

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhain na páistí uilig, chomh maith le foireann na scoile, sult, spraoi agus tairbhe as 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' a cheiliúradh i mí Márta. D'eagraigh foireann Gaeilge na scoile gníomhaíochtaí eagsúla do na bpáistí chun seans a thabhairt dóibh an Ghaeilge a úsáid, mar shampla, scéalaíocht, amhránaíocht, 10 @ 10 as Gaeilge, Tráth na gCeist agus comórtas ealaíne. Bhí Lá Glás againn nuair a bhí gach duine, fiú na múinteoirí gléasta suas. Ba chúis mhór áthais d'fhoireann na scoile an bród a léirigh na páistí as a gcuid Gaeilge agus a gcultúr a fheiscint. Míle buíochas do gach éinne a bhí páirteach i gníomhaíochtaí na seachtaine.

There were a lot of celebrations this March for Seachtain na Gaeilge. 2023. The boys and girls took part in stories, songs, 10@10 through Irish and an art competition. We also had Lá Glas, where the children and teachers alike dressed in green. On Tuesday, the children took part in a céilí in the hall with their class. On Wednesday, Múinteoir Claire and Múinteoir Brian played traditional Irish instruments for all the classes. They also demonstrated how each instrument is played for all the pupils. Múinteoir Grace also performed traditional Irish dancing for all classes. It was a great week to promote the Irish language and culture. Our thanks to everyone involved during the events of the week.



Galway Bay FM

Galway Talks with Keith Finnegan from Galway Bay FM broadcasted live from the Cumasú Centre and some pupils from our school featured on the show. The pupils in 6th Class completed projects about the local community and discussed these projects live on air! The pupils proudly represented their community, school and themselves. Well done to everyone who contributed to the show.



Uni4U

The Access Centre in NUI Galway runs the Uni4U programme in primary schools in Galway city to create positive experiences through various interactions with the students and the university. Our 6th Class pupils are participating in the 2023 UNI4U programme and will attend the university for 7 weeks and enjoy lessons on zoology, philosophy, economics, literature, ICT, history and sports.



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Happy Easter!

Happy Easter to all our pupils, parents and friends!

Welcome to our Easter newsletter with lots of photos and news about all the great work being done in Merlin Woods Primary School this term. It is a joy to watch the children progress and mature during the year.

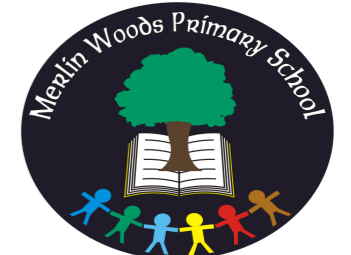
I would like to thank our teachers and our community partners for some of the many wonderful projects running in our school. We are blessed to have a committed and inspiring staff who give the children the best opportunities possible. We have many various afterschool clubs (all run voluntarily by teachers), Music Generation teaching violin to all children from 2nd to 4th Class plus after school lessons for 5th and 6th, Homework Club with volunteers from staff and the ARD Family Resource Centre, a Breakfast Club with the support of Lidl, and Uni4U showing pupils that learning is life-long and the opportunities are endless. I am immensely grateful for all the goodwill and generosity that has been shared with our pupils. Thank you!

While the busyness of the term can be exciting and forward-propelling, there are times and events that stop us in our tracks and change the course of life forever. There have been two such occasions in recent months. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of Khaled Jabar and Mark Morley on the death of two loving husbands and fathers who were so dedicated to their families. May both men rest in peace.

May each of you have a peaceful, hopeful and blessed Easter.

Paula O'Connor

Principal



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on March 3rd. The children were invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book. They participated in different reading activities held in their classroom that day for example Buddy Reading, listening to audio books and visiting the school library.



CAIRDE

Cairde came to the school on the 6th March for a Special performance for pupils and staff. Cairde is an Irish dance group known for their TikTok videos, where they put a modern twist on traditional Irish dancing. Cairde have performed at many high profile events including a special St. Patrick's Day performance for President Joe Biden in the White House. We were truly honoured that Cairde chose to take time out of their extremely busy schedules to visit our school.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week took place from the 27th February - 3rd March this year. The theme this year tied in with our positive behaviour expectations: "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind, Kind hands, Kind heart, Kind feet". Children were taught many lessons on Anti-bullying this week and were encouraged to show kindness towards their classmates and teachers. If children were found to be kind they received a kindness certificate. Classes created their own Anti-Bullying posters and presented them at assembly. Odd Sock Day was also celebrated on Tuesday 28th February to acknowledge differences and our uniqueness.



Chess Tournament

5th & 6th class students took part in a chess tournament in the Ardilaun Hotel on Monday the 6th of March. Congratulations to the students who placed in the top ten out of 130 participants, displaying wonderful chess skills on the day.



Music Generation

We have 165 children learning the violin as part of their music development. Every child from 2nd, 3rd and 4th class has a violin on long term loan for the year from the school and receives free weekly professional tuition from talented music teachers Ciara O'Connor and Lucy Le Marquand. This partnership with Music Generation and Galway City Partnership enables our pupils to avail of an amazing opportunity and hopefully develop a love of music that will continue to grow. Many thanks to all involved and to Music Generation and Galway City Partnership for this special collaboration.



Visit to Teddy Bear's Hospital

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class had great fun at the Teddy Bears Hospital in January. The children brought their teddies to see a doctor for a check-up. Each teddy got the best treatment available to bring them back to full health.



Clothing Collection

We linked with bag2school.ie to collect bags of unwanted clothes that parents were clearing out to raise funds for school activities. €231.75 was raised. 10% of the proceeds were also paid to The LauraLynn Children's Hospice on top of the amount we received. We really appreciated your support for this fundraiser.

First Confession

Second Class celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 27th March. This was a special occasion for all the Second class pupils and teachers as the children prepare to make their First Holy Communion in May.

Green Schools Committee



Pictured above is our recently appointed Green Schools committee. Our new committee will be busy in the coming term helping our school achieve another Green Flag for the theme of Biodiversity. For this theme, the boys and girls will be learning about the things that they can do to help protect our local environment, including caring for native plants, animals and different habitats such as woodlands and sea life in our area.

Cycle Right Programme

5th Class were very lucky to take part in the Cycle Right Programme in January. Cycle Right is produced and supported by the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Authority and Cycling Ireland. The children learned practical cycle safety skills to help them become more competent and confident cyclists.



Food Dudes

Our school took part in Food Dudes this year. Food Dudes is Ireland's national healthy eating programme for primary schools. It works by positively changing children's attitudes towards eating fresh fruit and vegetables. This is achieved by combining three key elements- repeated tasting, rewards and role modelling. Children enjoyed tasting foods such as tomatoes, blueberries, peppers, cucumbers, courgettes and carrots.



After School Activities

Huge thanks to all our staff who volunteered for the following after school activities that took place this term. We are very lucky to have a wide variety of after school activities in our school.

- Science Club
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Music
- Gymnastics
- Creative Well-being
- Volleyball
- Homework Club

Gaelic Football

5th Class pupils took part in a Gaelic Football blitz in Merlin College on Monday 27th March.



Spring Gardening

In March, the pupils in Clever Acorns Class and Wise Oaks Class enjoyed learning all about Spring. Here are the children planting flowers in the school garden.

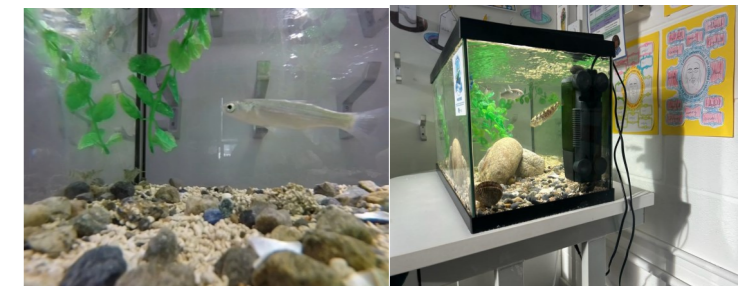


Our Student Council representatives this year are:

- Roisín 3A
- Stephen 3B
- Matylda 4A
- Julia 4B
- Helena 5A
- Angela 5B
- Amdie & Desmond 6A
- Tomás, Martin & Jemimah 6B

6th Class Aquarium Project

Our two 6th Classes took part in the Explorers Education Programme. This is a programme run by the Marine Institute. Both classes created a seawater aquarium to look after for three weeks. The aquariums weren't empty however and contained different species of sea creatures that would be found off the Irish coast. The creatures included one Blenny, two Mullet, two Prawns, one Scallop and an Anemone. 6th Class had great fun looking after and caring for their underwater friends!



Engineer's Week



We celebrated Engineer's Week from the 6th-10th March in Merlin Woods. Engineer's Week gives children the opportunity to discover engineering. Múinteoir Sinéad's third class took the opportunity to think like engineers by building towers from every day objects like lollipop sticks and clothes pegs.