we were about to sing our rap we all turned around and put on **SUNGLASSES!!!** Everybody who was watching our assembly laughed. Our War Assembly went **EXTREMELY** well!!! We got lots and lots of claps. We went back to class so happily and we were going to do our test but we got to go to the **TRAIN STATION!!!** We walked there and took some photos, it was as if we were actually evacuated.



By Ethan Hassan P.4C



Maxol Donation

Just before Christmas we went to an indoor five aside Gaelic competition called Cumann na mBunscol. We did very well, we came second with a team of P7s. In our first game we lost so then we needed to come back and win every game which we did. While we were waiting we watched the other teams play to see who we would be playing in the semi-finals. We won the semi-finals and got through to the final. We played St Mary's, Portglenone and while we performed well, we got beat 3-2. It was a fun day out, we got slush puppies on the way back to school! When we got back to school we told everyone about our day out, they were happy and proud about how well we had represented our school.



The Maxol Garage on the Ballymena Road, very kindly sponsored our day in the Antrim Forum. Here are players Cailin Short, Torin Hodkinson, P.J. Dinsmore and Tiernan Floyd receiving the cheque from the manageress of the Maxol. Thank you very much for your support.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair came to St Comgall's on the 19th March to 26th March. The book fair is a fantastic way for parents to supplement their child's home reading material. It also helps raise money for books in our school as we can purchase books to a percentage value of all money spent at the fair by parents. This has been a great way in the past of enhancing our school stock. The children were excited to see the book fair in the school foyer and had fun picking a book to buy and bringing it home to read.



This year the school earned

£866.21

Hope everyone enjoyed reading the books they bought.

Thank you very much for all your support.



Grandparents Come to Visit P.1



Here at St. Comgall's we usually have our annual Grandparents Day for Catholic Schools Week but unfortunately due to St. Comgall's Church being closed for renovation, we were unable to have our whole school celebration this year. Our P.1s decided to invite their Grandparents to see them in school on their first year at St. Comgall's. All the Grandparents went along to see their classrooms and the work they have been doing. Everyone then went over to the assembly hall for a nice cup of tea and a bun. The children were so excited to see their Grandparents here in school. Thank you all for coming to support the children.

Dr. Jayaprakash's Visit to P.1

On Tuesday 29th January, Dr. Jayaprakash came to visit all the P1 classes. He is Sheena's daddy. The children were excited to have a doctor in their classroom. He showed them the different equipment a doctor uses and talked to them about how to be healthy. Dr. Jayaprakash showed them some bones, the foot and hand and told them how each finger and toe is made up of three bones. He spoke about healthy hearts and showed the children a model of what our hearts look like. The children really enjoyed Dr. Jayaprakash's visit and thank him for coming to their school.





CAFRE Welcomes Our P.7s



Farm to Fork

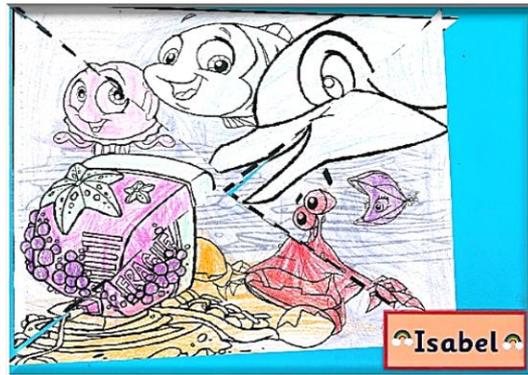
On Monday 21st January 2019 our class went on a field trip to Greenmount. We left school at 9.30 and arrived at Greenmount at 9.45. When we went there we first viewed the milking parlour. This is where we met our guides Michael and Jim, the girls and boys were split up. The girls went with Mr Jones, Mrs Harrison and Michael, the boys were with Mr Phillips, Mrs Duffy, Mrs Gusterson and Jim.

First we went down to the milking parlour, then Jim explained how the cows are milked and the equipment is used. Secondly, we went to see where the milk is stored and kept at 1 to 4 degrees. Just before our break we went to see where the cows are kept, Jim said, "it's like a 5-star hotel for cows", it included bedding, food, water and even a back scratcher! After our break we went to see the calves, they were very friendly and even licked our hands. They had lots of concentrates in their food. They were in small cages as the older calves were allowed to run freely in two pens. We then went to see the igloo which was a shelter to keep them from rain and strong winds.

After that we also went to see a bull and more cows and then we went to see things like tractors and combine harvesters. When we were waiting for the bus we went on a walk so see a pond.

By Conor O'Loan P.7A

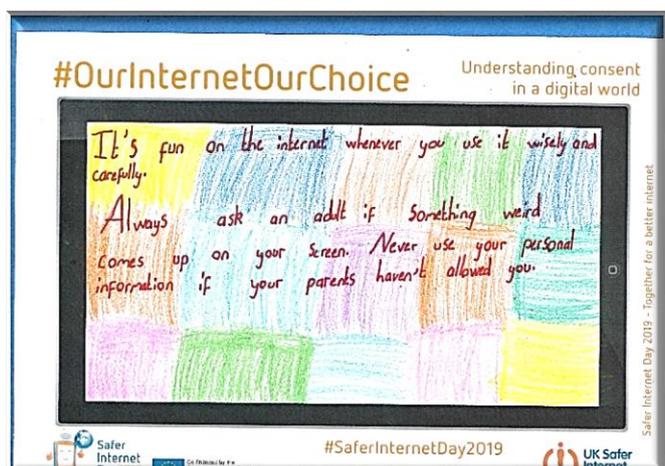
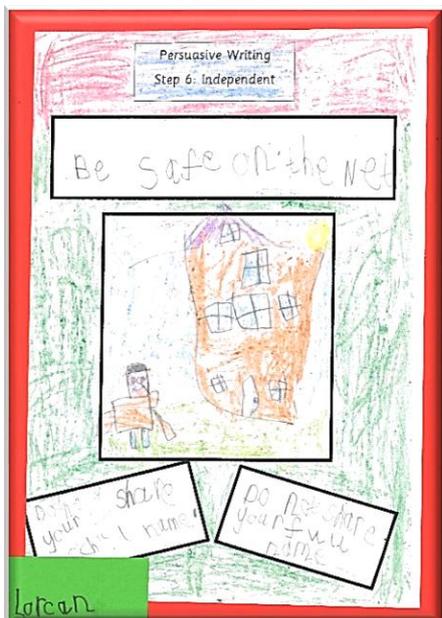
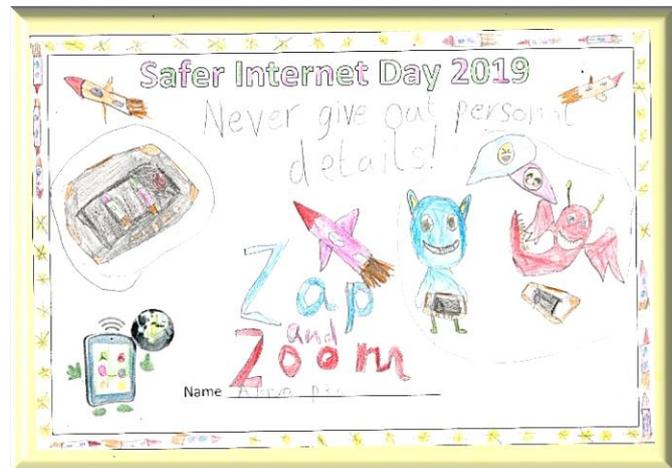
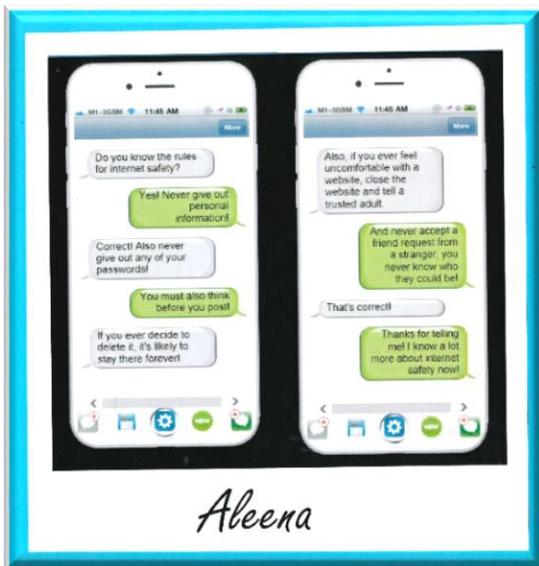
Internet Safety



Safer Internet Day took place on the **5th February 2019** with the theme **“Together for a better internet”**

In school the children worked on promoting safer and more responsible use of online technology.

Our children attended an Internet Safety Presentation from the PSNI on Friday 8th February.



Peace Proms

2019



On Sunday 24th February our school choir took part in the Peace Proms 2019. The Peace Proms is a cross community event. It takes place every two years in the SSE Arena, Belfast. The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland performed with the Belfast Children's Peace Choir which was made up of 3500 Primary School children from all over Northern Ireland. The event was promised to be a huge celebration of youth, music, energy and sheer talent. It proved to be that and more and all the children enjoyed this epic celebration. Well done for singing and dancing so well!



Dinosaurs at the Museum



Yesterday we went to the Ulster Museum in Belfast. I was really excited. We went there for our topic about dinosaurs. We went on a bus. The journey was very long. We went with Mrs O'Neill's and Miss Flanagan's class. My partner was Cora. I was really tired on the bus. We learned a lot in the museum. We went to this room called the Nature room. We had a talk with a man called Mike. In the Nature room we learned about fossils and lots of other things. We all got to hold some dinosaur fossils, teeth and horns. Some of them were heavy and some of them were light. It was really interesting. When we got there we ate our break. We went to the art gallery that was filled with art. We had our lunch and then got the bus back to school. It was a great day.

By: Ayona Shijú P.4C



P.6 Forest Schools



Over the past 2 years as part of Shared Education the children of Primary 6 in Antrim Primary School and St Comgall's have joined the growing trend in primary schools for getting children into the world outside to get hands-on with the natural environment. This is known as Forest Schools.

Forest School began in the early 1900s, with the creation of young people's groups like the Scouts and Woodcraft Folk, which focused on youth camps and outdoor skills. Today outdoor education in schools helps children to learn to assess, appreciate and take risks in an outdoor classroom. They are also challenged to make sensible, informed decisions about how to tackle the activities and experiences they encounter.

Through Shared Education children took part in shelter building, tree maths, recreating nature art work from Andy Goldsworthy, creating nests and learning about myths including old beliefs in "Tree Fairies".

In addition to the benefits of being outdoors, research has shown that it improves mental and spiritual health, communication skills and social relationships, among other things. Children in Primary 6 really loved Forest Schools and the chance to get their hands dirty in Antrim Castle Gardens.



nifsa
Northern Ireland Forest School Association

NSPCC - Speak Out. Stay Safe



The NSPCC's Speak out. Stay Safe. Programme visited our school to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. We worked with the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity, who delivered their programme on Friday 8th March. With the help of their friendly mascot, Buddy, they presented an assembly and workshop to the children.



Birds of Prey Display



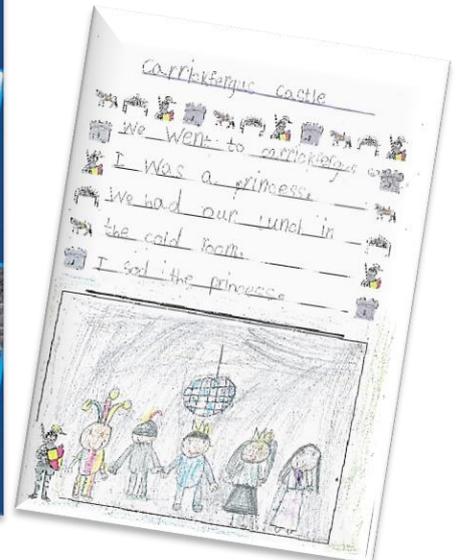
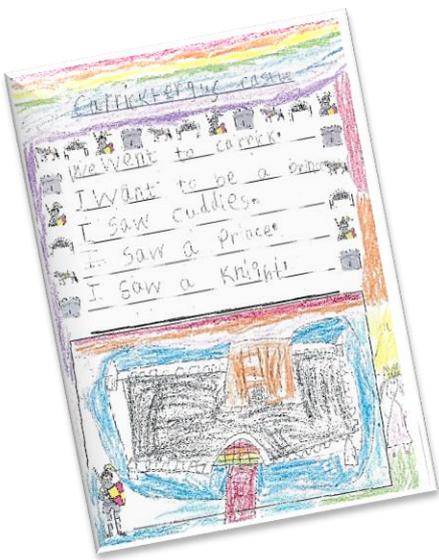
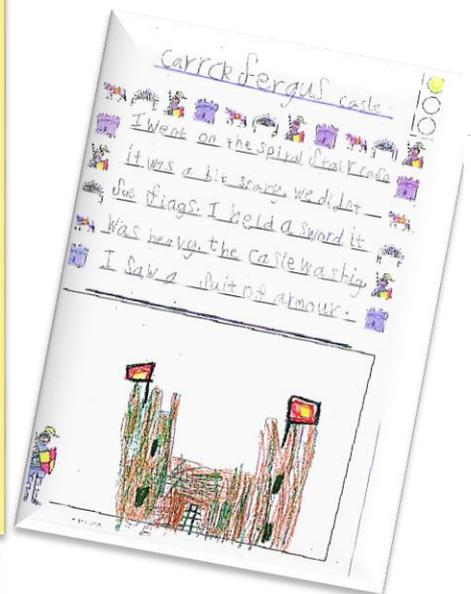
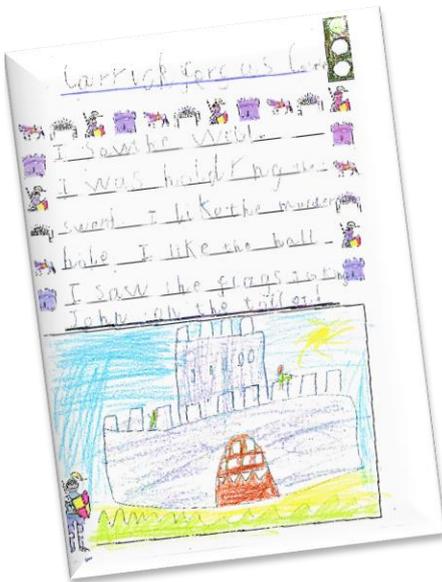
On Monday 11th February our P.5 children, as part of their curriculum topic, were treated to a wonderful birds of prey display. Mr Patterson brought his birds to school and told the children some interesting facts about them. They were able to carefully handle these amazing birds. The children enjoyed this fascinating display. Thanks so much to Mr Patterson.

P.2 Visit Carrickfergus Castle



We saw a well and an axe. There was a guard dog, his name was cuddles. Then we saw Princess Africa and King John on the toilet. It was funny. There were some swords. It was good fun.

By Sienna Strain P.2C



I went in the castle and I saw Princess Africa. I saw a prisoner in the dungeon. I saw King John on the toilet.

By Scarlett McKeown P.2C



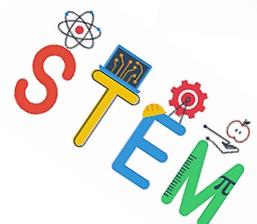


P.5 & ANTRIM PRIMARY



GET CREATIVE WITH K'NEX

Our P5 children were working with Antrim Primary during our Shared Education lessons. As part of the P5 STEM tasks the children needed to create a vehicle using K'Nex. The vehicle needed to hold a plant pot and transport it to the market. They had great fun building their vehicles and then testing them out afterwards! All were a success!





P.1s VISIT THE BUILDING SITE



P.1 CHILDREN VISITED THE BUILDING SITE, HERE IN SCHOOL, AS PART OF THEIR TOPIC 'HOME SWEET HOME'. THE CHILDREN WERE LEARNING ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT JOBS THE BUILDERS DO ON SITE. IT WAS GREAT FOR THEM TO SEE IT IN ACTION! THE CHILDREN MADE SURE THEY WERE BEING SAFE AND ALL WORE THEIR HARD HATS AND HIGH VIZ JACKETS. THEY REALLY ENJOYED SEEING THE BUILDERS AT WORK AND CAN'T WAIT UNTIL ARE NEW EXTENSION IS READY!





Society of African Missions Thumbprint Campaign



On Tuesday 5th March Fr. Dan McAuley and Dympna Mallon came to St. Comgall's to talk to our P.6 & P.7 children about the Thumbprint Campaign. The Thumbprint Campaign for Climate Justice asks individuals to promise or pledge to be better guardians of God's creation. People are asked to take greater care of their own environment where they work or live and to use energy, food and other everyday materials more carefully. The central act of the Thumbprint Campaign for Climate Justice is putting one's thumbprint on a Pledge or Promise Sheet and on a Card containing the Campaign Pledge on one side and a list of recommended acts for Climate Justice on the other. Those participating in the campaign keep the card as a reminder of their commitment to Act for Climate Justice.

WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2019 WAS WORLD BOOK DAY. ON THAT DAY THE CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED IN A RANGE OF DIFFERENT READING ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE SCHOOL AND AS IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, SOME OF OUR P.6 & P.7 CHILDREN WENT TO VISIT THE CHILDREN IN P.1 AND READ BOOKS WITH THEM. THE P.1 CHILDREN CHOICE THEIR FAVOURITE BOOK AND WORE SLIPPERS TO MAKE IT A FUN DAY.



Gaelic Tournament



The Gaelic Team took part in the Primary School Gaelic County Finals on Friday 1st March, at the Antrim Forum. The team played well and were up against strong competition and a few challenging decisions from the Referee. The children enjoyed the day and experience playing in the County Finals. Well Done!!

K'nex Building Challenge

On Thursday 21st March, four P5 pupils took part in a K'nex building challenge at Ballymena Academy. The children had to demonstrate their creative thinking and teamwork skills. All of the children represented their school very well and had a great time.





Green Day for St. Patrick



Primary 5 were working hard on their production of the life of St Patrick. This involved lots of preparation and dedication from the pupils. Our school orchestra opened the show with 'The Sally Gardens', followed by a dramatic re-enactment of the story of our patron saint. The children sang some traditional songs and showcased their Irish Dancing talents. This was a great part of our Green Day celebrations.



Mrs Kelly Retires!!



A fond farewell to a well-known and much loved teacher, Mrs Kelly as she retired after almost 30 years of service to St. Comgall's.

Mrs Kelly's class wrote beautiful poems about her and some children read these at assembly on Mrs Kelly's last day.



At the assembly, there was a presentation about what Mrs Kelly meant to so many people in St. Comgall's. She taught a few generations of some families and her love for her job and the children she taught was always so noticeable. The current parents surprised Mrs Kelly with an afternoon visit to the class to say goodbye! Mrs Kelly thanked everyone for their kindness.

She will be missed by the children and parents and will be missed as part of our great St. Comgall's team.

We all wish you much happiness and long travels and sleep-ins in your retirement. We all hope there are many wonderful happy days ahead and we thank you for all your work throughout the years here.....



"You know I am who I am, because I knew you."



We Will Miss You!

Winners @ St. Comgall's

SCOTT'S WIN

On Sunday I took part in US kids golf at Castlerock Golf Club. The reason I took part in the competition because I wanted to qualify for America. I had the lowest score in my age group. That means I won the tournament and got the gold medal. I was very happy with my win. My Mum and Dad bought me new golf shoes because I won.



Phoebe's win

I went to a dance competition on Saturday. I won second place in my ballet. I also won second place in my tap and one of my modern dances.

And on my last dance which was also modern we won first place and a massive trophy and I got to hold it. It was quite heavy but I was so happy that we had won first place.

Well Done!!

Scott McCabe & Phoebe
Johnson P.6A



CONFIRMATION



2019



Information & Reminders

Names on Uniforms

Please remember to clearly label all items of your child's school uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats.



Absence Letters

If your child is absent from school, please inform the teacher in writing of the reason for the absence.

Children coming to School Early:

Children should not be on the school grounds before 8.45am unless they are attending breakfast club. There is no supervision for children before this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB: from 8.10am - 8.45am Cost £1.50 Main School Hall.

Tuck and dinner money

Please ensure your child has the money to pay for tuck and dinners if they use it. It becomes very difficult to manage for our teaching and canteen staff if money becomes "owed." Again, thank you in anticipation for your help with this.



School Dinner Price

School dinners costs **£2.60**

Passports

Any Passport Forms requiring signature from a member of staff costs a nominal fee of £5.00, which will go towards school funds.

Emails:

Would all parents who completed a form requesting letters and information to be sent to them by email, please remember to check your emails regularly so you will not miss any important news, letters, dates and general information.



Classes	Pick Up Points During Building Works
P.1	No Change to pick-up point at 1.45pm although only access is around the Senior Building.
P.2A & P.2B	Dismissal is from the black gate at back of the school (At Mrs McIntyre's Office)
P.2C	Same dismissal point (centre doors at Junior Building). Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.3A	Dismissal will now be from the black gate at the back of the school – near Mrs McIntyre's Office.
P.3C	No change to dismissal point (centre doors Junior Building). Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.3B	No change to dismissal point. Access only by going around the Senior Building.
P.4A & P.4C	Dismissal will now be from the black gate at the back of the school – near Mrs McIntyre's Office.
P.4B	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.5A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.6A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.
P.7A/B/C	No change to current pick up point, although, walkers may have to walk around the building to get to back car park.

School Uniform Supplier

Thousand Stitches Ltd

Antrim Arcade

18 High Street

Antrim BT41 2AN

Telephone: 07580 136883

E-mail: info@thousandstitches.com

Web: www.thousandstitches.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thousandstitches/

Special Thanks



P.6 Say Thank you

Our P.6 children and teachers would like to thank St. Benedict's, especially Mr O'Neill, Science Dept, for lending them some equipment for experiments they were doing during Science Week.

The Eco Team



The Eco Team would like to thank the staff at 1000 Stitches, our uniform suppliers for providing a class set of reusable cotton shopping bags for FREE! The bags were used in an art activity, decorating them with beautiful paintings for Mother's Day.



SUSTRANS BIG PEDAL 2019



Our school took part in the challenge. The challenge ran from 25th March to 5th April. Each day schools competed to see who could record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents coming actively to school. After recording our daily scores, we were ranked 27th in Northern Ireland and 586th in the U.K. with an average of 49% travelling to school actively. Well done to all who took part. As the weather improves let's keep travelling as actively as we can!

ATTENTION CHILDREN, PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD ON FOOT, ON A BICYCLE OR A SCOOTER.....



Find the safest place to cross then stop.
Stand on the pavement near the kerb or the edge if there is no kerb.



Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.
Make sure you can see if anything is coming and drivers can see you.



Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.
Never cross the road whilst chatting to people, listening to your iPod or talking on your mobile phone.

BE AWARE EVEN WHEN YOU ARE IN SCHOOL GROUNDS OR CAR PARKS

SCHOOL WEBSITE!

Please take some time to visit our school website! There you will find all the information you need about school. You can meet the classes and learn about the interesting events happening in school. There is a translate engine, so the website can be viewed in other languages. Please select a language of your choice from the drop down list on our homepage. In addition, there is, a 'scrolling announcements sections' on the top of the homepage – this will draw your attention to any current activity in the school.



stcomgalls.co.uk

Easter Holiday Dates and Arrangements

The school will close for the Easter Break on Thursday 18th April at 12noon for all pupils. The children should wear their uniforms. There will be NO breakfast club and NO tuck or lunches on Thursday 18th April. THERE WILL BE NO BUSES in the morning or at 12 o'clock. As normal, additional parking for collection on this day will be provided in the front playground of the school. *Please follow the direction of the staff. School will re-open on Monday 29th April 2019.

The Board of Governors, Principal & Staff Wish you all a Happy & Peaceful Easter!

