



The Shountrade Scéal

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the October edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal'. October has been another very busy month for all the boys and girls in Shountrade N.S. Some highlights this month include a visit from the victorious Adare Camogie team, our trips off for school gaelic football matches, the commencement of the 'Friends for Life' programme and school choir with Mrs. Spillane beginning.

We are all looking forward to our midterm holidays next week and would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween!

Junior Infants

Junior Infants has been a very busy classroom this month. The children have learned all about the farm and the work of the farmer. We explored where different foods come from and we even made our own butter! The children have also been learning all about Autumn. We went on an Autumn walk around the school grounds looking for signs of Autumn. We found berries and fungi and collected beautiful red, brown and yellow leaves which were inspiration for all of our Autumn art lessons. The children are expanding their Irish vocabulary every day, this month focusing on school and Halloween. In maths the children have been exploring patterns in our world and have made lots of wonderful patterns of their own. This week the children are very excited to be making potions in the Witch's Kitchen. All sorts of spooky spells are being cast in time for Halloween!

Choir

Undoubtedly one of the biggest highlights of the year so far is the return of the school choir. The choir is made up of pupils from third to sixth class and are very lucky to be under the stewardship of Mrs. Spillane. Some events the choir are already looking forward to include the Christmas Carol service and the Peace Proms in UL.



Senior Infants

October has been full of spooky and fun activities in senior infants. Our Aistear theme is the witches' den. We turned our role play area into a witches' den. The children have been mixing potions with leaves, bones and spiders and casting spells. We have been listening to spooky Halloween sounds and singing our songs 'In the Hairy Scary Castle' and 'There was an Old Witch'. We also enjoyed reading and reciting the poem 'Fat Old Witch' by Leland Jacobs. We learned about words with opposite meanings in the poem such as up and down, left and right. We made some beautiful autumn leaf print paintings. We read lots of Halloween books and the children are getting very good at reading their sight words. We drew and cut out some Halloween ghosts to decorate our classroom. In maths we have been learning about patterns and using our ten frames. We learned about how materials can keep us warm in science. We are looking forward to making some Halloween slime for science and to dressing up for Halloween.

Chromebooks

This month saw the arrival of 20 Chromebooks to our school. These Chromebooks will be a fantastic resource for all the boys and girls in Shountrade and have already been used for Spellings for Me, Accelerated Reader and research projects.



1st Class

First class have had a wonderfully busy October. Our topics in math this month have been capacity and data. It was great fun making a human graph based on our eye colour and hair colour, we also loved making a graph to represent the amount and varieties of chocolates in a celebration box! Our theme in SESE has been Autumn and Halloween, we covered the interesting topic of the Celts during history and got the opportunity to write our names in Ogham, we compared Halloween traditions between the past and present and are much relieved that Halloween costumes no longer consist of black bin bags and old white bed sheets!! Investigation of the pumpkin was a messy but fun job! We even got to plant our own pumpkin seeds and discovered that pumpkins actually float in water! We have been super busy writing reports in Writers Workshop including reports on spiders, tigers, butterflies, bears and the snowy owl. In art we focused on learning the technique of pointillism which was devised by artist George Seurat, we created beautiful Autumn Trees using cotton buds. In Gaeilge our themes were Ar Scoil and Oíche Shamhna, we really enjoyed playing Deir O Gradaigh and singing our new songs. We want to wish all our friends and families very happy Halloween break.

2nd Class

Our theme for October was Autumn and Halloween. During our Science lesson we went on a leaf hunt. We really enjoyed finding and identifying all the leaves and trees found near our school grounds. We also identified all the leaves growing in our gardens at home. In September we planted radishes, cress and microgreen seeds. These have now fully grown and we are thrilled with our plants. We also investigated what happens to plants when they do not get sunlight. Some of us have been taking part in Hour of Code. In Maths we have been learning about 2d and 3d shapes. We constructed our own 3d shapes. In History we learned about the history of Halloween and Halloween games that were played in the past. We had great fun interviewing our grandparents and learning more about their lives when they were young. In English we have written lots of acrostic poems based on the theme of Halloween and finally in Art we have loved creating our Halloween themed paintings. Happy Halloween from everybody in second class!

3rd & 4th Class

November has been an amazing month in 3rd and 4th class. We finished up with our weekly swimming lessons in Askeaton Lesisure Centre, we loved the lessons and made amazing progress over the 8 weeks. We really enjoyed using the new Chromebooks this month as we researched a variety of historic sites across Adare and Limerick. In maths we have been collecting, represent and analysing data. We completed surveys in class and discovered that cookies & cream is the most popular ice cream flavour in our class and that our favourite Halloween costumes are fictional characters. This month we also explored the illustrations that made up the story 'Monster Mama' before creating our own portraits of the character Patrick Edward using food colouring and straws. Finally, we want to wish all our friends and families happy Halloween.

5th & 6th Class

5th and 6th Class have been very busy throughout October. We have been really enjoying reading and discussing our Class Novel- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. In Gaeilge we have worked hard on our Sliocht- Oíche Shamhna. In maths we have been *Tallying* a lot of information and showing this on Bar charts, Bar lines and Trend graphs. We are at the final stage of our Collage of Kate Middleton- now that we have completed our Scaling and Drawing in our groups, we must complete the Collage through painting.

We have prepared our School Garden for the winter- we weeded and freshened our soil. Then we decided to plant *Wildflowers* and with the help of a very kind pupil- *Strawberries* were donated! Happy Halloween from all in 5th and 6th!



The pupils in third, fourth, fifth and sixth class have all thoroughly enjoyed 'Friends for Life' lessons this month. This programme helps students to develop effective strategies to deal with worry, stress and change and teaches the skills required to reduce anxiety and promote resilience. It is beneficial for all students, irrespective of their anxiety level.



GAA News

Everyone in Shountrade N.S would like to wish a massive congratulations to the Adare Intermediate Camogie team who were crowned county champions this month. We are already looking forward to watching them in the Munster Club Camogie Semi final.

