



MUIRE GAN SMÁL NEWS

www.claremorrisns.ie

094 9371496

May 2021

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Muire Gan Smál **@MGSClaremorris**
Primary School



A close-up of one of our occupied swift boxes

CLOTHING DRIVE

Our 'Cash for Clobber' Clothing Drive raised just over €1300.

This money will go towards buying books for the school to further enhance the 'Guided Reading' programme in the school.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh! Thank you!



SCHOOL TRANSFERS

If your child will be leaving our school and transferring to another school in September, (other than 2nd class boys or 6th class girls) please let us know as soon as possible by emailing infor@claremorrisns.ie or calling the office at 094 9371496.



SUMMER TERM

It is hard to believe that there are just over four weeks left in the 2020/21 school year. Unfortunately, we will not be able to celebrate the end of year in the usual way with school tours, school sports day etc. however, following Department of Education guidelines and COVID-19 protocols, we will try to ensure that the children have an enjoyable final few weeks in school in a safe way.

We would ask that you refrain from sending in treats to be shared amongst the pupils for COVID-19 reasons.

GRADUATION

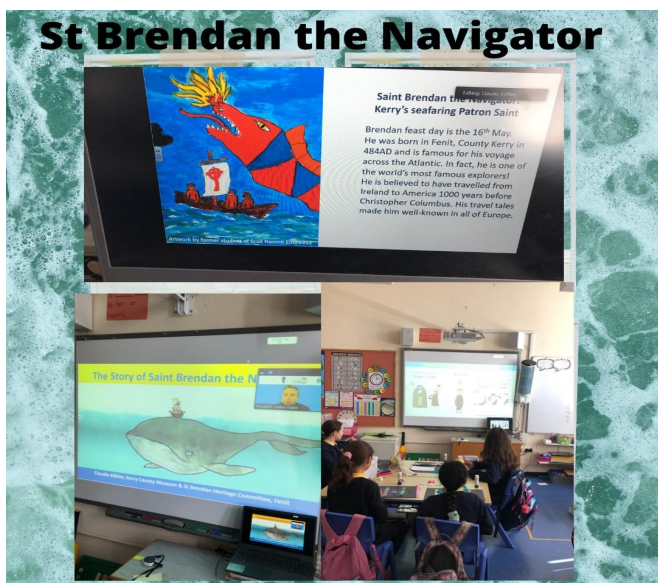
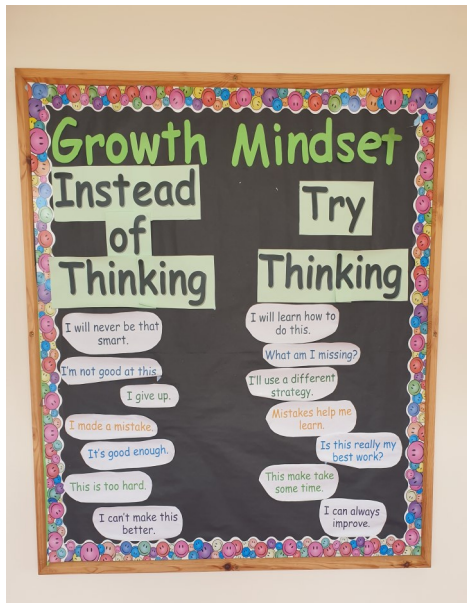
The Department of Education has outlined to schools that graduation ceremonies may go ahead in line with COVID-19 protocols however, parents and families may not attend.

We will do our best to mark the occasion for our 6th class girls and 1st class boys in a safe and enjoyable manner.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT MUIRE GAN SMÁL:

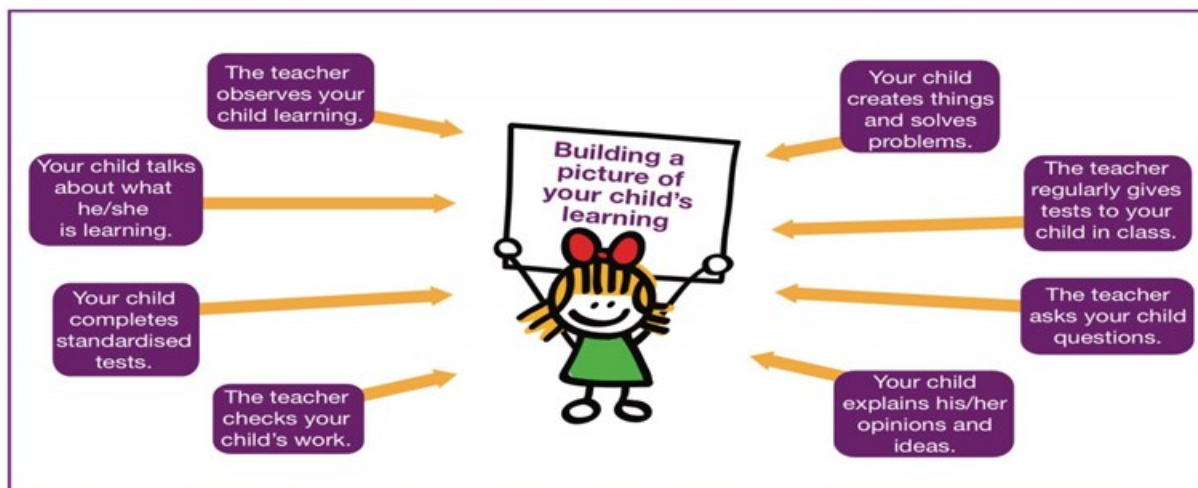
- Classes have been enjoying getting out in the fresh air and the sunny days by paying a visit to the field for their PE lessons and even at lunchtime!
- Ms. De Lacy's 3rd class took part in a webinar about the history of Brendan the Navigator.
- All classes are having tennis lessons with Janis for the next few weeks.
- Staff undertook a CPD session on 'Growth Mindset.'
- Pupils from 1st-6th class are completing standardised tests in reading, spelling and maths
- May is the month of Mary. We have a May altar in reception to honour Our Lady.
- Our swift boxes have seen plenty of activity since the call was activated at the end of April.
- Teachers are preparing end of year reports on Aladdin. Parents will have to set up an Aladdin account to access these reports.





STANDARDISED TESTING

Standardised tests measure your child's ability in relation to other children in Ireland at the same class level. Standardised tests are completed from 1st-6th class. Results of these tests in 2nd, 4th and 6th class are reported to the Department of Education.

The diagram below shows how the teacher uses many different ways to build a picture of your child's learning throughout the school year.



The information sheet below explains standardised test scores.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
STANDARD SCORE

What do my child's test scores mean?

The teacher used standard scores to tell you how your child did in the tests. Standard scores usually go from 55 to 145. The table below describes what the different standard scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.

Standard score	What does the standard score mean?	Approximate percentage of children who get this score
130 and above	Very high	2%
120 - 129	High	7%
110 - 119	High average	16%
90 - 109	Average	50%
80 - 89	Low average	16%
70 - 79	Low	7%
Below 70	Very low	2%

If your child's standard score is between 90 and 109 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. The table shows that about half of children in Ireland have standard scores in this range. You can also see that some children have standard scores above and below the average.

Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class. Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs.

If my child's score is low, what does this tell me?

A low standard score (for example, 80) suggests that your child *may* have difficulties in one of the areas tested. Other assessments may be used to determine if this is the case. Information about your child's learning and development at home e.g. homework, may also be helpful to the teacher. Teachers at your child's school may decide that your child would benefit from extra support. If so, your child's teacher will talk to you about this.

If my child's score is high, what does this tell me?


A high score *may* suggest that your child is a high achiever in the area tested. As with low scores, one high score is not enough to confirm this. Your child's teacher will use information from other classroom assessments to understand more clearly how well your child is doing in maths, English reading or Irish reading. The teacher may talk to you about extra learning opportunities that you and the school can provide for your child.

What can affect my child's test score?

As with other tests your child does in school, the score on a standardised test can be affected by how he/she feels on the test day or by worry or excitement about a home or school event. This means that each test score is an **indication** of your child's achievement. Remember that you play an important role in encouraging and supporting your child regardless of test results. You may like to arrange to meet with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about his/her scores.

How can I help my child?

The NCCA has developed some online resources to help you to support your child's learning in primary school. Many of these are available in various languages and new resources are regularly added to the parents' page at www.ncca.ie/parents. Take a look at the resources for your child's class.



CALENDAR 2020/21

Closed Monday 7th June-Public Holiday.

Summer Holidays: Closing Tuesday 29th June 2021 at **12.10pm**.

CALENDAR 2021/22

School Reopens: Tuesday 31st August.

Mid-Term Break: Monday 25th-Friday 29th October inclusive 2021.

Christmas Holidays: Closing on Wednesday 22nd December 2021 and reopening on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Mid-Term Break: Closed Thursday 24th and Friday 25th February 2022.

Closed Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March.

Easter Holidays: Closed Monday 11th-Friday 22nd April inclusive 2022.

Closed Monday 2nd May 2022.

Closed Friday 3rd, Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June 2022.

Summer Holidays: Closing Tuesday 28th June 2022.

A printed copy of the 2021/22 calendar was distributed to pupils.

It is also available to view on our website.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CEREMONIES

Communion and Confirmation dates shared by the Parish have had to be cancelled due to Government restrictions. We understand that this will have caused much frustration for families, some of whom have been preparing for First Holy Communion since last year.

We will keep you up to date with any information we receive on the sacraments.



MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

