

# N.K.E.T.N.S. NEWS

(Dec.2018)

www.nketns.ie

## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



### THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As the first term draws to a close I thought it would be a good time to reflect on the added value that parental involvement in NKETNS brings to the education of our pupils. Parents get involved in many ways in the life of the school and the dividends we reap are enormous.

Whether it is as a member of a committee such as the PTA or the Board of Management, parents helping with swimming, someone coming into the classroom to share their skills during Science or Music Week or parents preparing food for World Food Day or baking for a Cake Sale, our school would be a much poorer place without this valuable support.

When you stop to make a list of the school events and activities which have flown directly from parental involvement during one single term you begin to see how important this aspect of our ethos is to the children we teach. Here are some contributions to consider:

Cake Sale – baking and serving	Swimming – helping with changing children
World Food Day – cooking and serving	Gardening Group – weeding and planting
Music Week – classroom visits	Science Week – classroom visits
Stationary Cycle – organizing and participating	Cinema Club – organizing and staffing
Raffle – organizing prizes and selling tickets	Cash for Clothes – organizing and donating
School Calendar – photography, publicity, advertising, selling, children's costumes	
Christmas Hamper – donating and making up the hampers	
Concerts – children's costumes	Coffee mornings – setting up and staffing
Other class visits – religious festivals, baking	Transport of heavy items for the school
INTEL Mini-scientist – helping with projects and bringing children to the inter-school event	

Take away parental involvement and you take away all of the things listed above. What a different and poorer place NKETNS would be without these activities. And this is before we mention the daily support of parents with homework, healthy eating, dress code etc, all of which contribute to making the school run effectively and smoothly, along with the quiet but essential financial support through standing orders and voluntary contributions and the useful donations of materials that parents make from time to time.

So on behalf of the staff and the pupils I'd like to invite the parents of NKETNS to give themselves a well-earned pat on the back: you richly deserve it!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas break and hope 2019 will be filled with happy times. See you all on Monday January 7<sup>th</sup> @8.35.am.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** – We wish to remind parents that during low temperature/icy weather conditions the roundabout leading to the school can be treacherous to drive on! Even when temperatures are above freezing, the roundabout area still remains very icy – so please drive with extreme caution upon approach from St. Wolstan’s Community School, and again when leaving the N.K.E.T.N.S.

### **Dates for your Diary**

- Offer of Junior Infant places for 2019/2020 will commence on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January.
- Swimming lessons will resume for our Senior Infants 1 (Orlaith/Aoife) on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.
- After school athletics resumes Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January
- After school soccer resumes on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January
- Swimming Lessons for Senior Infants 2 (Grace) will commence on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class trip to Places of Worship – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 (details to follow)
- As previously advised in our October newsletter and in our 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec email, **Parent-Teacher meetings will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.** You will be notified of your appointed time approximately two weeks before either of the above dates. These meetings will be held after school hours on both days.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

Thank you all for your generous contributions to our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Since we started our appeal back in 1998, we have donated 447 hampers. This year we managed to make up 25 hampers! Thanks to the following volunteers who assisted with packing and wrapping the hampers – Julie Melia, Terri O’Brien, Jane O’Rourke, Rebecca O’Riain, Carrie Martin and Sweta Jain. These will be distributed to those in need in our local community.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Colourtrend who have donated boxes and tape to the school to make up our hampers, since 1998.

### **WINTER WELLBEING SHOW**

Our Winter Wellbeing concerts were very well-attended with both the afternoon and evening shows being packed to capacity. Thank you to all parents who stayed to the end of the show so the children performing at that time were performing to a decent audience. It also gives parents an opportunity to see the progression up through the school when they view the entire concert from beginning to end

### **HELPERS**

It cannot be stated enough how much all our helpers/volunteers are appreciated. By having parents in to help, the teachers can draw on a wealth of talent and skills for their classes. Visitors add excitement to the class and they are always well received.

### **SCHOOLBAG POST**

On occasion, we need to send notes via your child’s schoolbag – in particular those that have a ‘reply slip’ attached. We would like to remind parents to **check your child’s schoolbag on a very regular basis (at least twice a week)** to ensure that you do not miss any notices from the school. Please remind your child that when given any note from a

teacher to immediately place it in their schoolbag – we do remind them of this but it would assist us if this could be reinforced at home too.

If you have changed email address recently, please inform the school office – as the majority of our communication to parents is sent by email. Please remember to check your email regularly, to ensure you do not miss news/information from the school.

### **TEXT-ALERT**

Please ensure that you notify the school office if you change your mobile number. In order for the text alert communication system to work effectively, it is necessary to ensure we have up-to-date mobile numbers.

### **MUSIC WEEK 2018**

Music Week took place this year during the first week of December. As always, the week was greatly enriched by the visits of parents to the classrooms to share their musical talents with the children. Stephen Lernihan (Evan, JI Shane) came in to sing and play the guitar. Andrew and Susan O’Brien (Reuben SI Aoife/Orlaith) came to sing and play the banjo, accordion and mandolin. Declan Twomey (Dillon OR Aine) visited the Outreach to sing and play guitar. Paul Meila (Catherine 4<sup>th</sup>, Thea 5<sup>th</sup>) came into 5<sup>th</sup> class to do a workshop on music history. And George Nash (George SI Aoife/Orlaith) came into his grandson’s class to play the concertina and harmonica. Jane Hackett, whose niece Emma is in 6<sup>th</sup>, came in to play the violin for a number of classes. Jane is a past pupil of NKETNS and graduated in 2004. These visits are a highlight of the week for the children and are greatly appreciated. You may be interested to know that Jane has a radio show called Kids’ Classical Club on 96.4FM Liffey Valley Sound. The Club introduces classical music to children and

episodes and podcast can be found on the Liffey Sound website.

In addition to classroom visitors, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes had a music workshop in the hall and in their rooms with Fionn and Jonathan Angus which was combined with a session on mammals.

The Junior and Senior Infant and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class discos were great fun as were the discos for both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes and for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

But the highlights of the week were the Junior and Senior talent shows. We had singing, playing instruments, NKETNS’ very own garage band, The Dead Guitars, telling jokes, gymnastics, drama, poetry, magic tricks and interpretive dance! All in all, it was another successful Music Week in NKETNS.

### **HEAD LICE**

A number of parents have commented on having to treat their children multiple times for head lice this term. As well as being inconvenient this can also be very expensive. We can’t emphasize strongly enough how important it is for everyone to check their children’s hair and treat if necessary when we send a communication that there is head lice in a class. For anyone who wants to investigate a service offering headlice treatment as well as advice on what to do, you could consult the website below: [www.headliceexperts.ie](http://www.headliceexperts.ie)

### **MUSIC THERAPY IN OUTREACH**

The Outreach Classes completed a five week course of Music Therapy with Music Therapist Linda Collins during November and early December. Some images of the classes were included in the Powerpoint used at the Winter Wellbeing concert.

## **GREEN NEWS**

During the festive season, don't forget to hold on to any wasted batteries, old mobile phones/chargers (Smart phones only) and printer cartridges and bring them into school for our various recycling banks.

Keep an eye on your local newspapers for details of where you can bring your Christmas Trees after the festivities are over for shredding and recycling.

## **GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH.....**

Julie McNamara for organizing the donation of a Cleverboard touch screen display from the Kildare County Childcare Committee.

Fiona Kyle for art supplies and a box of learning resource equipment.

Jenny Smith for reels of wool

Olga Gallagher for books

Terri O'Brien for 2 children's DVD's

Thank you parents for taking the time to come in and work with the classes and teachers. It is greatly appreciated.

They were:

Carrie Martin, Nicola Wollmer and Enda Martin who came into the school to celebrate Thanksgiving Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. They made pumpkin and cornbreads.

Caitriona Molloy and Sue Smith who helped 2<sup>nd</sup> class 2 (Niall) to decorate Christmas Cookies on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Also on Friday Caitriona O'Connor and Sonia Brett were working with the children in 5<sup>th</sup> class doing Christmas Art.

## **SCIENCE WEEK 2018**

We had a very busy Science Week with lots of visitors and investigations! We had many different science investigations going on from shadows to making traffic lights, magnetism

and capacity. Fun was had by all. 5<sup>th</sup> Class took part in the Intel Mini Scientist competition and the judges were very impressed. Thank you to all our visitors. The children really enjoyed the interesting visits. Visitors were Francis Mullany, Brenda Manning, John Regan, Maria Kane, Mairead Webster, Michael McNiffe and David White.

## **TIN WHISTLE**

Sharon's First Class are beginning to learn the tin whistle taking advantage of the fact that Sharon is a talented traditional musician herself. We look forward to beautiful sounds emanating from Room 7!

## **SOCCER BLITZ**

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> class competed in the F.A.I. Futsal Schools Competition in The Mill, Celbridge. The boys and girls had a great day out, scored some superb goals and demonstrated excellent teamwork and sporting behavior. The F.A.I. development officers for Kildare were very impressed with our teams and the future of football in our school is bright! The children who competed were Otas Dobrovolskis, Michaela Curtis, Ciaran O'Reilly, Casiana Stan, Scott Keogh, Aoife O'Riain, Max Myers, Gracie Hourihane, Daire Jean, Tara Kane and Conor McNamara.

## **SRG**

The SRG had a busy term, helping to organize World Food Day and doing the introductions for the Winter Wellbeing Concert. They also organized our One Day Together Dress Up Day which raised a fabulous €565 for Educate Together.

## **SCHOOL INFECTIONS**

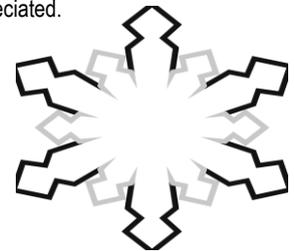
We would like to remind parents to let us know if your child becomes ill with a contagious infection e.g. chicken pox, measles, impetigo etc. **It is necessary for us to inform parents of other children in your child's class to be aware of such an infection, and to avoid it spreading throughout the school.**

Please ensure that **your child brings their towel into school each day**, and don't forget to change the towel regularly.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE**

For reasons of health and safety we would like to remind parents and guardians **that no medication of any kind is to be brought into school in children's schoolbags.** These include strepsils, calpol fast melts, cough sweets, lozenges, medicated creams etc. In keeping with our medication policy – no medicines of any description are allowed in schoolbags. It is not possible for staff to monitor the consumption and possible sharing of over-the-counter medications and is therefore a health and safety issue. **Please DO NOT send in any medicated products with your child, to protect all pupils.**

**Please DO NOT send your child to school if they are feeling unwell BEFORE we open, particularly if they have been vomiting or feeling nauseous the previous night.** Your child may transmit their illness to the entire class and/or the class teacher. Your cooperation with this request is appreciated.



## **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT NEWS**

**PARKING** – The Board of Management is aware of the parking difficulties outside the school particularly at the 2.20pm pick up time. We have been in contact with Celbridge Athletics who have very kindly agreed to allow our parents access to their grounds for parking at 2.20pm each day. This will be rolled out on a trial basis during the month of January. We have also been in contact with St Wolstan's with a view to being able to alert our parents in advance of events such as parent-teacher meetings which can lead to particular traffic congestion.

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS** – The Board of Management would like to thank all parents for your financial support for this year. The voluntary contributions by means of standing orders give us a guaranteed income and open the door to raising money via the tax refund scheme. If you wish to contribute to your school this way, please contact the school office for a Standing Order Form, or you can also give by cash or cheque.

**WEDDING BELLS** – The Board of Management would like to congratulate Grace who had her wedding on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**STAFF CHANGES** - The Board would like to welcome Kelly Fitzsimons as a permanent staff member following interviews in October. We will also be joined by another permanent teacher, Orla Potter, after Christmas. Orla is coming to us from Griffeen Valley ETNS in Lucan where she has worked for the past 5 years and will be working with our two Junior Infant classes.. In addition to Orla, Niamh McGee will be starting with us after Christmas in a substitute capacity. Niamh will be working predominately with Senior Infants and Third Class in a support role. The Board would like to thank Laura Ann Moore, Jane Finnegan and Elaine Barry each of whom has been working with us in a temporary or substitute capacity during the first term.

## **N.K.E.T.N.S. PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION UPDATE DECEMBER 2018**

As we come to the end of another busy term, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to the whole school community for your participation in our recent fundraising events. None of our events could take place without your support, participation and generosity.

- In November the cinema club was a massive success in terms of the children's involvement and the money raised. A total of 286 tickets were sold which is a new record for the club. **Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the event by buying a ticket and volunteering to help with the event. Huge thanks and acknowledgments go to Terri O'Brien for organizing such a great event.** Terri has organized the cinema club for the past 6 years and has decided to hand the baton to the next Parent/ Guardian! Please let us know if you are interested in getting involved with this for 2019.
- We are still waiting for payment from the clothing recycling company and will keep you posted!
- Thanks to all the parents and children who bought raffle tickets, to help raise funds for new school sports jerseys. We will let us know how much we raised in the new year. The winners were Aoileann O'Rourke (J11), Antonio Cascante (6<sup>th</sup>), Aoife O'Riain (4<sup>th</sup>), Matthew John (J12), Charleigh Colton (1<sup>st</sup> 1), Finn Kelly (J12), Dennis McGrath (2<sup>nd</sup>2) and Ewan O'Flynn (4<sup>th</sup>).
- As you know the NKETNS 2019 calendar is also on sale, while stocks last. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to purchase additional copies. Several Parents have commented that the calendar looks better every year. **Sincere thanks to Michael Grubka (photographer/ parent) and Impression Print for their continued support and guidance with this project.**
- There are some great events coming up in 2019. In January we will host a guest speaker who will explore how to talk with our children about relationships and sexuality. The ever-popular bake sale will return in February followed by the book fair in March. Our AGM will be in April and in early summer we hope to host an exciting new event a "wearable junk art" fashion show! **So, make sure to keep all the shiny Christmas wrapping and packaging.**
- The role of treasurer has become vacant on the PTA committee. Let us know asap if you are interested in taking on this role in the coming months. **Sincere thanks to Jean Auden for all her work as Treasurer for the past number of months.**
- If you have any ideas or suggestions for any future social fundraising events - get in touch and let us know.

Finally, thanks to everyone for a great 2019 - hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday.  
Please contact us at [nketnspta@gmail.com](mailto:nketnspta@gmail.com).

### **GARDEN UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the gardening this term. We planted the last tree on the tree trail - a native Irish Yew. We also added some more grasses at the front of the school and 6th class planted some bulbs in that area so they will look good in Spring. Thank you to Shaw's Trees and Landscaping for donating a load of bark mulch.



Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and look forward to getting back into the garden in Feb/March.

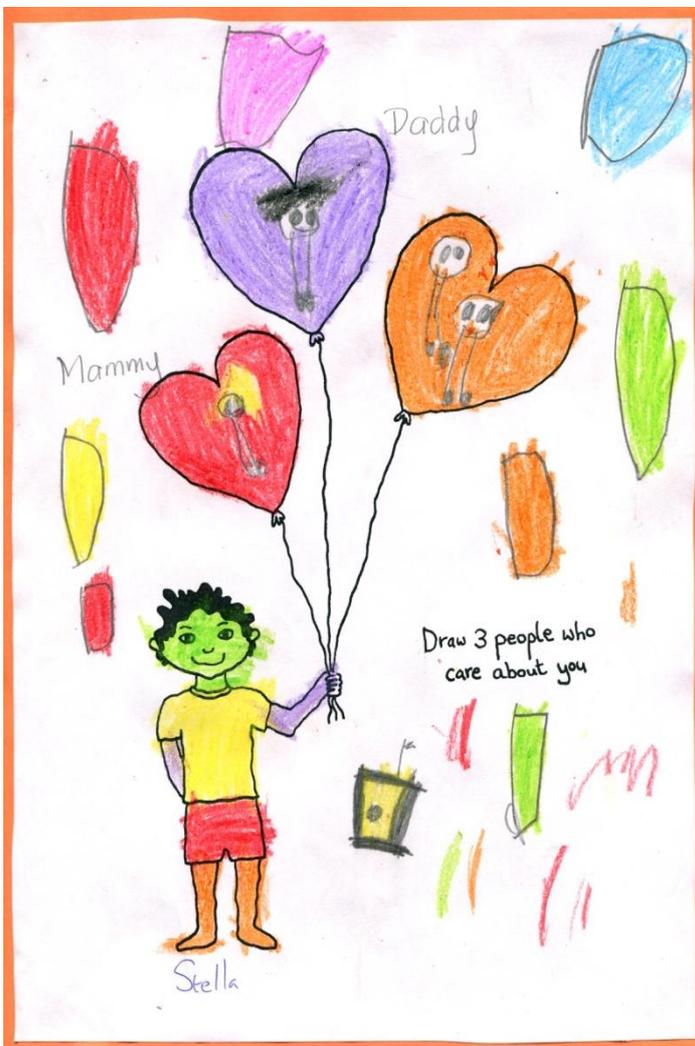
### **NOTICE FROM BUS ÉIREANN RE: SEVERE WEATHER**

As a precaution against severe weather and in the interest of child safety, Bus Éireann introduced a policy applicable to all school transport services that it provides under the Department of Education and Skills School Transport Schemes - for ALL Met Éireann Status Red weather events.

This means that when a Red alert is issued by Met Éireann for the area in which you live - or an area to which your child/ren are travelling to on a school bus - the services will not operate.

This policy is available on the School Transport section of the Bus Éireann website at [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie). A Status Red weather warning automatically means all school transport services provided by Bus Éireann under the School Transport Schemes are cancelled - in the affected areas - while the warning is in effect.

Weather warnings are carried on all national and local news bulletins.

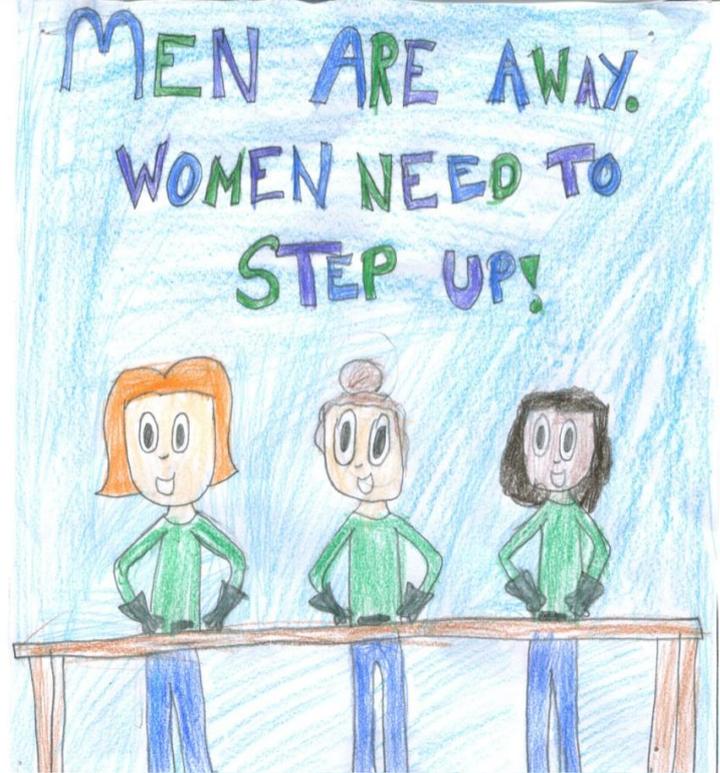


Shane's Junior Infants were asked to draw 3 people they cared out. Below is Stella McIntyre's colourful picture

## World War One Propaganda

We were learning about World War One in school recently. We looked at the propaganda posters, and decided to make our own.

By Thea Melia (5<sup>th</sup>)



'What things would you like to change?' by Klaudijus Kasperavicius (S11)

‘What things you would like to change?’ by Trevor Beggy (SI1)

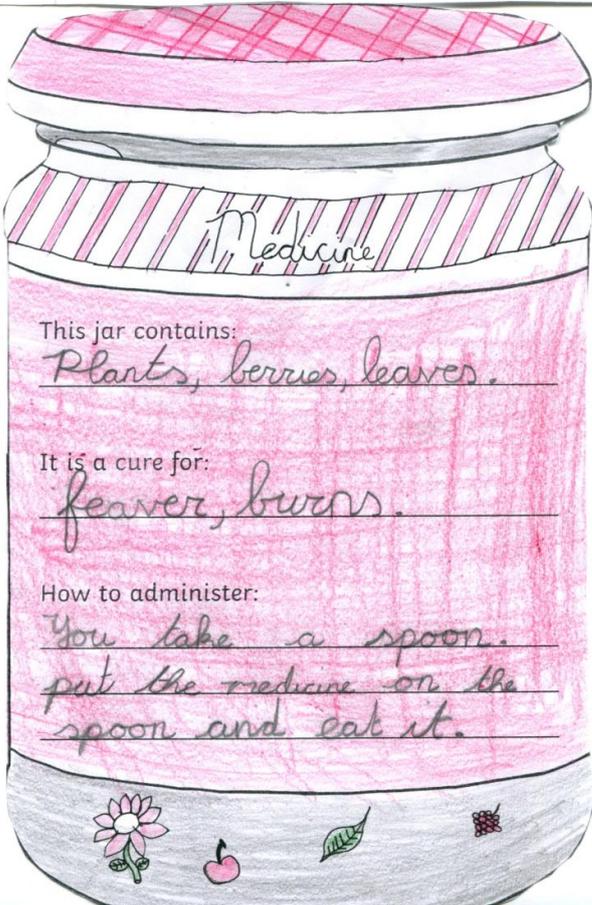


Shane asked his Junior infants to draw themselves with their family, and here is Liadan Tew's lovely picture

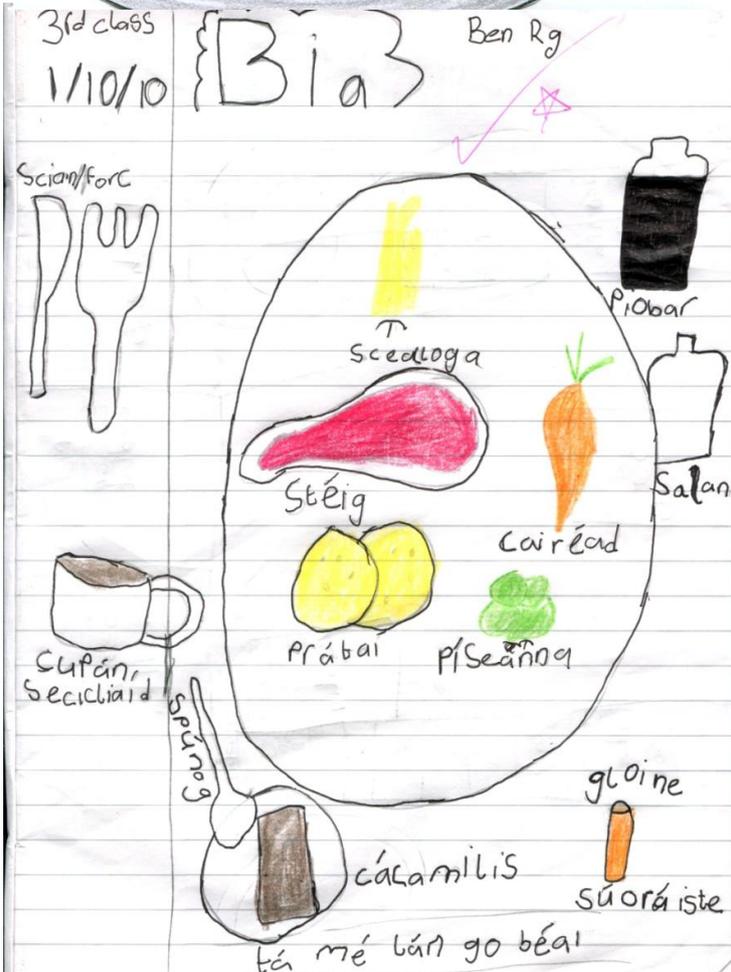
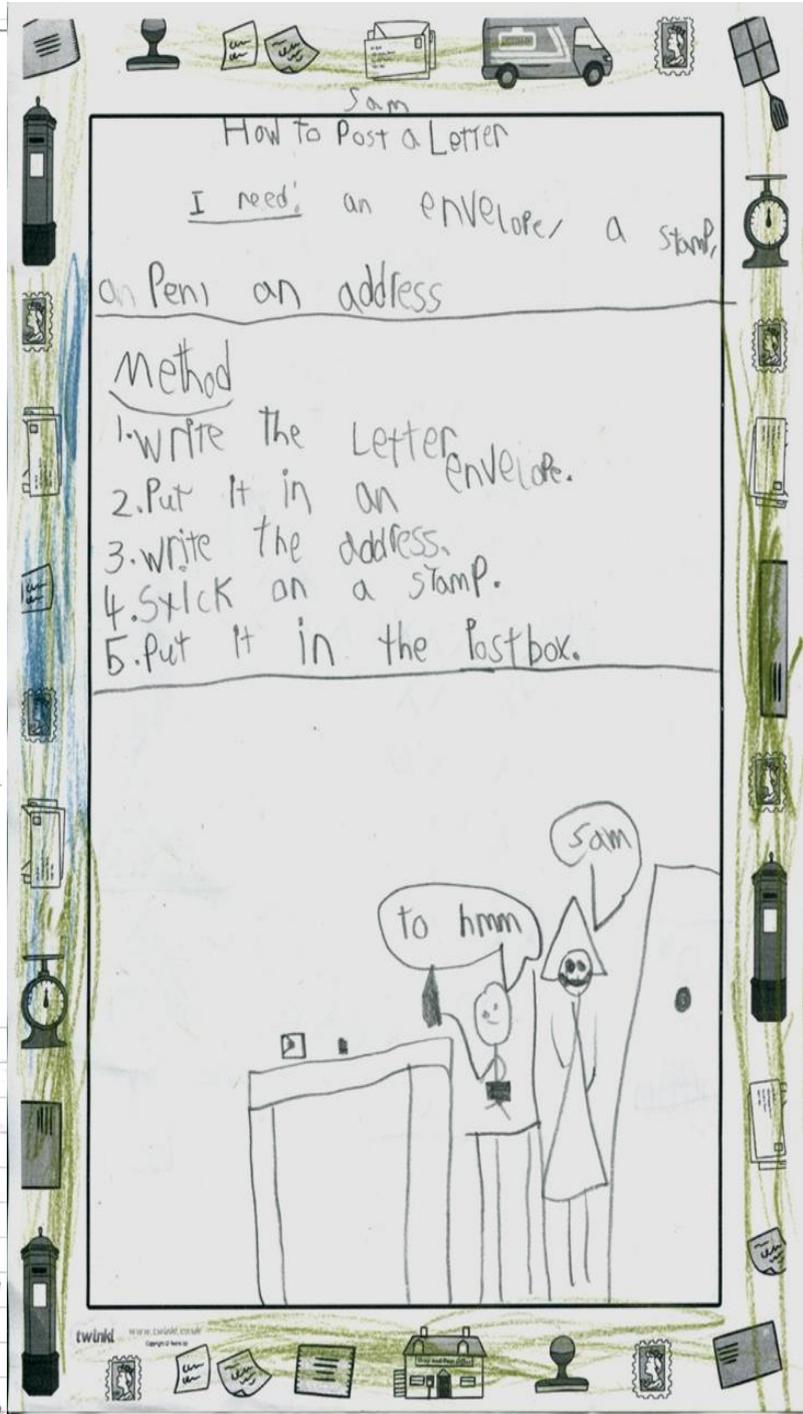


# Mary-Kate's Medicines

We are reading "Under the Hawthorn Tree". There is a kind woman called Mary-Kate in it, who makes lots of medicines. We decided to try and make our own medicines.  
By Aliya Smit (5<sup>th</sup>)



How to post a letter  
by Sam Hunt (1<sup>st</sup>2)



Is breá linn bia i rang a trí!

Tharraing Ben Reddy-Gallagher pláta mór

James



Jenny's Junior Infants were talking about their families recently. They also drew pictures of them. Here are just two. One from James Galatanu (see above) and Aisling Ennis (see below)

Aisling



# My Wellness Ideas



Dance



DRAW



COOKING



exercise

# My Wellness Ideas

Swimming

going to the Range

art

Squeezamas

ipad

Smyths

Playing with toys

Dog

Sinead's Outreach class were looking at Wellness, and here are some great ideas you might want try from Bella Cusack (top), Adam Coldrick (middle) and Aaron Cunningham (bottom).

# My Wellness Ideas

ipad

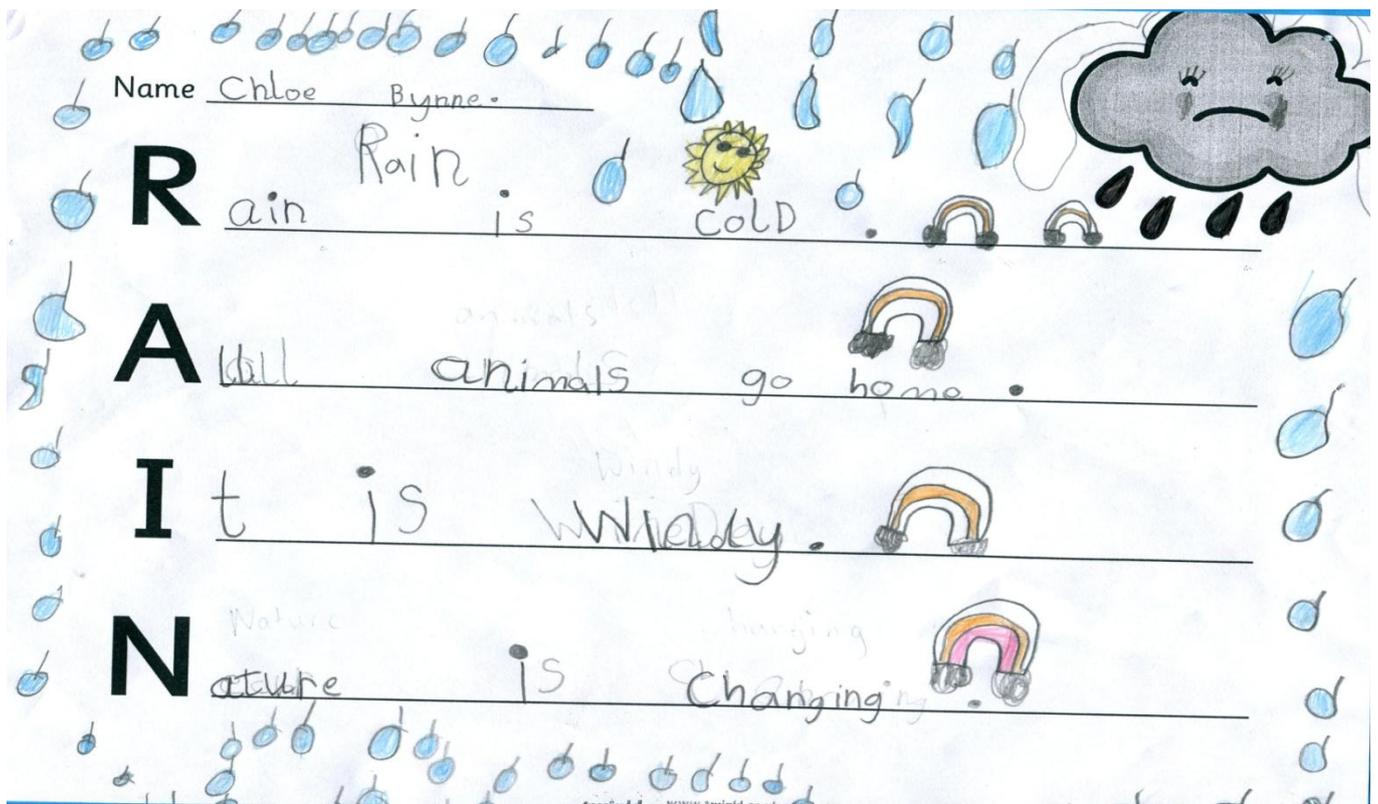
walk my dogs

60x41

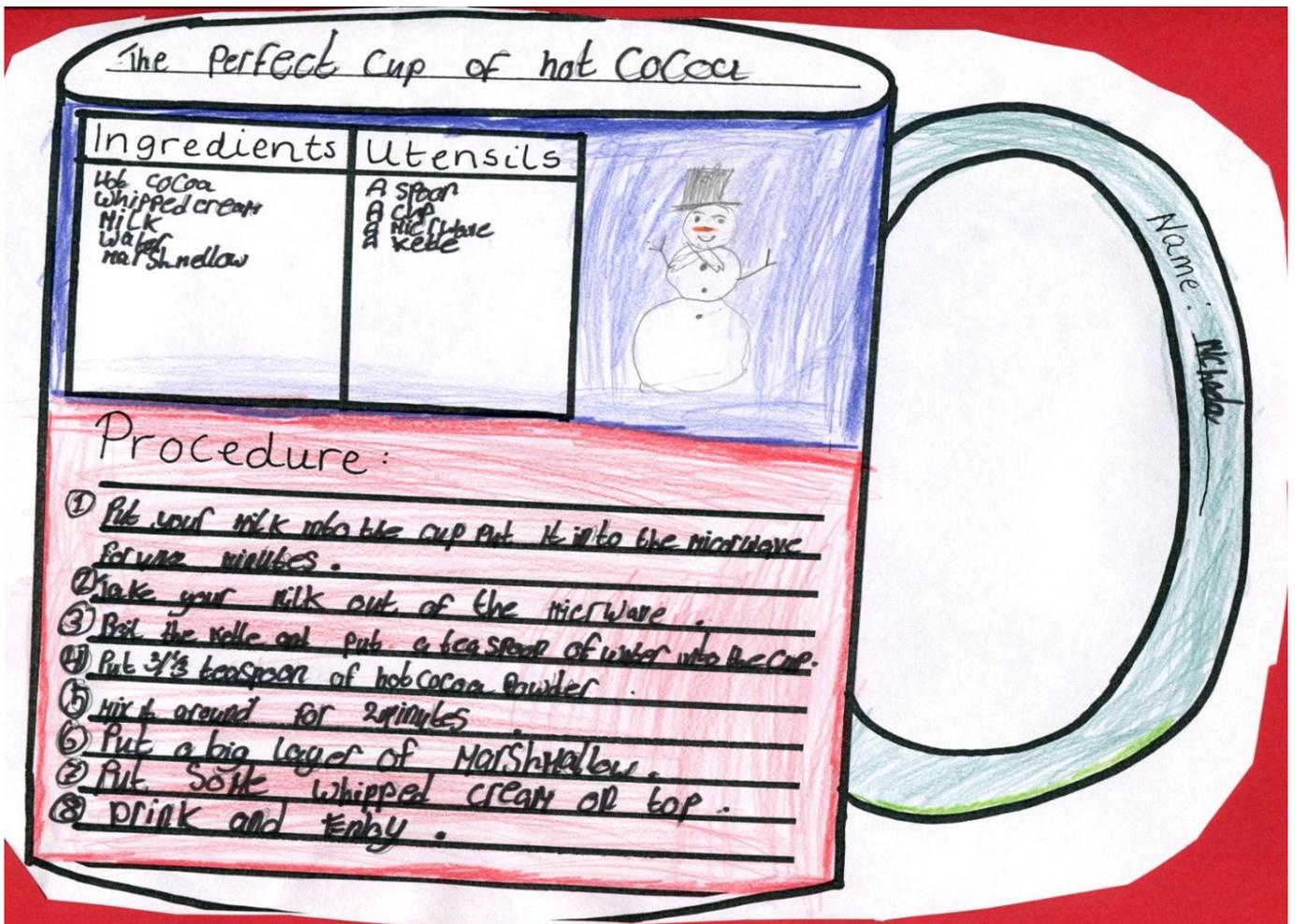
drives

going to the garage

Acrostic poem by Chloe Byrne (1<sup>st</sup> 2)



4<sup>th</sup> Class have been focusing on procedural writing. Michaela Curtis wrote a recipe for the perfect cup of cocoa.



Elianna Kayowa-Muala (1<sup>st</sup> 1) wrote about some of the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who became 'Science Buddies' to 1<sup>st</sup> class.

# Science Buddies

Today sixth class came to our class. They brought different magnet games that they have invented there were 7 games. We all played 3 different games.

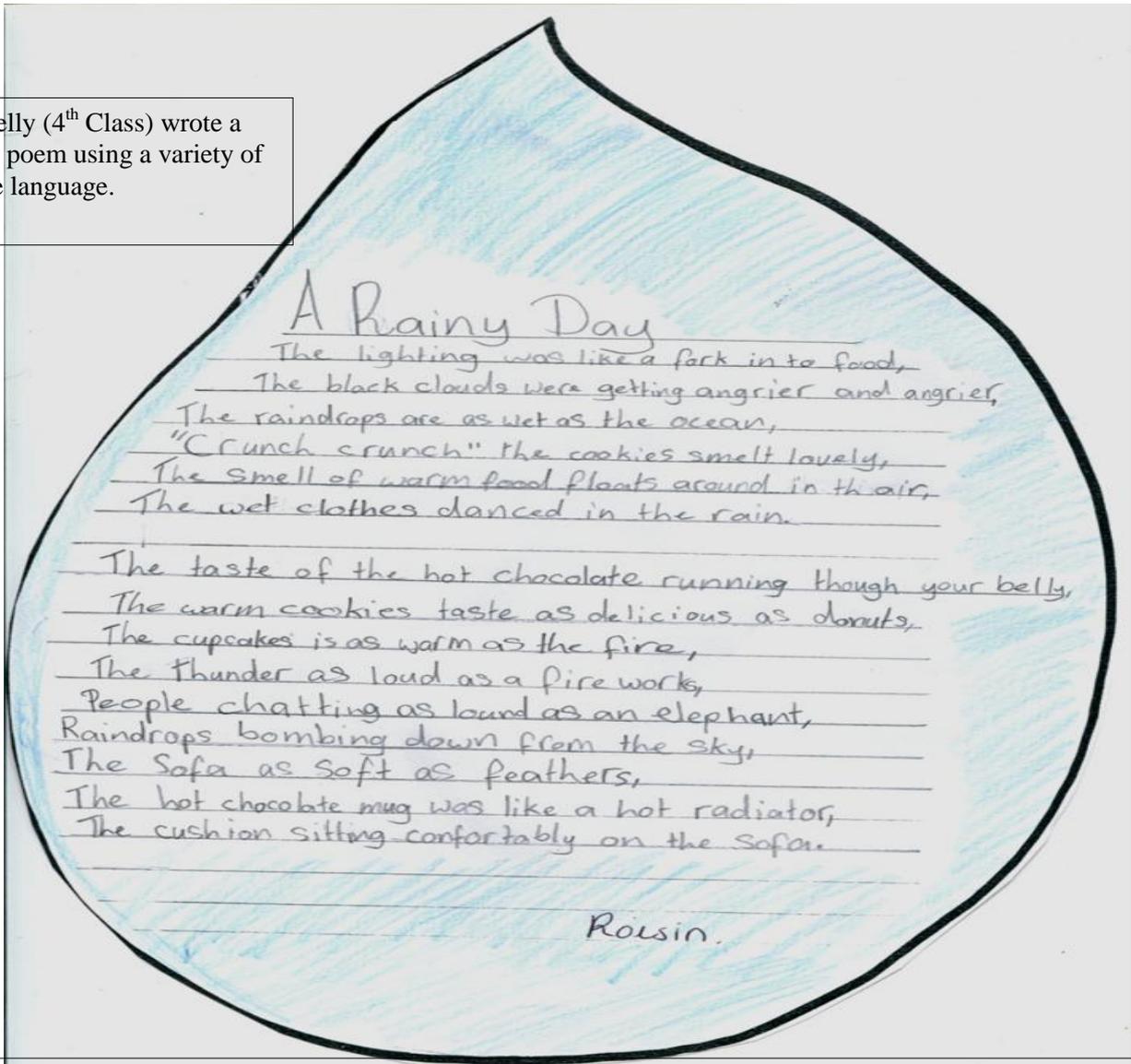
1. I played collect the paper clips
2. football with magnet
3. monopoly with magnet

Do you know what happens when you post a letter? If not, Brian O'Connor (1<sup>st</sup> 1) describes the journey of a letter.

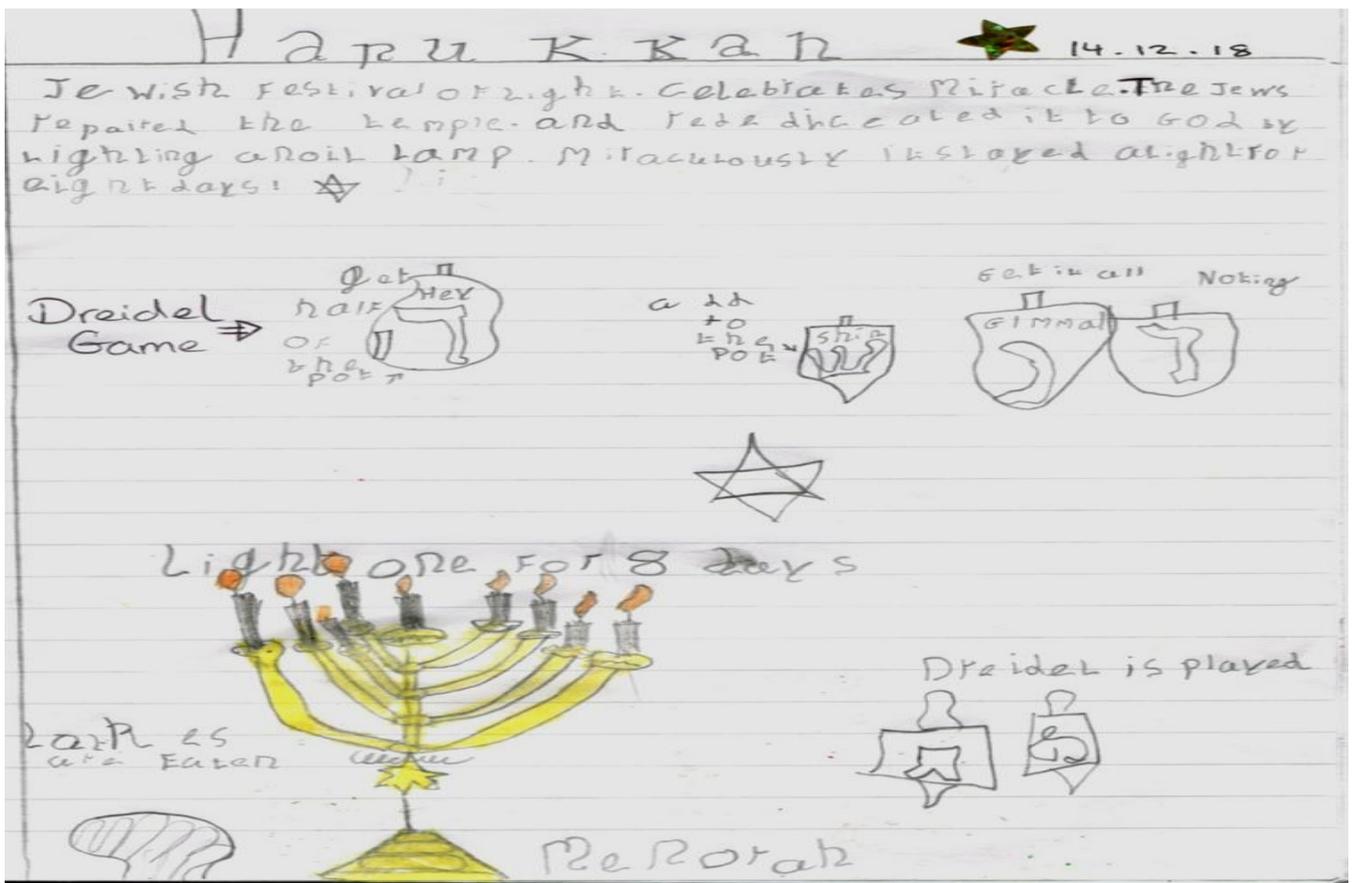
# Journey of a Letter

- 1 write a letter
- 2 Go to the post office
- 3 put a stamp on
- 4 post it in a post box
- 5 the post man collects the letter
- 6 the letter goes to the sorting centre
- 7 it goes through a machine and it is measured and sorted with its address
- 8 it goes into a trolley and into a truck
- 9 it goes to a mail delivery unit and is sorted again
- 10 the post man delivers to the address

Roisin Kelly (4<sup>th</sup> Class) wrote a rainy day poem using a variety of figurative language.



3<sup>rd</sup> Class has been learning about Hanukkah. We had great fun playing the dreidel game too. Mia Moloney recorded some interesting facts and added beautiful illustrations.



# our Kindness Calendars

on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 6<sup>th</sup> class made Kindness Calendars! We all wrote kind things that we were going to do & on those days we did what we wrote. The calendar goes from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of december. also the Kindness Calendar was on the radio! So its a great thing to do because december is such a busy time of year & its nice to help out other people that need it.

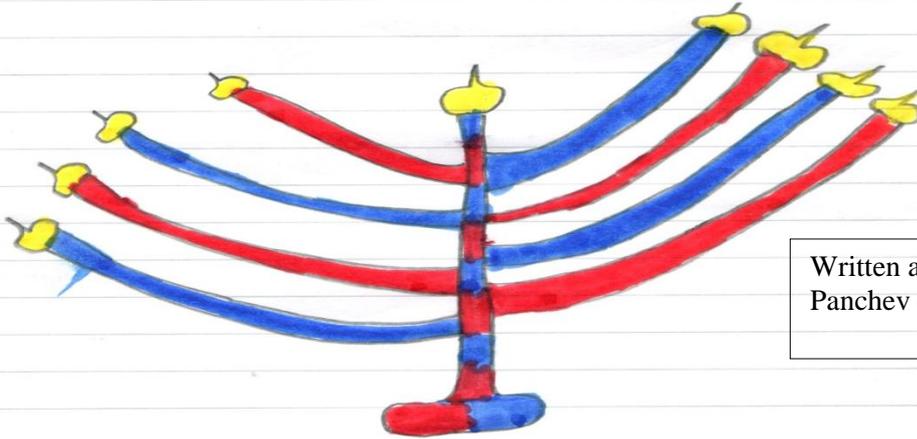
By  Sienna Field  
6<sup>th</sup> class

By Owen  
Kelly, 6<sup>th</sup> class

Recently, children from 3<sup>rd</sup> class up went to a table quiz. Only 2 people could go so there were qualifiers at the top 2 scoring people were picked to go. The children who went were Lian and Owen from 6<sup>th</sup> class, Lily - Thi and Sophie from 5<sup>th</sup> class, Max and Tara from 4<sup>th</sup> class and Harry and Abbigael from 3<sup>rd</sup>. They all travelled to the Primrose Hill School in the teachers cars. Unfortunately, we didn't win but there's always next year! Except for 6<sup>th</sup> class who are moving on to secondary.

This year our class took part in the MS Readathon. The challenge was that we had to read as many books as we could from 12<sup>th</sup> of October to the 12<sup>th</sup> of November also we had to raise money for charity with prizes available. We had 30 days and we raised €509.00 as a class which is extremely good. It was a lot of fun and hope to do it again next year. by Aaron Worth Kenny 6<sup>th</sup>

Hanukkah  
 Hanukkah is celebrated by Jewish people. they light candles and play Dreidel and eat latkes.



Written and drawn by Oggy Panchev (2<sup>nd</sup> 1)

6<sup>th</sup> class were working on their 25 Random Acts of Christmas Kindness Calendar and here is Erin Kyle's edition.

# 25 RANDOM ACTS OF Christmas Kindness

<del>1. say hi</del>	<del>2. say thank you</del>	<del>3. help a friend</del>	<del>4. smile at my friend</del>	<del>5. clean up</del>
<del>6. make someone's bed</del>	<del>7. smile at people</del>	<del>8. make tea</del>	<del>9. be helpful</del>	<del>10. say my friend's name</del>
<del>11. clean up after myself</del>	<del>12. give cards</del>	<del>13. pick up my mess</del>	<del>14. give presents</del>	<del>15. be positive</del>
<del>16. lend my stuff</del>	<del>17. say thanks</del>	<del>18. be good manners</del>	<del>19. give presents</del>	
20. help put up the decorations	21. send gran a card	22. feed my cat	23. send my cousin a card	24. give gifts
				25. be positive

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