

GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

24th October 2019

A Chairde (Friends),

Mid-Term Break

Reminder that the School will close at the usual time tomorrow for midterm and reopen on Monday 4th November at 8.50am. We hope you all have a lovely peaceful break. Many thanks all our students, staff, parents and friends for a great first half term. GBMDS really is a team effort and we couldn't create the school we have without the contribution of our constituent parts.

Parent Teacher meetings

From this afternoon, parents can sign up through Aladdin for parent teacher meetings which take place on Tuesday and Wednesday 19th and 20th November for Senior Infants to 6th Class. The window for booking appointments will close on Friday 15th November. After this, time slots will be allocated to parents who have not signed up. Contact Eddie or the office if you are having any technical difficulties and we will do our best to help you.

The school will close early at 2.15pm in line with Department guidelines on both days. Junior Infant meetings will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday 11th and 12th February next.

Welcome

A big welcome to former parent Ciara Byrne who joins us on a part time basis in the office, following a recruitment process in September and October. We wish Ciara well in her new role. She will be a great support to Rene and myself as the school gets bigger.

Many of you will know Ger Kelly from Kids Club. Ger has joined our staff as an SNA and we are delighted to have her with us on a full time basis.

Swimming – 5th and 3rd Class

5th Class and 3rd Class will begin their swimming sessions on Friday 8th November and will continue until 10th January. Please ensure you have completed your child's Permission Slip for Swimming on Aladdin as they won't be able to go unless this is completed.

Spooky Sponsored Walk

Tomorrow, the school will dress up for the spooky sponsored walk. We sent home sponsorship cards this week, which can be returned to your child's teacher. The walk route is SCR, over Sally's Bridge up the canal to Harold's Cross Bridge and back to the school. We will leave the school after little break at 10.45am and the walk will take about 20 – 25 minutes. The younger classes will go with their buddies in the older classes. Money raised from the sponsored walk will go towards ICT equipment, a Bubble Tube for our Sensory Room and some soft furnishings for the Library.

Intercultural Day - Note from the Ethics Committee

Intercultural Day will take place in Griffith Barracks on Thursday 28th November. We will be having breakfast followed by a series of workshops for the different classes and a disco at the end. Where possible, we are looking for parents to get involved and prepare food items for the breakfast. It would be great if we could have a variety of international dishes on the day so if you would like to bring something can you contact us via email at anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie. Many thanks.

Payments to the School

We are still accepting voluntary contributions and will do so for the rest of the year. Payments for school trips, workshops and swimming will be due after the midterm break.

Have your say on the future of the Transition Year to Leaving Certificate Programme

The NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) is in the public consultation phase of Senior Cycle Review. This is looking at how to re-shape what is the current Transition Year to Leaving Certificate programmes to best meet the needs of students in the future. The public consultation is open to ALL members of the public. To have input, please visit the ncca.ie website and click on Senior Cycle to lead you to the Senior Cycle Review section. The public consultation phase ends on 1 November, 2019.

Free ParentsPlus Healthy Families Programme

ParentsPlus is an Irish charity that develops practical, evidence-based parenting and mental health programmes. They are running a free programme in The Meath Primary Care Centre every Wednesday, starting in December. The aim of the programme is to improve the health and well-being of children and families. See the attached poster for more information.

This week in Assembly

This week in assembly we learned the ISL (Irish Sign Language) alphabet up to M, N and O and we also started to put some of the signs we have learned together to communicate. Many thanks to Clare D for all her work on this.

1.08 billion people are celebrating Diwali this week as well as the Celtic festival of Samhain. At Assembly, we also looked at being kind and reviewed how to deal with Bullying. We read the story of Monty the Manatee by Nathalie Pritchard, an uplifting tale which explores themes of bullying and friendship and emphasises the importance of being kind.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Monty-Manatee-Natalie-Pritchard-ebook/dp/B07HDTF5SY>

We explored these issues in more detail at the senior assembly.

Students of the Week

Well done to all our students of the week. It's great to hear the lovely learner-centred and authentic reasons which are read out as part of our weekly assembly.

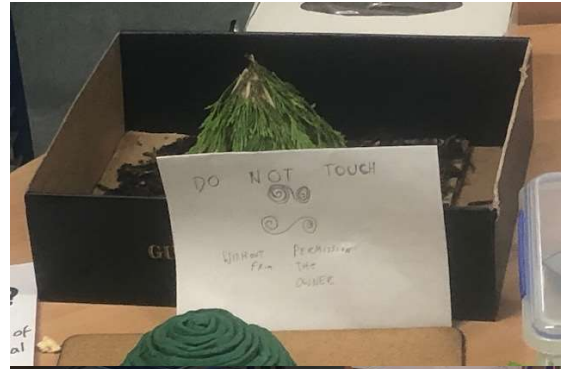
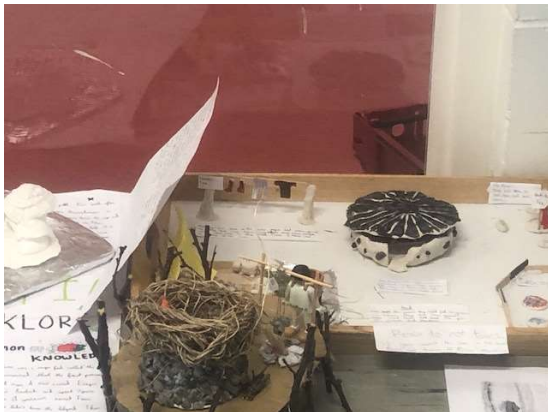


6th class news

6th class did some amazing projects on the Celts and there were some great presentations with the integration of the arts and ICT as well as great design skills.

One of the school's areas of focus this year is to develop rubrics in the assessment of project work and to ensure the integration of the arts in this work. We are also focusing on integrating the arts in play based learning. Check out the work below.

6th class also paid a visit to Presentation Secondary School in Warrenmount where they got a flavour of life at secondary school and got to try different subjects.



GBMDS out and about

- First class visited Oscar Square yesterday as part of their study of the built environment. They looked at different house types and shapes of doors and windows etc. To find out more about the historical geography of Dublin click here <https://www.osi.ie/blog/evolution-dublin-city/>
- Ben is bringing a group of 5th and 6th class boys to a Basketball blitz in Drimnagh Castle this morning.
- The Patron is organising planting around the school. Contact Aaron Tay if you would like to be part of the greening process at patron@griffithbarracks.ie
- Junior Infants are doing a series of Hurling workshops with Games Development Officer Paul McManus from Kevin's Hurling Club.
- Senior Infants are doing a series of Dance workshops with parent and dance teacher Mariam Ribon.
- Chess classes in 2nd class led by April Cronin are continuing and the children are making great progress.

Key found in Cathal's Room

A key was found on the floor of Junior Infants Cathal recently. It looks like a hall door key and has a keyring with "Being Alive" and "Ombudsman for Children" on it. Please collect it from the office if it belongs to you.

Beir Bua,
Eddie (Príomhoide)



Figure 1 Mandala Circles in 2nd Class



Figure 2 Our Family Tree in 1st Class

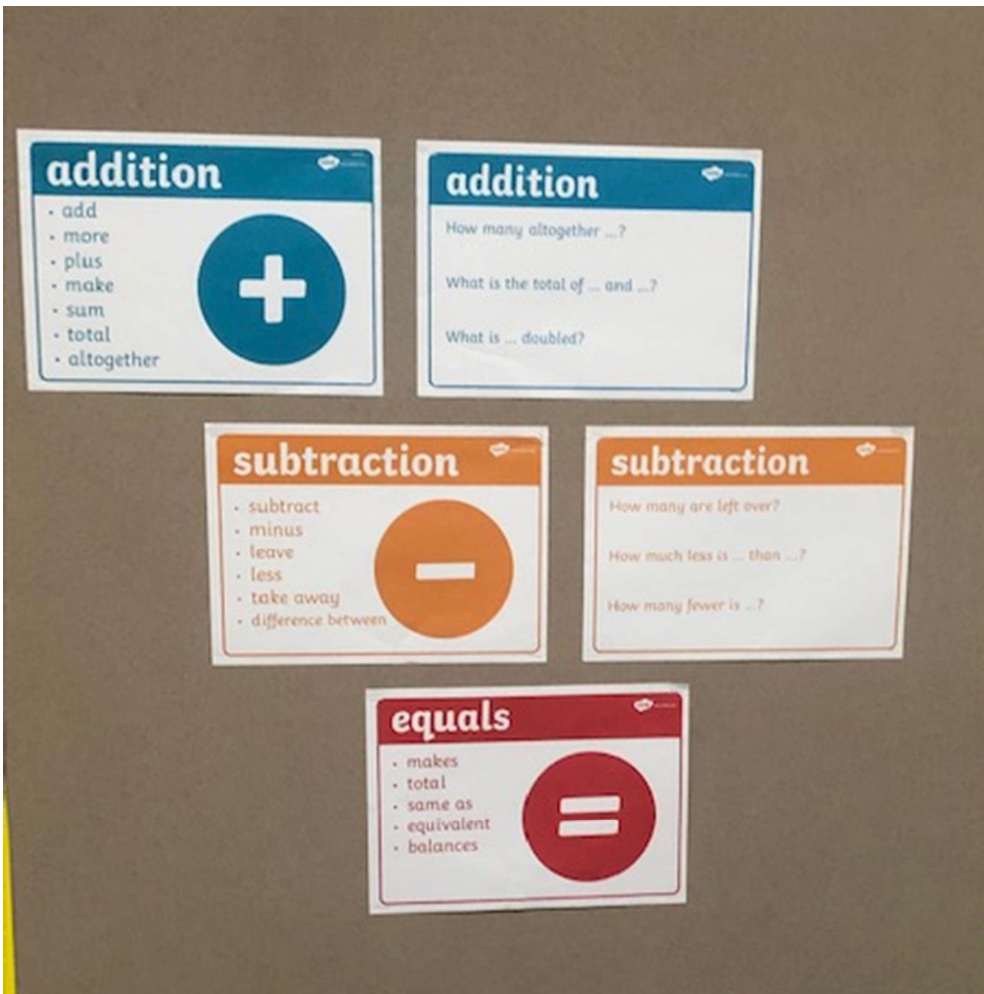


Figure 3 Gina is working on Maths vocabulary

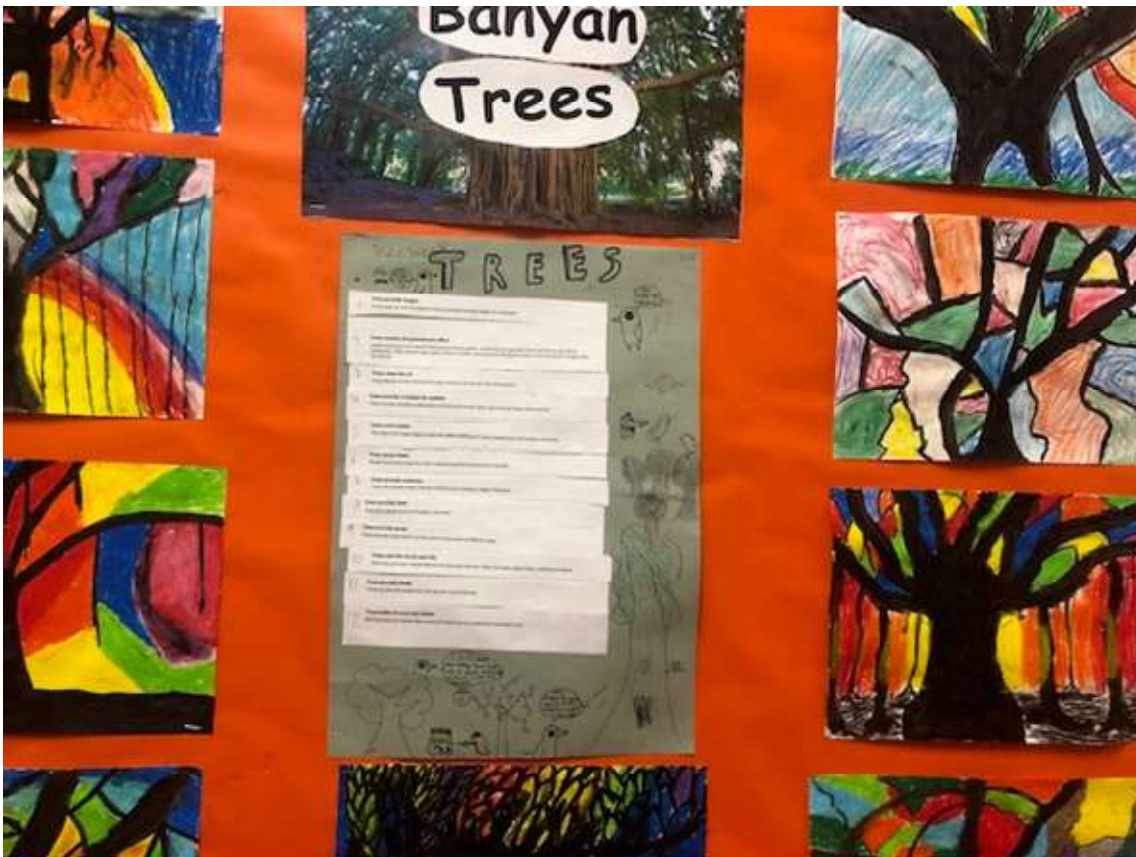


Figure 4 Banyan Trees with explanations on the importance of trees to the planet in 6th Class

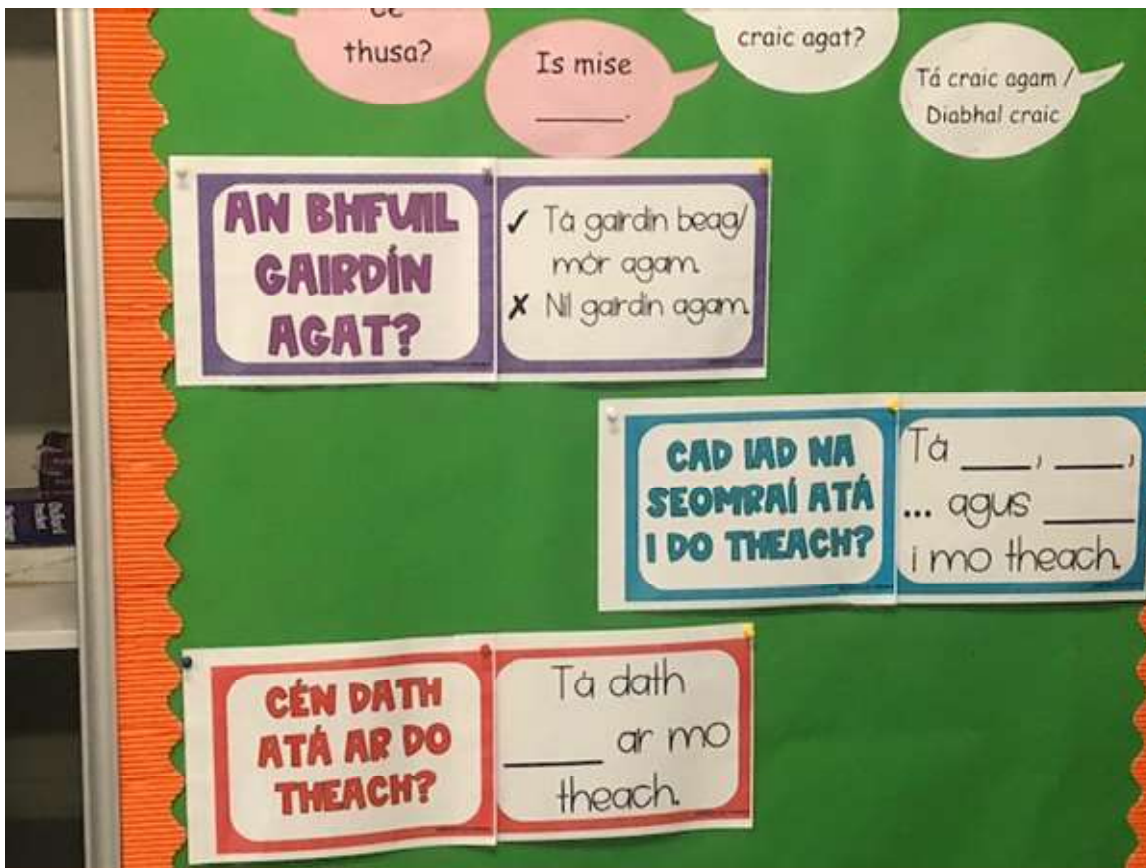


Figure 5 Learning all about our homes in Gaelic in Rang 4



Figure 6 Special Interest Projects in Rang 6

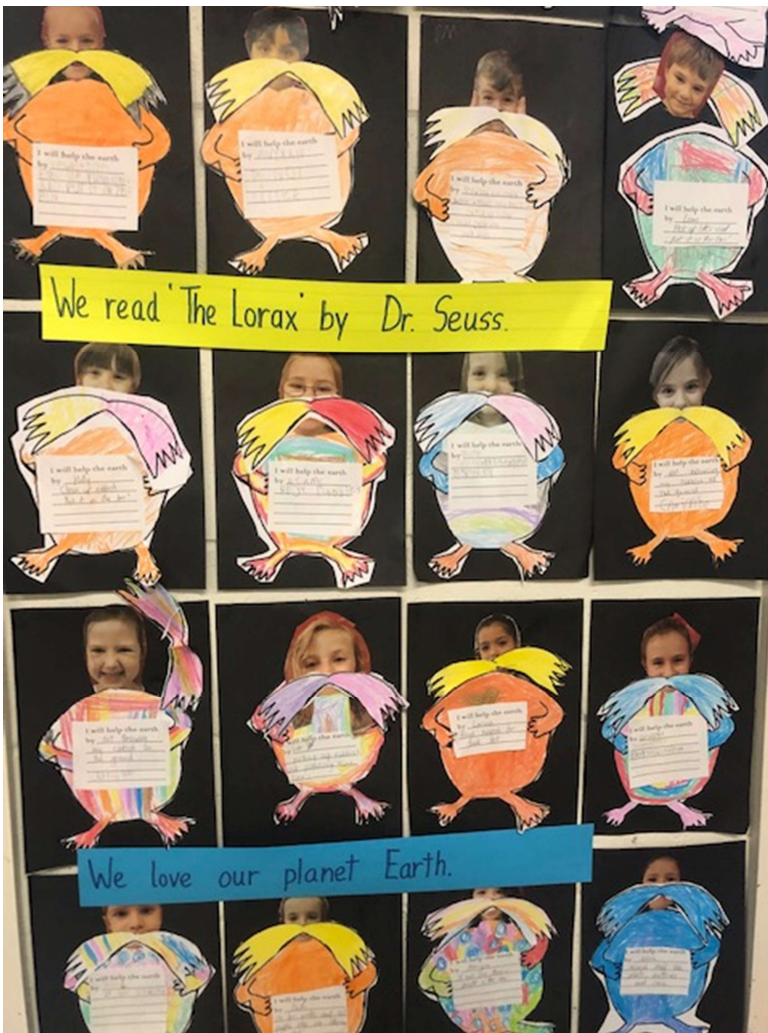


Figure 7 Written responses to The Lorax in SI Claire