

NEWS @ ST. COMGALL'S

ISSUE 2: 2019 – 2020

ISSUED JULY 2020



PARENTS

Thank you for all the work you did with our children in supporting the teachers with remote learning! All of the teachers thank you for your engagement and commitment..... We are sure you are glad it is now summer and you can pack away your classrooms!



CHILDREN

Thank you for all the work you did either in google classroom or in your paper packs! You have worked hard! Well done for continuing to read! Keep reading through the summer! You are wonderful!

STAFF

Thank you to our wonderful staff who worked throughout the COVID shutdown. Thank you for keeping teaching on google classroom / preparing resources and responding to the children and parents at all hours of the day and night. 😊



KEY WORKER CHILDCARE

Thank you to Mr Bailie in Parkhall PS and to the St Comgall's staff team who were able to provide childcare supervision in the Parkhall PS HUB settings for our keyworker children on a daily basis. A special thank you to Mr McShane who took up position as a childcare HUB setting leader in Parkhall College HUB. We hope that those families who availed of this service enjoyed having St Comgall's staff there each day to look after their children.

THANK YOU TOO for carrying out your key worker duties during the pandemic!

NOW FOR A LITTLE LOOK BACK AT SOME SCHOOL ACTIVITIES BEFORE COVID.....

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 19th December 2019 our whole school got into the festive spirit by wearing Christmas Jumpers. We wore the jumpers to raise money for Cancer Fund for Children and school funds. The children had a wonderful day! We would like to thank everyone for their very generous donations. Together, we raised an amazing **£1,549.00**.



Christmas Dinner Fun in the Canteen

Thanks so much to Elaine, the cook, and all the kitchen staff for a lovely Christmas Dinner, such a special treat and fun for all in the canteen. The children enjoyed the party hats and Christmas tunes playing.





Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie



This year the children in P.5C have been invited to participate in a program called Roots of Empathy (ROE). This program teaches children about feelings, their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Ghiana and her Mum will visit the classroom. Mrs McIntyre, who is a trained Roots of Empathy instructor, will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow.

The children predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches the 'developmental milestones' of the first year: "She can roll over!" "She got her first tooth!" "She can sit up!"

Mrs McIntyre also coaches the children in observing the baby and reading the cues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling: "Is the baby happy or sad?" They then use this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel: "Do you smile when you're happy?" "How can you tell when your friend is happy?" Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called empathy.

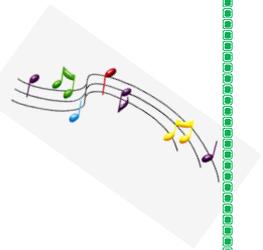
Mrs McIntyre also visits the classroom before and after each family visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialised lesson plan for each visit.

For more than ten years, across Canada and internationally, thousands of children are learning about respect and how to care for one another through the lessons involving their Roots of Empathy baby.

We are excited that P5C has been chosen to participate in Roots of Empathy. They would like to thank Ghiana and her Mum for taking part in this very special program.



Choir Sing at Castle Mall



Our school choir sang Christmas Carols in the Castle Centre Mall on Monday 9th December. The Mall was filled with beautiful voices celebrating the Christmas season and keeping the shoppers entertained. Several other schools also attended and they all did a great job. Our choir came 3rd in the competition for best choir.

Well Done St. Comgall's Choir!!



Story Telling with Senem Doraten Mohan

P5C met with a Primary 5 class from Antrim Primary and together they enjoyed listening to stories told by Senem Doraten Mohan. They learned how to tell stories through movement, drama, rhythm, singing and using their imagination! P5C are very excited about writing their own stories during our creative writing classes this term.



P.5 Trip to Belfast International Airport



On Thursday 16th Mrs Hassan visited primary P.5C Mrs Walsh, to share her experience of working in aviation for 24 years. After an interesting question and answer session we headed to the airport for an exciting tour and an opportunity to spot some aeroplanes taking off! P.5A Mrs Duffin & P.5B Mr Christie, also visited the airport that week and enjoyed seeing what happens at the airport. All the children had an amazing time.



Promoting Health & Wellbeing

Light Up Kids is a research backed, very effective mental health and resilience programme. This programme is created by an Educational Psychologist, Child Trauma Specialist and experienced Teacher and children's group facilitator. Our P.2, P.4 and P.7 children took part in the programme here in school and they were taught strategies through playful, thoughtful, fun and stimulating activities. The aim of the programme is to help children improve confidence, calm brains and bodies, find ways to express their feelings, self soothe, relax, boost the immune system and improve physical and mental health. A wonderful programme! Thank you Lightworks!!



LIGHTWORK NI
EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

Catholic Schools Week 2020



Living in Harmony with God's Creation



P.2A, Mrs McCaughan, Grandparents' Day Assembly

Catholic Schools Week ran this year from Sunday 26th January to Sunday 2nd February. The children were involved in activities related to this year's theme - Living in Harmony with God's Creation. The children produced some beautiful art work and here are some examples:

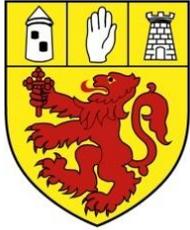


GRANDPARENTS' DAY

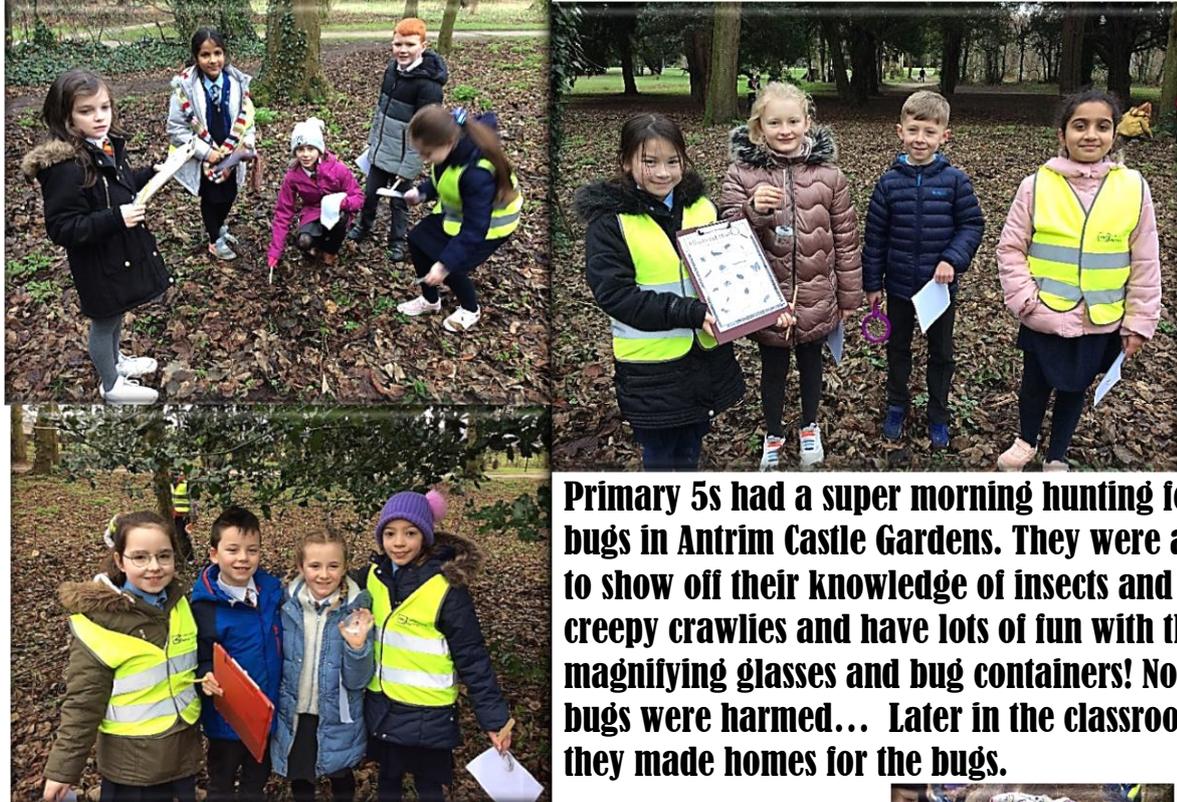
As part of Catholic Schools Week, our P.1 children invited their grandparents to a special Mass in St. Comgall's Church followed by a nice cup of tea/coffee and treats in the school. Their grandparents then visited the children in their classrooms. They all had a lovely morning and the children were excited to see their grandparents in school.



Happy
Grandparents Day



Shared Education Activities with Antrim Primary School



Primary 5s had a super morning hunting for bugs in Antrim Castle Gardens. They were able to show off their knowledge of insects and creepy crawlies and have lots of fun with their magnifying glasses and bug containers! No bugs were harmed... Later in the classroom they made homes for the bugs.



Robotics Workshop

On Wednesday 5th February, P4 took part in a robotics workshop, organised by Sentinus. The children worked together to develop their coding skills by programming small robots to follow a track around the mat. The children enjoyed using trial and error to figure out the correct instructions and timings for the robots.





Dinosaurs at the Museum



P4 went to the Ulster Museum in February, linked t their topic of "Prove it" – all about Dinosaurs.

The children learnt about what dinosaurs ate, what they looked like and the land they roamed. In the education room they got to look at fossils and even held some fossilised POO!!

As the children explored the museum, they saw many dinosaur skeletons. Whilst at the museum, the children got to try on Gas masks, and dress up as evacuees, which linked to their topic of World War 2.

Finally, they managed to have a look at some of the Egyptian mummies – which cased some great excitement and allows them to look forward to their learning about Egyptians in their P5 topic! A wonderful and busy day!





What a Great Achievement!

Hi, my name is Joshua and I did a grade 1 exam on my guitar.

It was the 14/12/19 and I think it was 9.00 and I was waiting patiently for my turn. One of the owners of the shop said that I could practise in one of the rooms. After I practised I felt ready. When I was called I felt ready and I also was a bit nervous but mostly ready.

So when I went into the examination room the examiner was waiting for me and he was really nice and was asking me if the music was too loud or too low. I did 3 songs called, I Can't Explain, Mr Tambourine Man and Oh Yeah. I played them very well. I went back home after I was finished so we could go to Co. Clare to celebrate my birthday.

On the 8/1/20 I finally got my results for my exam and I got a merit (which is more than a pass.) I am so happy.

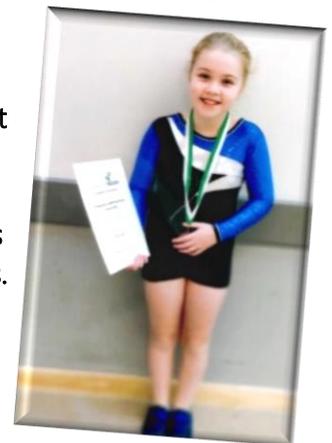
By Joshua Ryan P.6C



On the 19th January 2020, I went to my first Trampoline Competition. At first I was a bit scared but as soon as I got on to the trampoline I was perfectly fine. I did my first routine and that one was ok. It came to my second routine and that was absolutely perfect, both my coaches were really proud of me because it was my first one ever. At the end, it was time for the placement...

I was in the age category of 10-11 girls and I got third (for my first competition that was pretty good if I say so myself). I qualified for the Northern Ireland Championships with a score of 49.9 which exceeded the amount you needed to qualify by 10.9 points. I was the only one from my club, in my group, so my coaches were extra proud when they found out. I had an amazing experience but that was only practice for the championships in May (is what my coaches told me).

By Fayth Sansome P.6C



On the 7th March I was down in Dublin at the I.K.K.U. Open. I won a bronze medal in the 10-11 years old category over 39kg. I was kind of nervous on my first fight but with everyone supporting me I got through to the second round. I won the second round with confidence scoring 2-0 but on the third one, which was the hardest one, my opponent scored a point which lead me to lose my fight and that's how I got a bronze medal.

By Olaf Liwerski P.6C

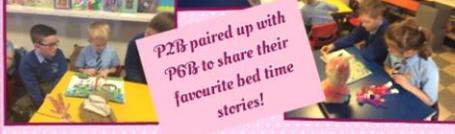




WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day 2020



P.4 'SPUD CHARACTERS'

P.7 Tag Rugby Tournament



On the 10th February, P.7 went to Park Hall Integrated College to play Tag Rugby with Park Hall Primary. Park Hall Integrated College hosted the event. The main coach was called Robin, as well as other coaches who refereed the matches. In our opinion the matches were so much fun. We were put into different teams and played against each other. It was a great experience to play with other schools. We hope to do another tournament.

By Lucy-Kate Hutchinson & Aira Ermino P.7B



Valentine Balloons

Our cook, Elaine, bought some beautiful balloons to decorate the dinner hall for Valentine's Dinner Day. On Valentine's Day she decided to give the balloons the children whose birthday is on or around Valentines day. They go to take the hearts home. The children were chuffed to bits getting to take the giant balloons home. Thank you so much Elaine!

Cumann na mBunscol Quiz

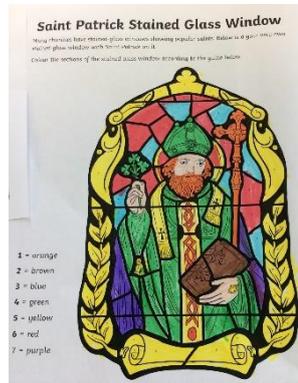
On Wednesday 4th March, Lauren May, Roisin, Clodagh and Molly went to St. Brigids Primary School in Ballymena to take part in a GAA Quiz. Cumann na mBunscol organised this GAA quiz. There were 13 different school and there were 7 rounds, 2 of them containing picture rounds. There were 6 mixed questions in each round, including GAA facts, county nicknames, myths and legends, mountain ranges and rivers. At the end of the quiz, we came third with a total of 39 points. It was a really enjoyable day, and we learned so much preparing for the quiz!

**By Clodagh Quigg, Lauren May Ong,
Molly Doherty and Roisin Maguire -P7A**





School Turns Green for St. Patrick's Day





SAVING ENERGY



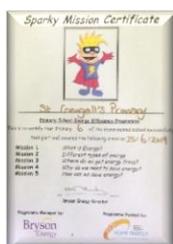
Most things that we use are using power. We need power for lights, ovens and even clean water. At the same time, there is stuff that we use but don't need like phones, tablets etc. To use power, we need fuel, this fuel does not come back, coal, gas and oil will run out in about 40 years. Imagine one day your power just went off. No lights. No TV. No power. What do you think we will use for our power in 40 years' time? Let me tell you. In 40 years we will be using only water, solar power and wind for our power. But right now we are running on coal, gas and oil. Using coal, gas and oil we are creating pollution. Pollution has made a hole in the earth's bubble. That means that the sun shines right through. The sun then melts ice bergs in the water making more and more water, flooding our ground. If this continues there will be no more ground. So the real question is, what can we do to save power?

How can we save power?

We can save power which could save the earth. I'm going to give you some ideas how.

- Use reusable power sources. There are reusable power sources such as wind power, solar power and water. These, as I said before, we will use in 40 years' time.
- Don't use as much power – yes we all know we need to keep some things running such as fridges, freezers etc. But there are some things we can do like when we are brushing our teeth, don't keep the water running and things like that.
- Turn down your heating – we all need to keep warm, this leads to heating but did you know that if you have your heating on a lower temperature that it uses less power? You should do this.
- Anyway thanks for reading!

By Grace Murray P.6C



On 4th March 2020 Rachel from Bryson Energy came to talk to P6 on how to save money on Electricity and stop polluting the Earth. She also talked about fossil fuels, coal, oil and natural gas and how these will eventually run out.

First she told us that energy is important, for example we need energy to do all our sports. Another energy is electricity and that you need electricity to heat, light and power your house. She also told us about the 3 fossil fuels and how they are used to make electricity but they are polluting the Earth.

Rachel gave us tips on how to save energy in our houses, for example if you leave your phone charging during the night it is still using electricity after its fully charged, and it is expensive for the people paying the bills. Then we discussed other things we turn off at night and what we leave on. Most people said that they leave their phone or I pad charging overnight.

Next Rachel presented on other ways we can reduce pollution by getting solar panels, a hydro pump or use energy from a windmill. We have solar panels in our school already. Finally, she spoke about having good insulation in our homes to save heat.

At the end of the presentation she gave us a certificate for listening

By: Daniel Man & Annie Lundy P.6B



Food & Fitness with the Dairy Council



On the 3rd of March 2020 two people from the Dairy Council came to talk to all of Primary 5 and Primary 6 about having a good diet and getting the right amount of exercise to have a healthy lifestyle. Their names were Majella and Luke.

Majella and Luke taught us a song about what foods are good for you and which ones you shouldn't eat too often. There was a really good song that taught us how to be healthy, and there were even actions to go with it. They talked to us in a way that made it fun, so most of us enjoyed it.

A magnetic board shaped like a scale was used to show us how much exercise you need after eating a certain amount of food, and to keep fit with a balanced amount of both. They showed us some examples of sports we could do to get at least an hour of exercise everyday. They also asked some pupils to tell them what types of activities they did and for how long so they could add up the amount of time they were active for.



By: Tilly Quigg and Christa Varghese P6B

School Choir of the Year



This year, for the first time, our choir took part in the BBC School Choir of the Year. The children were really excited to be getting this opportunity. They had a wonderful day and enjoyed singing for the judges and all the other Choirs. The judges were impressed with the performance and gave them excellent feedback. Well done to all who too part and keep up the good work for next year!

P.7 Retreat in St. Joseph's Hall

P7 Retreat

The children worked with Youth Initiatives and learned about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. They were divided into groups and had discussions about the various symbols used to represent the Holy Spirit.

They talked about how we could use the gifts and fruits to make the world a happier place and to spread the word of God as they become adults of the Catholic Church.

They decorated plates with the image of a dove and flames and included their confirmation names.

These plates were placed around the sanctuary of the church. The retreat finished with a short prayer service and some children were asked to read.

Each child came forward for a blessing and collected their decorated plate.

Information about the children's Confirmation will be forwarded in due course.



P.5 Bird Display with Mr Patterson



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. The children and teachers were able to carefully handle the amazing birds. They all enjoyed a fascinating display. Thanks so much to Mr Patterson.

St. Vincent De Paul Hampers

I am writing to you on behalf of the St. Comgall's Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul (SVP) to express our sincere thanks to St. Comgall's Primary School for the beautiful Christmas hampers which were presented to SVP to help with our 2019 Christmas Appeal. The hampers provided by St. Comgall's were distributed right across our community just before Christmas day and it was heart-warming to see the delight on the faces of the individuals and families who received them. Without question the hampers made a real difference to their Christmas. Thanks again for these most generous gifts, which were very much appreciated.



Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair came to St Comgall's on the 3rd March to 10th 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

£1002

Hope everyone enjoyed reading the books they bought.

Thank you very much for all your support.

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.

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



Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge 2020

Libraries NI is delighted to announce details of Silly Squad, Summer Reading Challenge 2020 produced by The Reading Agency and delivered by libraries which will take place from Monday 15 June. The Silly Squad, Summer Reading Challenge, is a free, exciting way to keep young people aged 4 - 11 years reading during the summer months.

We need your help... to encourage children to take part

Promoting the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge 2020 in your school is one of the most effective ways of spreading the word so we would really appreciate it if you could tell your parents and pupils about the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge 2020 and encourage them to sign up as a way of promoting reading for pleasure. Silly Squad is a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter. This year the Challenge will be delivered through a fun, immersive and safe online platform. The aim is to encourage children to challenge themselves to read any number of books which makes them happy, in digital or print format, an eBook borrowed from the Libraries NI online catalogue or books they already have at home. Children can sign up for free [here](#).

Throughout the summer there will be online activities, videos, quizzes, games and rewards to unlock along the way. Every child who completes their own Challenge will receive a downloadable certificate.

Libraries NI offers a wide range of online reading material for children to enjoy with eBooks and audiobooks available to download and read. During lockdown we have seen a very significant increase in the use of these services particularly for children's books. We also hope that libraries will reopen during the summer to allow families further access to books. Thank you for your help in the past and we hope that you can share this information with parents. If you would like more information about this initiative you can email us at feedback@librariesni.org.uk

Best wishes,

Libraries NI

Uniform Information for the new term

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/1000StitchesAntri/

NEW SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES IN PLACE

School will look a little different in the new term, however, Mr Matthews will keep you up to date throughout the summer with any updates, taking account of current government guidance.

Finally, at the end of a very unusual term, the Board of Governors, Principal and Staff of St Comgall's wish you a restful and peaceful summer. See you all next term.