



Scoil AntoNews

Scoil Antoine Naofa St. Anthony's BNS

June 2021

Message from the Principal



Dia daoibh a cháirde agus fáilte go dtí an nuacht-litir, 'Scoil AntoNews'.

Summer has arrived, but before we wish you all a very happy and safe Summer, can I say that we are so proud of all of our boys for their wonderful upbeat attitude and the positivity that they have brought to St. Anthony's BNS since we returned after Lockdown. A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for your resilience, creativity, positivity, perseverance, stamina and desire to do your best in keeping life as normal as possible for the wonderful pupils of our school.



It has been a busy school year for everyone, and one that we will all remember, but I believe that we have successfully adjusted and continued as a school community to support the holistic development of our pupils, and provide them with wonderful opportunities to learn, socialise, develop and grow. In spite of Covid-19, pupils, parents and staff have enjoyed many wonderful experiences and created many happy memories. I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing staff here at St. Anthony's for their outstanding commitment to your children in what were extremely challenging circumstances. I would also like to thank you, the parents for adapting to the changes which were forced upon you due to Covid-19, whether that was staggered openings, Lockdown, (juggling family, work and school commitments) Remote Learning, SeeSaw or Zoom, your cooperation and support was hugely valued. As a team, we have done very well.



We say farewell and the very best of luck to the talented 6th class pupils who have spent the last 8 years growing and developing as part of the proud St. Anthony's BNS family, the red & black of Ballinlough. We thank you for all of your valuable contributions to St. Anthony's and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the future to share your memories and stories.



We have two super staff members retiring this summer, teacher, Kate Cogan and SNA, Norma Heffernan. They are two extremely positive, dedicated, caring, loyal and professional staff and I thank both of you for the kindness, care and example you have shown the pupils and school over your very successful careers. Míle Buíochas Kate agus Norma. Guímíd gach rath oraibh agus ar bhúr glann agus gurab saol fada buan é.

Wishing you all a very happy Summer and I look forward with hope to the new school year. Bain taitneamh as na laethanta saoire.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Seán Lyons



6th Class 2021



6th Class 2021



Ballyhass Lakes

On the 9th of June we had to get up even earlier for school because we were going to Bally Hass Lakes near Mallow for our school tour. When I got to school nearly everyone was there. We got on the bus at 8:15 a.m.

I was seated at the bottom of the bus on the journey to Ballyhass. Nothing really happened and it was boring, and then I got a headache because boys were singing!

When we arrived we were just standing around and throwing rocks into the water at first. Then we were told to stop. Later a Viking looking fella came over. He was our instructor. We finally started to do something which was holding on to a rope and trying to swing on to a wooden platform and each time you did it, it got further away. When we were finished that activity, we had to climb through this string thing which was so difficult that no one completed it.

We finally went to the aqua-park. It took about 10 minutes to put on my wetsuit but it took Cathal less than a minute!

We saw another group and class, they were going into the water as well. When we put our lifejackets on we had to listen to a safety procedure. After that we jumped in the water! It was freezing at the start but once I reached the actual park in the centre of the lake I was fine. We did King of the Hill and it was fun. Afterwards, I found Abdul. We went down the massive slide and splashed into the water. Abdul couldn't get back on the board so I had to help him.

When we were climbing across the cylinder thing Abdul fell and died, so I left him. Only joking! Afterwards, I went on the swing, Josh face planted. I didn't face plant. A bit later on, I was on the King of the Hill and one of the instructors pushed me off because we had to leave the aqua-park! It took me even longer to change out of my wetsuit.

We then ate our lunch and we went to the shop too. I bought a King Cornetto, a bottle of coke and a hot chocolate. I sat with Max and every time we left for a second the same bird would try to steal our food.

When lunch was over we went rock climbing and abseiling. I did it five times. Everyone else went once or twice. By the time we were finished that, it was nearly home time so we had a couple of goes on the zip-line.

By the time it was time to go home, it was really hot and we took off our harnesses and got our bags. We got on the bus and this time we were upstairs. (Nothing happened! No one moved, or ate food and everyone was quiet! Honestly!)

When we got back to Ballinlough, I went home. I was exhausted. Even the next day I was tired when I went to school. I really enjoyed our last school tour in St. Anthony's B.N.S. By Evan Sheehan Mrs O'Callaghan's 6th class





The weather might not have been in our favour but all of St. Anthony's really enjoyed Active School Week this year. It was held from the 9th – 11th of June. Instead of facilitators coming into school, they provided us with some fantastic workout videos. We had karate with Barry from Rising Sun Karate, Yoga with Hazel from The Yoga Tree and a full body workout from Lesley Gilitnan from Lean with Lesley. The boys really enjoyed these workouts.

As well as that our own Mr Dineen provided us with a whole school workout challenge and video. It was tough and everyone was a lot fitter after doing it.

As well as that we had a marathon challenge for the junior side of the school and a basketball shoot out challenge for the senior side.

The classes also enjoyed a lot of different sports, soccer, tag rugby, volleyball, rounders, rugby rounders, parachute and dodgeball.

Well done to everyone involved and we hope that everyone enjoyed the week. We certainly did.

(Written by 6th class)



Active School Week Photos



Active School Week Photos



4th Green Flag for St. Anthony's

Congratulations to St. Anthony's boys, staff and parents on the occasion of earning our 4th green flag – the travel flag. Angela Wall from An Taisce recently met via zoom with the 6th class representatives from our green schools committee. She was very impressed with how our school has worked not only on the travel theme but on maintaining the work done on the previous three flags – litter/waste, energy and water. She was particularly impressed with how our boys accounted for themselves and presented our progress to her. Thank you to Cillian Casey, Seán Ahern, Darragh Hogan, Cormac Foley, Ben Herlihy, Sam Canton, Fintan Murphy and Oscar Madden.

We are very proud of you all.

Our original **travel survey** revealed that while almost 70% of our boys would prefer to walk, cycle or scoot to school, only 25.4% actually did. Also, though only 7% prefer to come by car, 47% of our boys were driven to school. The remainder were doing park and stride or taking a bus.

Upon resurveying the population the following year, there were slight improvements in all areas. 26.7% walked, cycled or scooted (**up 1.3%**); 43.1% came by car – private or carpool (**down 3.9%**); while the remaining 30.2% were doing park and stride or taking a bus (**up 2.2%**).

The intention is that these trends will continue. A very positive step would be if parents could think about how they might group together within their own estates to arrange carpools, walking trains and park and strides when the new school year begins.

In September, our school will begin working towards our 5th green flag – Biodiversity. This flag will help us to look at steps we can take to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats and to increase species-richness in our school and in our locality.

In the meantime, have a lovely summer.

Green Schools Committee



Creative Schools News

This year we had a very creative year as we used our funding from the Arts Council to increase our participation in the Arts.

We had a very enjoyable year and achieved a lot despite covid restrictions and remote learning.

Here is a quick summary of our engagement with the arts this year 2020/2021.

Music



Fifth and Sixth class representatives composed an original song on Ballinlough, which they performed with Cork-based Singer/Songwriter John Spillane during an outdoor concert on 25th June in St. Anthony's BNS.

Each class also worked on traditional Irish songs during Seachtain na Gaeilge led by John Spillane. This project was called 'Irish Songs We Learned at School'.

Each standard focused on one song to learn through a pre-recorded video.

Creative Writing



Some of the older classes took part in Fighting Words workshops – a 2hr storytelling workshop which was facilitated through zoom.

Fighting Words is a creative writing centre established by Roddy Doyle and Sean Love. It gives children the opportunity to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills.



Art

Each student will leave their creative stamp on the sensory garden as each pupil was given the opportunity to design a clay tile for the wall leading to the school garden.

Freedom of the City Project

One hundred students from St. Anthony's BNS were invited to give creative input in the planning of our city in conjunction with the Glucksman. Their ideas will inform the Cork City Development Plan. This project was exhibited in the Glucksman from 12th June – 27th June 2021.



Creativity Loves a Crisis Video

Thank you to all those who submitted a photo for the 'Creativity Loves a Crisis' video. It was a wonderful virtual celebration of innovation, creativity and resilience during a year with a difference. If you missed it during Creative Schools Week it can be viewed through this link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15kdQ07A8OWqsLQTcCl_ojXSbbhEFq33c/view?usp=drive_web



GRAFFITI:

Drama

In the first term, each class worked remotely with Studio Olva and Graffiti Theatre Company to attend pre-recorded virtual workshops and create bespoke drama lessons for each class based on themes and topics covered within each standard.



We look forward to another creative year next year !

Vex Robotics Coding Art Competition

On Friday the 21st of May, I entered the MTU STEM Vex Robotics coding art competition. I coded a virtual robot by telling it to drive forward and turn left and things like that to make it draw an amazing picture. Then on Thursday the 27th of May, while at school, we watched a live stream awards ceremony and I won a €50 voucher for coming in the top 50 in Ireland. I was so thrilled I couldn't believe it. Seoirse Norris Mr Brick's 5th Class



Yardtime Fun!!!!

A very big thank you to Ms Wickham who organised for the two yards to be painted with lots of fun activities for the boys to enjoy during yard time.



Battle of the Boats

2nd class recently held a Battle of the Boats. The boys designed their own boats from recyclable material. They then tried to sink their opponents boat by adding a rock to it. Last boat sailing won!!



Parents' Association: Creating Memories although far apart



It is with great pride that I write our final piece for the rollercoaster year we will never forget. Through the lockdowns and re-opening, this cohesive team of PA Reps have continued to work together to create memories and support the school community where we can. If you caught the news2day piece on 17th June, we could not help but be really proud of our school garden, which our two reps, Alan Conway and Aileen Thornhill, who along with Mr. HOC, teachers and parent volunteers have created an amazing space for the boys to enjoy.

Radical change and adaptation is something the PA also had to embrace. How we raise our funds will change going forward and we hope to bring you exciting news of that early next Autumn. In preparation, we trialed using iDonate as a means of safely, anonymously raising funds. We successfully trialed this to raise funds for 12 iPads for the school and in a short 5 days, parents generously donated €6487 for this fundraiser. A special thank you to Dave Hall for taking up the baton with the eye-catching poster. He takes over from one of our much-loved PA Reps and former chairperson Elaine Davis who we say a sad goodbye to along with our other rep Jie Xiao Long. You will always be a part of this great PA family and we thank you both for your dedication, support, and friendship over the years. You leave with a legacy to be proud of.

The Virtual Book Fair, and our wonderful team lead by Máire Egan goes down as one of the longest projects in PA history, originally planned for Nov 2019, the team kept the momentum until every book was united with its owner. Thank you to the whole team for a fantastic series of events, you can take a break next year as our big event we hope will be Healthy Eating in early 2022. RSA was a slightly less visual presence, but our reps Sarah and Aoife made sure the boys poster efforts were rewarded with fun treats, courtesy of the PA. They'll be leading this initiative with Mrs. Angland again next Autumn.

While we couldn't celebrate with the 6th class boys or the 3rd class communion boys, we have been able to create some memories, contributing to the 6th class hoodies and yearbook and as I write this today, the Golden Fry delivery of chips and sausages is on its way to the 6th classes. We have arranged for the 3rd Class communion boys to enjoy Volcano Pizza who's stall will see outside the school on the 29th along with individual cupcakes by our talented rep Izabella Sikora – Funky cakes by Architect.

Thank you to my fellow officers, Jennifer, and Alvin, in helping me to keep the PA active through this challenging time. We hope that in 2021/22 the PA can bring back the usual activities, in a COVID compliant manner. We cannot do this without the support and volunteerism of our parents, and we love to welcome new reps who bring great new ideas, so if you'd like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

Over the summer, we will continue to work towards being able to bring you a pre-loved uniform sale, within strict guidelines, and many more familiar memories. For now, we say a fond farewell to the 6th class boys, Elaine and Jie, and wish you all a safe, relaxing summer. See you all 30th August.

Your PA Officers - *Margaret, Alvin, and Jennifer*




School Tours with a difference 2021

