



Ardrahan National School



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Happy Hallowe'en



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Halloween newsletter! I want to say a huge thank you to all our pupils, families, and staff for a fantastic start to the school year. Everyone has worked so hard, and there is a wonderful energy around the school.

I am delighted to share that work on our new school building extension will finally start over the Halloween break. While the children enjoy their holidays, the builders will begin setting up. We will share more details about safety and minor changes before we come back.

I wish you all a safe, fun, and Happy Halloween!

Warm regards, Ms Hughes

An Autumn adventure at the Pumpkin Patch



A very sincere thank you to Caroline and Gerry Quinn who kindly invited Junior and Senior Infants to their Galway Pumpkin Patch last week. The children had so much fun exploring all the new attractions! A special thank you also to Jonathan Linnane for transporting our little explorers on their lovely day out. We are very lucky to have such kind, supportive parents in our community.

Ms Gill's Junior Infants

Our 26 wonderful Junior Infants have settled so well into school life! It's amazing to see how much they have grown in such a short few weeks, and it has been lovely getting to know everyone. From literacy stations and hands-on Maths lessons to fine motor activities and P.E., our days are jam-packed with lots of fun and learning!



Babaró

Another trip for Infants—this time visiting The Black Box for a Babaró production. We had lots of fun, travelling on the bus and getting to go on stage with the performers.



Ms Rafter's Senior Infants

This term, Senior Infants enjoyed reading *The Owl who was afraid of the Dark*, which inspired their lovely owl artwork and writing. The children also showed wonderful imagination and creativity with their beautiful Autumn wreaths!



Some cheeky pumpkins have escaped from the pumpkin patch. Can you find all 15 of them?

Ms Murphy's 1st Class

First Class got creative this October as they designed their very own crazy pumpkins! The children explored a variety of unusual gourds, which provided plenty of inspiration with their funny shapes and expressions. Using their imaginations, they created some wonderfully wacky pumpkin characters, each with its own unique personality.



In September, First Class had great fun putting their engineering skills to the test by creating mechanical hands! The children worked hard to design and construct their hands, exploring how our fingers move and bend. It was a fantastic hands-on STEM activity that encouraged creativity, teamwork and problem-solving. This was a lovely link activity as the students were also learning about the five senses. A special thank you to the wonderful Fourth Class pupils who came to help us. We really enjoyed working together!



The term ended with a fun challenge for Maths Week where the children got to practice their mental addition skills through a fun cup building activity!



Ms Dervan's 2nd Class

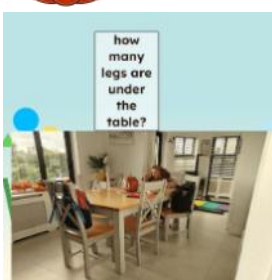
2nd class have been very busy. We created candles for our Sacred Space and we are very excited to make our First Holy Communion this year. We have created some lovely, colourful Autumn pictures and leaf flowers.



2nd class really enjoyed taking part in a STEM task where they had to design something you would see in a school in the future. They were all so creative! 2nd class created lovely eco friendly posters and worked great as a team! We have also enjoyed a Science colour mixing experiment, maths games and maths stations!



2nd class have been using their maths eyes at home. They took pictures of things they found around their house and came up with maths questions to ask their class. They were very creative and really tried to challenge their classmates.



Ms Mc Namara's 3rd Class

Third class had great fun making string telephones! We investigated how sound travels through vibrations, testing how well we could hear each other through the cups and string. We learned that keeping the string tight helped the sound travel more clearly.



The children have been busy exploring their creativity in Art. They enjoyed creating their own beautiful family trees, celebrating the special people in their lives and showcasing their artistic talents. The children have now turned their attention to designing and creating some wonderfully spooky monsters! There has been plenty of excitement and imagination as their creations begin to take shape.



In Third Class the children have been working collaboratively to solve Maths problems. They have been sharing ideas and discussing strategies. This has encouraged the children to think creatively, explain their reasoning and learn from one another in a fun and engaging way.



Music is back!



The halls are alive with music on Wednesdays in Ardahan! Flutes, guitars, accordions, banjos and tin whistles. What an ensemble!



Ms Armstrong's 4th Class



4th class learned all about Irish trees and plants in Science this term. The class explored what happens to trees during autumn, discovered what plants need to survive and investigated how water travels through a plant. The children also became tree detectives, learning to identify different Irish trees by examining their leaves and seeds. 4th class then created colourful and informative posters, displaying their knowledge! We have been focusing on drawing in Art so far this year, exploring portraits! The children created their own self-portraits, capturing their unique personalities, interests and individuality.

They also created their own 'Spooky Selfies' for Halloween, inspired by the imaginative and quirky style of Tim Burton.



Mr O Leary's 5th and 6th Class

The children took a wonderful trip back in time as they explored the history and heritage of Ardahan. Dressed in costumes from days gone by, the children brought the past to life while learning fascinating facts about their local area. It was a fantastic opportunity to discover more about the place we call home and develop a greater appreciation of our rich local heritage.



A big thank you to Pdraig for carrying out a fascinating DNA experiment! The children were captivated as they explored the wonderful world of science and learned more about DNA through this exciting, hands-on demonstration. A fantastic learning experience that sparked plenty of curiosity!



Our pupils took their maths learning outdoors as they embarked on a fun and engaging maths trail around the school grounds. Using their *Maths Eyes*, the children spotted shapes, numbers and patterns in their surroundings, putting their mathematical skills to work in a real-life setting. A wonderful way to show that maths really is all around us!

Learning, Exploring and achieving together!

Mini 7s—Mighty Girls, Mighty Performances!

A huge well done to our talented girls who reached the Mini 7s Football Final and also made it to the camogie blitz final! Fantastic teamwork, determination and skill on display!



Hurling Heroes.

Congratulations to our Mini 7s hurlers who battled their way to the blitz final! A wonderful achievement and a great display of skill and sportsmanship.

A brilliant day of sport!

Our pupils had a fantastic time participating in the Gort Community School blitz, organised by the TY students. Many thanks to all the organisers—such an enjoyable event.

Hurling/Camogie All-Stars!

Senior Infants and 1st Class took advantage of the dry September and took to the pitch to develop their hurling skills. They continued to work on their tackling skills as well as working together as a team. Future stars in the making!



Cross Country Success!

Well done to the 25 pupils from Third to Sixth Class who represented our school at Galway Racecourse in September, showing great determination and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Ryan McHugh and our Fifth and Sixth Class girls' team—Mary Giblin, Hazel Giblin, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Ciara Geoghegan, Sophia Murphy and Belle Whirisky—who qualified for the county finals!



Lunchtime Clubs



The Lunchtime Clubs are in full swing with children from 3rd and 4th Classes enjoying chess and seasonal crafts. Our newcomers to chess this year were welcomed by our in-house chess masters who loved sharing their expertise. This term in seasonal crafts, we have put together some pumpkin displays using lollipop sticks, pipe cleaners and ribbon. The children displayed their graphic talents on the painted pieces