

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 3 Newsletter June 2023

STEM Award

St. Mary's achieved an SFI Curious Minds Gold Award upon evaluation of our log of evidence which provided evidence of children's engagement with STEM in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and STEM Showcase. There was high praise for the work undertaken by our students in the feedback we received:

Congratulations St. Mary's on the excellent log for your SFI Curious Minds Award. There was a fantastic range of STEM activities throughout the school from investigating plant growth, participating in Engineering Week and investigating magnets. Great to see the STEM activities outside of the classroom with a trip to your local secondary school for a STEM day, to your library for a Science Week Event and a trip to SFI Discover Centre the Irish National Stud. You had a great STEM Show and Tell showing Minister Norma Foley all your technology and coding work. Well done to all the staff and students of St. Mary's for all your hard work throughout the year. Congratulations on your Curious Minds Gold Award. Keep up all the great work!



Blue Star Programme

St Mary's Primary School are delighted to have been awarded the 5-Year Achievement prize this year thanks to their continued work and commitment to learning about Europe. It has been a whole school effort with everyone from Junior Infants to 6th class learning about all aspects of Europe.

Irish Aid



Building on the work Ms. Comerford completed with her sixth class on the Goals for Sustainable Development as part of Green Schools, a project was undertaken with three pupils and Ms. O' Sullivan and submitted to The Irish Aid Our World Awards Competition 2023. Over 400 schools entered and St. Mary's were one of eight schools invited to UCD on June 7th where the pupils received an Activity Award from Michael Gaffney, Director General of Irish Aid "in recognition of an excellent submission". Having won School of the Year in 2022, our work was featured in the Irish Independent on June 8th promoting the competition. The current pupils' winning entry is displayed at the local bus shelter on the Limerick Road, Nenagh East with a QR code to bring the reader directly to the work of the children from St. Mary's.

Digital Schools



5th and 6th classes have been taking part in a computer science project led by Pamela O'Brien from TUS Thurles Campus. This project, which is in collaboration with the Science Foundation of Ireland, teaches children about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals through computer coding. Throughout the project the girls have had a visit to TUS Campus in Thurles, taken part in computer coding workshops and have designed and coded their own computer games based on the Global Goals.

Sport

Congratulations to one of our 6th Class Basketball Teams on winning the Plate final in a tightly fought tournament in Thurles this term. It is fantastic to see such talent on the court and the amazing team effort displayed also. 2nd and 3rd classes took part in a Camogie League with the help of some TY pupils from St Mary's Secondary School. There was great excitement when local super star, Grace O'Brien, called to visit with some prizes for the girls.

Our Senior Infants and 1st classes have been taking part in the Disney Playmakers Soccer Programme this term. Through the story of The Incredibles, they are learning all about teamwork and participation while picking up key skills and having fun.

A



Student Council

very successful fundraiser bake sale was held on June 8th run by our Student Council. The proceeds of the bake sale will be used to purchase a defibrillator for outside the school premises. A phenomenal €1405 was raised on the day and **Defibs for Life Nenagh** will make the purchase of the defibrillator and box on behalf of the school so that our defibrillator will tie in with the rest of the defibrillators all over the town and surrounds.

Defibs for Life Nenagh kindly organised CPR and AED awareness training for both our sixth classes. Fifty-four pupils worked with Community First Responder Kerry Ann Nolan to learn about the crucial lifesaving skills of performing CPR and how to use an AED.



Green Schools News

This term has been all about getting each class growing a crop of their choice. Seeds were made available to each class grouping and each class picked what they would like to grow themselves. Every class planted in their classrooms or in an area outside or in the polytunnel.

Classes reported that the children enjoyed the planting experience. Classes then harvested their produce and celebrated by making a variety of dishes with the produce, for example Senior Infants made a strawberry salad.



National Bike Week

We celebrated National Bike Week from May 13th-21st. We were delighted to report that numbers cycling and scooting on this week increased significantly thanks to the support of parents in the venture.



Active Schools News.



It is so good to see everyone enjoying being fit and healthy in St. Mary's. The fine weather has really lent itself to a fantastic programme of events planned for Active Schools Week. We have Sports Days to look forward to, tennis sessions, Zumba and much more for our Active Schools Week. Our Fun Day will take place also which promises to be action packed. Our Active Schools Committee have continued to do wonderful work promoting physical activity in our school community.

Creative Schools News

Creative Schools Week was held in May. Classes got to experience a wonderful mix of activities to explore their creativity. Aoife from Éala Dance visited the school to deliver workshops to each class. Joanna Parkes from Creative Schools Ireland delivered more workshops based on creative sand and dramatic storytelling. It was a week to remember. We look forward to continuing with this project next year. Well done everybody!



Gaelbhrtach

Lá bródúil a bhí ann ar an 13ú Meitheamh 2023 mar bhronnadh an mbrat Gaelbhrtach orainn! Chuir Gaelbhrtach lá iontach spráúil ar siúl i Óstán na Cúirte Tulach Mhór. Bhí preabchaisleán, fear grinn Giggles, ceol, craic, spraoi agus ealaín ann.

The 13th of June 2023 was a proud day for the students of St. Mary's Primary because we were rewarded with our first Gaelbhrtach flag. Gaelbhrtach put on a fantastic celebratory event for the children with bouncy castles, a clown called Giggles, music, art, 360 and selfie cameras etc.

Gaelbhrtach is a scheme we have taken part in to create natural opportunities to speak Gaeilge outside of the formal classroom setting. Gaelbhrtach were very impressed with our efforts and with the initiatives we have taken on board in the school. These are the initiatives we have implemented over the past two years

Karaoke as Gaeilge

Gaeilge labels/posters around the school

Thematic displays as Gaeilge

WOW work

Monthly Gaeilge announcements over the intercom

Coicís na Gaeilge (Lá Glas, performances as Gaeilge shared on Facebook, Gaeilgeoir Na Seachtaine, Irish art competitions, raffles, dancing and singing as Gaeilge)

Rhymes, songs, clapping, skipping and circle games as Gaeilge

Pupils and teachers greeting others at the school/classroom door as Gaeilge

Irish language/reading games

Gaeilge buddy systems



We would like to say a big **GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH** to the entire school for all their hard work on the Gaelbhratach initiatives over the past two years. *'Ní heart go cur le chéile'*.



The Board of Management, Principal & Staff of St. Mary's wish all our pupils and their families a happy & safe summer.

School will close on Fri 23rd June and reopen on Wednesday August 30th 2023.

**Check us out www.stmarysprimary.ie
Facebook St Mary's Primary.**