

# Scoil Shride Christmas 2024



*Greetings all and welcome to our Christmas 2024 Edition.*

*I'm allowed pen a few words here and got special permission from Ms. Moynihan! Thanks to everyone for their wonderfulness and fabulousness (I'm sure they're real words!). Years ago, people remarked on the school being great, new and shiny but of course that was the building. The school is made up of the terrific pupils and staff, Board of Management and parents. And, of course the pupils "didn't get it from a sting" as my mother would say – so hats off to all the parents and guardians. Our collective vision of putting the education and wellbeing of the children first made sharing the educational journey far easier. The Board of Management – ably led by Fiona Pakenham and her predecessors – John Donohoe and Jean Roche have a huge role to play in governance and they were always prioritising the wellbeing of the pupils and staff. Board members give and gave many many hours to the school community and always took the job very seriously. We have also been blessed with our Parents' Association who have always left things tidier than when they found stuff and have supported all of us time and time again to provide opportunities to grow and develop. Thanks so much to Anne Marie Keating and her predecessors, Alison Twomey, Alice Lamont and Fiona Pakenham (again) and to all the members of the PA. One would travel a long long way to meet a crew like we have here. Dedicated, professional, fantastic, creative and kind with just the right amount of zany. They really are the wind beneath our wings.*

*I look forward to the school being brought to new heights with the appointment of Ms. Carmel Linehan to lead and manage far into the future.*

*Wishing you all well and thanks again, Le meas mór, Brendan Kelleher*

**Junior Infant News** Junior Infants have been very busy this term. We've been learning new sounds and started reading our first book, "Look Out Teddy". We learned all about space and explored working in a Space station during playtime. We enjoyed learning about "Bia" and "An Nollaig" in Irish. Science Week was great fun! We did lots of fun experiments including "Magic Milk" and making "Dancing Raisins" with sparkling water and raisins. We are so excited for Christmas! We have made some lovely Christmas art and we have been practising really hard for our Christmas play. Our teachers are very proud of us and we can't wait to perform for our families! Merry Christmas everyone 😊





around the school!



### Senior Infants News

As we approach the festive season, we would like to share some of the wonderful learning and activities that our Senior Infants have been enjoying in November and December!

This month, the children have been exploring the world of 2D shapes. They had great fun making and identifying different shapes in the classroom and on maths trails



We also celebrated science week with a range of hands-on activities that sparked curiosity and imagination. The children especially enjoyed the skittles experiment, where they watched the colours move and blend into the water. We were also lucky enough to participate in a virtual tour of local farms in the Come Farm with me series.



Finally, the children have been busy



rehearsing our Christmas show 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'. They have been practicing their songs, lines and dance moves with great enthusiasm and we can't wait to share their hard work with you in our upcoming performance!



## 1st Class

1st Class had lots of fun this half-term, especially with science week, the book fair, and all of the Christmas performances that we got the opportunity to watch. During Science Week we did a great Zoom call with Curious Minds where we looked at how to make a tornado in a bottle. We also really enjoyed making colourful snakes in science to prove that hot air rises. We had lots of fun exploring gravity and how things fly with our very own paper helicopters, and sound and music with our very own musical instruments.

In English, we learned a lot about different animals as we explored report writing. We especially enjoyed writing our own reports about reindeer. We learned that reindeer have special noses that warm the cold air that they breathe!

There has been great excitement in the lead up to Christmas and we have had fun learning Christmas carols and making our very own Christmas decorations and Christmas art. We especially enjoyed designing Toy Show Christmas jumpers and playing Christmas games. We also really enjoyed the performances by the school choir, and the Junior and Senior Infants. It was wonderful to get to watch and support our talented siblings and friends.





### Niamh and Aoife's Class News

Niamh and Aoife' class have been busy preparing for Christmas. We worked extremely hard on our Christmas play. We enjoyed welcoming our family and friends to our festive performance. We have been practising our letter writing skills. We had a very important letter to post to the North Pole. These special letters were dropped off to Santa's post-box in the village. We had some furry visitors to our class this term, we welcomed back the guinea pigs. We always have lots of fun when they visit our class. We also had so much fun during science week, we got to complete lots of different experiments.

We would like to wish everyone a very *Happy Christmas!!!!*



### Green Schools

This term we formed our new Green School Committee and we are working on achieving our next flag. The flag we are aiming for is "Global Citizenship – Energy". We are actively trying to reduce our energy usage to do our part in helping the planet. We are also striving to become more aware of the wider world and our place in it. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class are enthusiastically monitoring our electricity usage, helping to recycle, picking litter and encouraging children to take the 'Green Way' to school. We are also reading the energy meter each day. We created an energy mascot to encourage us.

Please find below some energy saving tips for implementing at home.

- Turn off radiators when not in use.
- Don't tun on lights unnecessarily and don't forget to turn them off when leaving a room.
- Close doors to keep heat in
- Don't boil full kettles for one cup of tea
- Close curtains to keep the heat in but open to let sun in.
- Use a clothes horse or washing line where possible.

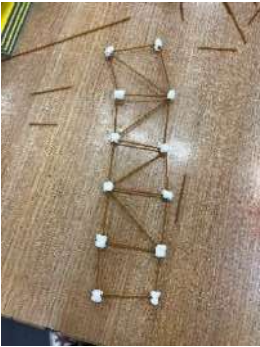
*Turn off the light, help make our future bright!*

*Maeve Collier, Ciara Jameson and Team*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

2<sup>nd</sup> class are really looking forward to Christmas. They really enjoyed the Junior and Senior Infant shows. They have been doing lovely Christmas art and dramas. They got their Christmas jumpers on for Barrettstown. They loved experimenting and building during science week and made a collaborative piece of art. Kelly taught them lots of GAA ball skills too. They got some lovely new books for the class library thanks to the book fair and have loved reading them.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

We have been very busy in 3<sup>rd</sup> class this term. In Maths we have been learning our multiplication & division times tables for the first time. In English we have been learning about Report Writing and have written reports on different countries and animals.

Third class have been lucky to receive Gaelic Football coaching sessions with Kelly Perkins over the last few weeks. Even in the freezing cold weather it is so much fun and we're all improving our skills! We will really miss her when she moves to Australia! Thanks Kelly ❤️



We absolutely loved Science Week! We got to design and protect an egg from breaking when dropped and also do an experiment on 'Bouncy Eggs!'

create something that will

We have all loved decorating our classrooms for Christmas and doing lots of Christmas art and writing Christmas poems and stories! Happy Christmas from all of 3rd class!



### Sports News

On behalf of everyone we would like to thank Kill GAA for providing the school with GAA coaching for all classes over the last number of years. Ms Kellie Perkins has been coaching in the school for the last five years and the staff would like to thank her and wish her the very best in her travels early in the New Year. I would also like to thank all the staff, Ms Wright, Ms Christian, Ms Purcell, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Carty and Mr. Maguire who looked after teams so far this year. A special thanks to Lorraine Pamplin for her continued support to our basketball teams who have reached the semi-finals of their respective competitions. I would also like to thank all the parents who have given their time to support and drive our children to matches. Finally, I personally would like to thank Mr. Kelleher for all the encouragement and support he has given in the promotion of sport within our school over the years. He has been a wonderful advocate for this and has encouraged many more children to participate in sport throughout his time here in Scoil Bhríde. We all wish him every happiness in his retirement in the years ahead.

### 4<sup>th</sup> class

4<sup>th</sup> class have been very busy since Hallowe'en. We have delved into all things **USA** after the US Presidential elections which we kept an eye on during November 5<sup>th</sup>. We also studied previous presidents such as Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and even Abraham Lincoln. This meant we kept an eye on the Irish general election later in November too.

We also picked a US state and developed a **project** on it.

We held a project fayre and all the 4<sup>th</sup> classes came to see each other. We had great fun and learned loads about how to present and communicate a point effectively and feel like we taught loads to our visitors 😊.

We also had **Science Week** in November. This was great fun. We looked at fingerprints and the designs that they make by using inkpads. Everyone has a different fingerprint. This is what makes it a little easier for police to identify criminals for instance.

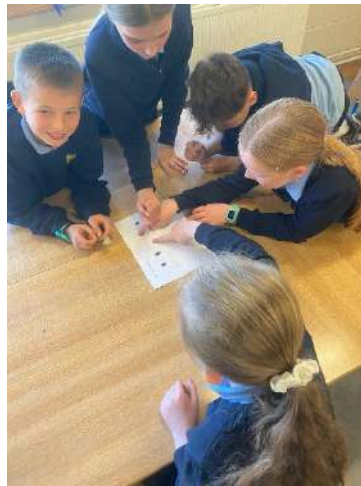
4<sup>th</sup> class also participated in the annual **Christmas Concert** on December 4<sup>th</sup> for their first time. Everyone was amazing and there was both great singing and atmosphere on the night. Well done on all your hard work and dedication. What a great start to the Christmas season.

Finally, we wish Mr Kelleher well in his retirement in January 2025. We will see him after the Christmas holidays but we will miss him. We hope he has huge plans for his retirement and enjoys it after so many hard years work in school.



*Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise daoibh!*

See you in 2025! 😊 🎄



### 5<sup>th</sup> Class News

5<sup>th</sup> Class had a very busy November and December. The 4 classes all participated in the Cycle Right programme. We really enjoyed this course. We got to cycle every Thursday for 7 weeks. We learned many new skills and how to cycle safely on the road. Some of the classes are also going swimming.

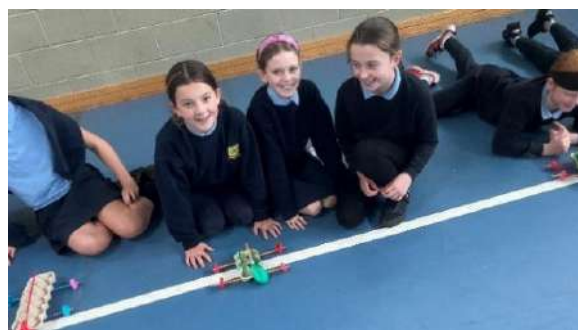
In November we had Science week. We carried out many experiments and had great fun making balloon powered cars and making ski jumps from tinfoil. We raced our balloon powered cars and recorded how far they travelled.

We were lucky enough to use our new school iPads in December. We played many educational games, and we are also learning how to code using the Scratch Jr programme. It is great fun, and we are looking forward to becoming more digitally literate.

We have all been singing Christmas songs and learning how to play the tin whistle too! We love our singing get togethers in the hall.

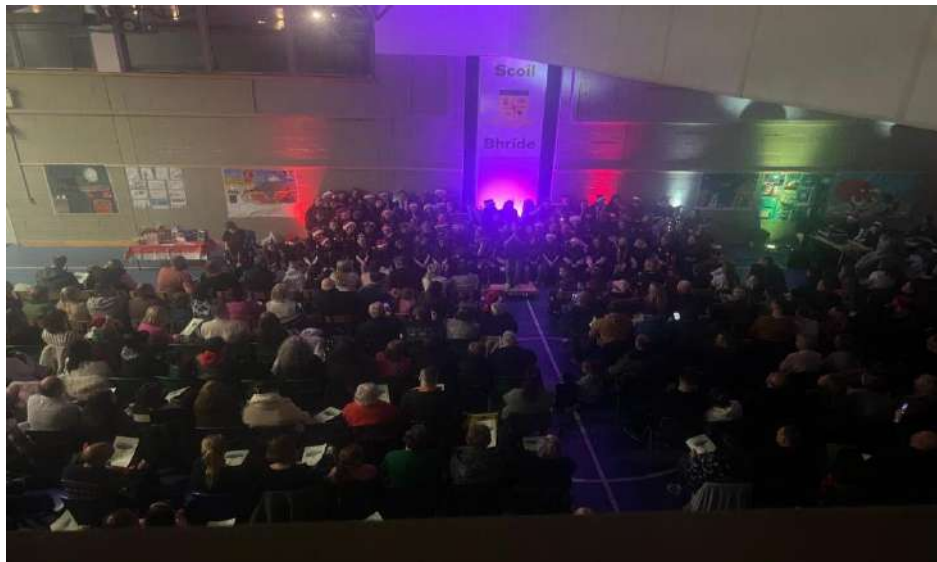
We have been working very hard in our individual classes doing lots of mini projects on History topics and countries around the world. We love carrying out research and now we can use our iPads to do this!

We would also like to say farewell to Mr. Kelleher, we will really miss him. Best of luck from all in rang a cúig. We hope he enjoys his retirement!





### Choir News



What a success our Christmas concert on December 4<sup>th</sup> was! Thank you to all who attended and supported this great event. Thank you to everyone involved behind the scenes helping so willingly to make it such a success. The biggest thank you goes to the children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class in the choir. Your enthusiasm, sense of fun, good humour and dedication made everything so easy. We are very proud of you all. We can't wait for another term of singing and fun after Christmas.

Ms. Moynihan, Mr. Maguire, Ms. Collier, Ms. Brady, Ms. Salmon, Ms. Fraher, Ms. O'Sullivan.

### School Book Fair

This year's Annual Book Fair was a huge success. We sold €9,300 worth of books. This is a record breaking amount and we are truly overwhelmed. From this amount the school can spend €5,500 on library books. This means that each class library



and the main library will be stocked with all the latest reads as well as all the classics. None of this would be possible without the continued support of the parents. Thank you all sincerely for coming along and purchasing books. A huge thanks to Annemarie and the parents who volunteered at the bookfair.

Happy Christmas everyone and Happy Reading!!!!



### **Christmas Jumper Day**

We held our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> of December. There was an amazing festive spirit throughout the school, as adults and students alike donned their best Christmas jumpers in order to raise money for Barretstown. It was a fantastic day and we managed to raise €3502. Well done to everyone for getting involved and supporting such a special cause.



### **A Fond Goodbye**

As our principal, colleague and friend, Brendan Kelleher, leaves for pastures new in January, this will be his last newsletter. And so, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish him well and thank him.

Brendan started in Scoil Bhríde in February 2013, having had successful tenures in Kilbarrack and Huntstown, previous to this. Along with his vast educational experience, Brendan brought with him to Scoil Bhríde a core set of values that provided pathways through which both students and staff could explore their potential.

His clear vision and steady hand saw the school size grow by nearly 40%, which also saw the inclusion of a computer room, the now well-used pedestrianised walkway from the Earl's Court entrance to the school yard as well as the addition of hundreds of thousands of euros worth of resources that have been to the benefit of students' lives now and well into their future. More importantly, he has helped develop a school that we know students feel at home in and staff love to work in - not an easy task with 721 pupils and 59 adults under his care!!! This was, in huge part due to his subtle approach and the

advice and support he provided to many. Support which, often, remained only known to those recipients, never to be broadcast any further.

Pupils are well documented with Brendan's stories of bullying and how to deal with it from his assemblies – a topic he cared greatly about, such is the kind soul he is! Equally, staff now reminisce on the consistent kindness he offered to us in both professional and personal woes, often leaving his office with a problem solved or at least halved- and if we were really lucky – a Purple Snack Bar 😊 .

Thank you, Brendan, for your kindness, leadership and belief in us. We look forward to seeing you on the other side of the desk come January, if not for visits, at least to help us with the subbing crisis 😊 .

Wishing you a long and healthy retirement.

We will miss you!

Your Scoil Bhríde team!

***PLEASE remember traffic protocols within school grounds.*** The "Car Park" is a "Drop off zone" - ***Set Down for student Drop off and Collection*** (on school plans) and not actually supposed to be a car park! Please drop off and go.

Please **Reverse in** and **Drive out** and please do not block other motorists. The Wheelchair accessible carparking spots are only for use by those who need closer access to the school and are directly affected. Please honour this internationally agreed protocol.



***If you are driving please do not idle your car's engine*** Research around schools in the U.K. have demonstrated decrease in air quality attributed to car engines running idle while in the school grounds. Our playgrounds are **NO IDLING ZONES !!**

*We have school uniforms for a reason and now is as important as ever. Designer gear serves no child in a school.*

*Use of mobile phones in prohibited in school / school related events.*

*Keep going with the healthy lunches and well done!!*

Please walk to school. If you are cycling, wear a helmet.

Until the council change the traffic management outside the school, motorists are to turn left upon exiting the grounds. This helps the traffic management within the school grounds and makes for safer and less frustrated motorists..

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Single use plastic: Just a reminder to remember to continue to use reusable drink bottles in school and **no single use plastic bottles!**

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It is important to note that when the school is not open for pupils, it is out of bounds to the public. This means no access to the basketball court, All Weather Pitch or grounds in general. This applies to weekends and after school without specific permission of the Board of Management. It is trespassing to be on the premises without permission.

Thanks to Ms. Moynihan, all the contributors and Paula for helping with this newsletter.

Happy Christmas everybody 😊

Brendan Kelleher and Staff and **see you all on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**