

# GRIFFITH BARRACKS NEWSLETTER

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14<sup>th</sup> November 2019

A Chairde (Friends),

## *Parent Teacher meetings*

Parents can sign up through Aladdin for **parent teacher meetings which take place next Tuesday and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November for Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class**. The window for booking appointments will close tomorrow. After this, time slots will be allocated to parents who have not signed up. Contact 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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February next.

## *Spooky Sponsored Walk*

We are hoping to do the sponsored walk on Thursday of next week at 10.45. The weather has been particularly bad recently so we hope this date will work. If you can come and help us on the day you can contact your class teacher at [firstname.lastname@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:firstname.lastname@griffithbarracks.ie) (for example [anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie)).

## *Intercultural Day - Note from the Ethics Committee*

We're really excited about Intercultural Day that will begin at drop-off on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

- Breakfast will start at 8.50am and run until 9.30am. All parents are welcome to stay and join in the fun.
- There will be a disco from 1.40pm to 2.10pm. Infant parents and children are welcome to attend the disco after collection time.
- A wide variety of workshops have been arranged for the children around the intercultural theme.
- Lots of parents have volunteered to prepare a food item from their culture but we still need more. It is not possible to cook food on site so please prepare bitesize portions in advance. There are children with nut allergies in the school so please avoid using nuts. Also, let us know what country you're representing, and we'll prepare flags and banners.

**If you can help us with this, contact [anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:anita.dermody@griffithbarracks.ie).** We're really looking forward to the day.

## *Payments to the School*

Payment for trip money, swimming and workshops is now due and can be paid on Aladdin. Junior and Senior Infants pay €40 and 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class pay €90 (includes the cost of swimming). Please pay this at your earliest convenience. It is possible to pay it in two instalments if you wish (minimum payment set at €40 per instalment). Voluntary Contributions remain open for the year if you have not yet made a contribution and are in a position to do so.

## *Creative Schools*

The children's Creative School Committee attended a Creative Schools Event in the National Gallery of Ireland on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. They got a tour of the gallery and got lots of ideas for projects we can carry out in school. The boys and girls were great representatives for the school. You can see a PowerPoint of the day and some of the ideas the children checked out attached to the newsletter

### Peace Proms

Peace prom rehearsals continue on Tuesday mornings. We had rehearsals in the National Indoor arena last Thursday. The actual event takes place on Saturday afternoon at 2pm on 1<sup>st</sup> February.



### Patron Committee

If you would like to join our Patron, just follow the link below. Any person with an interest in our school can join our patron. For this year the €5 fee has been waived.

<https://sites.google.com/view/griffithbarrackspatron/signup>

### Patron Gardening Group

The nascent GBMDS garden sub-committee met this morning to discuss various garden projects being explored at the school.

- 1. Vegetable Garden in the Infant Yard - Nicole Tyrrell, Cathal O'Gorman and the Green Council**  
Raised planters will be built by the fencing in the Infant Yard (Astroturf yard) and filled with topsoil for class planting. Material delivery and weatherboard planter construction work is scheduled for 29th November, with topsoil filling over that weekend (Sat/Sun). Volunteers and equipment (wheelbarrows!) are needed and all are welcome to help.
- 2. Sensory Garden - Paula Mongey and Przemek Drusewicz**  
This is an extension of the Sensory Room in the Guardhouse leading into courtyards behind the Guardhouse. Their design is coming together, and we will be reviewed in December. This is a joint initiative with the Parents Association.
- 3. Roof garden - Amy van Den Broek**  
Amy and Ingrid Smyth have suggestions for the roof garden which will be explored with Jenny McCrohan and team in the new year when the weather warms up.

The Garden Sub-Committee intends to meet once a month during the school year to discuss all manner of things related to gardening. I hope you'll be able to join us. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in the Parents Room. Please click the following link to view Nicole's plant suggestions - [GBMDS Garden Designs](#). If you would like to join the garden group, contact [patron@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:patron@griffithbarracks.ie)

### Board of Management Agreed Report

The current Board of Management held their last meeting on Tuesday before the Board changes on 1<sup>st</sup> December. A heartfelt thanks to all the current Board for their commitment and spirit of community that steered the school during a period of great change over the last four years. At the meeting this week, we reviewed the work we have done and the progress we have made. Next week, Paul, our Chairperson, will write a final message on behalf of the current Board.

This month the Board worked on the following items:

- health and safety procedures within the school
- building, maintenance and heating issues
- the purchase of a defibrillator for the school
- Acceptable Use Policy for children using the Internet
- the Enrolment Policy

The new Board is as follows:

<b>Patron Nominees:</b>	Andy Haydu (Chairperson) (SI Claire and Rang 2 Anita) Mary Greene (SI Claire and Rang 2 Jenny)
<b>Elected Parent Nominees:</b>	Niall Dunne (JI Cian and Rang 2 Anita) Aideen Burke (JI Cathal)
<b>Elected Staff Nominee:</b>	Clare Dunne
<b>Principal:</b>	Eddie Fox (Secretary)

We wish them well in their term and I know they can rely on the support of the whole school. Many thanks to our School Patron for organising the elections and making sure the Board was formed as per all the guidelines. The board will now meet in December, when two community Representatives will be added.

### *Science Week*

There has been a focus on Science across the school this week. 6<sup>th</sup> Class paid a visit to the Royal College of Surgeons. They did some great work with 7 post graduate students. They got to make DNA and it was a great opportunity for the children. Many thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> class parent Lisa-Ann Byrne for organising the trip and 6<sup>th</sup> Class parent Eden Seligman for coming on the trip.



### *Library*

A thousand books have now been entered into our system and we are looking to scan and alphabetise another 4,000! In order to complete this task, we are looking for a group of parents who can help scan and alphabetise. It is very straightforward to scan in the books (no previous experience is needed). **This is happening this Saturday 16th (10-1pm)** and if we need to do more, the subsequent date is Saturday 23rd November. Please email Jenny at [jenny.mccrohan@griffithbarracks.ie](mailto:jenny.mccrohan@griffithbarracks.ie) if you can help, many thanks.

### *This week in Assembly*

This week we had a great Assembly. We celebrated all the good work the children have been doing across the school. The Creative Schools Committee gave an excellent presentation on their work. We celebrated Science Week and looked at the story of Marie Curie from her work as a Scientist and in terms of equality issues. We also learned the signs for "S", "T" and "U". Many thanks to Clare Dunne for leading this initiative.

### *Save the Date Winter Celebration*

We will all gather together for our end of term celebration on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. There will be two shows:

- Show 1            9.05am - Junior Infants, Senior Infants, Rang 5, Rang 6
- Show 2            11am - Rang 1, 2, 3, 4

This day is always one of the special days of the year and shows off our community at its best.

## Students of the Week

Well done to all our students of the week.



## GBMDS – Around the School

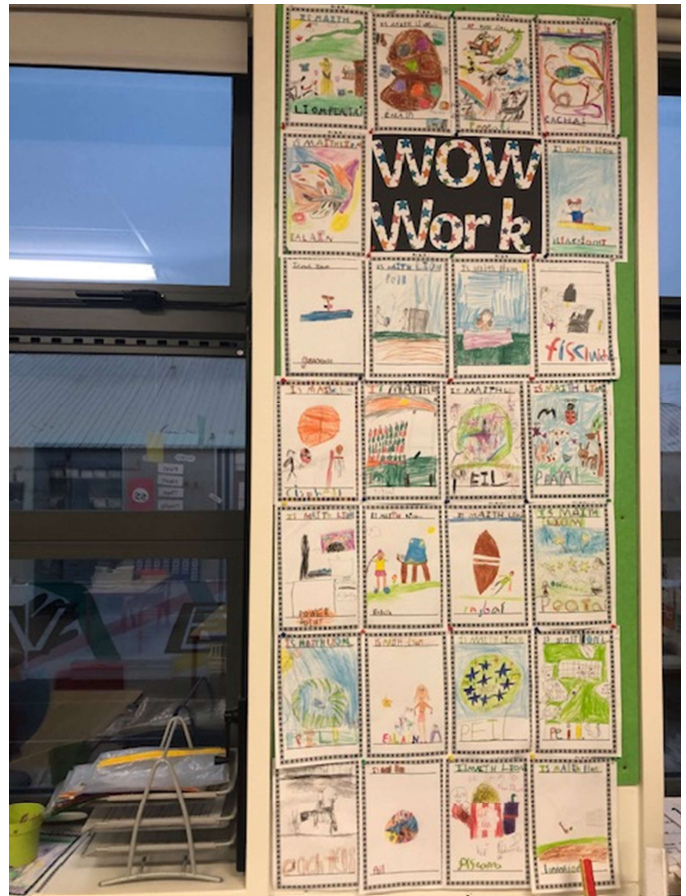
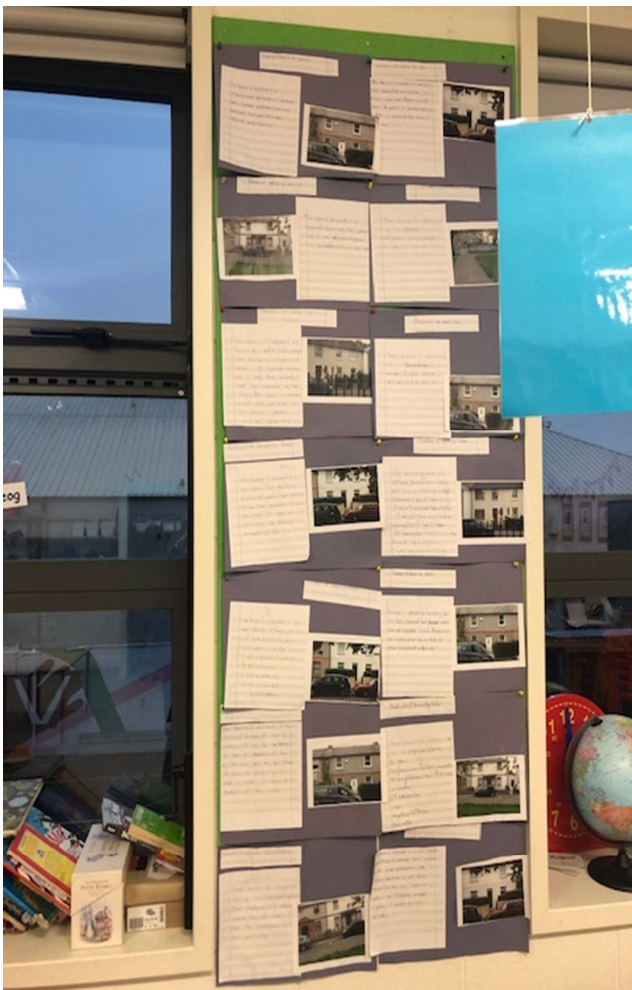


Figure 2 Lots of classes around the school have "WOW" walls displaying exemplars of good work that the children are proud of

Figure 1 Getting out into the Community in 1st Anne Marie - Studying homes and houses



Figure 3 Socio-dramatic play on homes in Junior Infants



Figure 4 Getting our tenses right in Gaelic

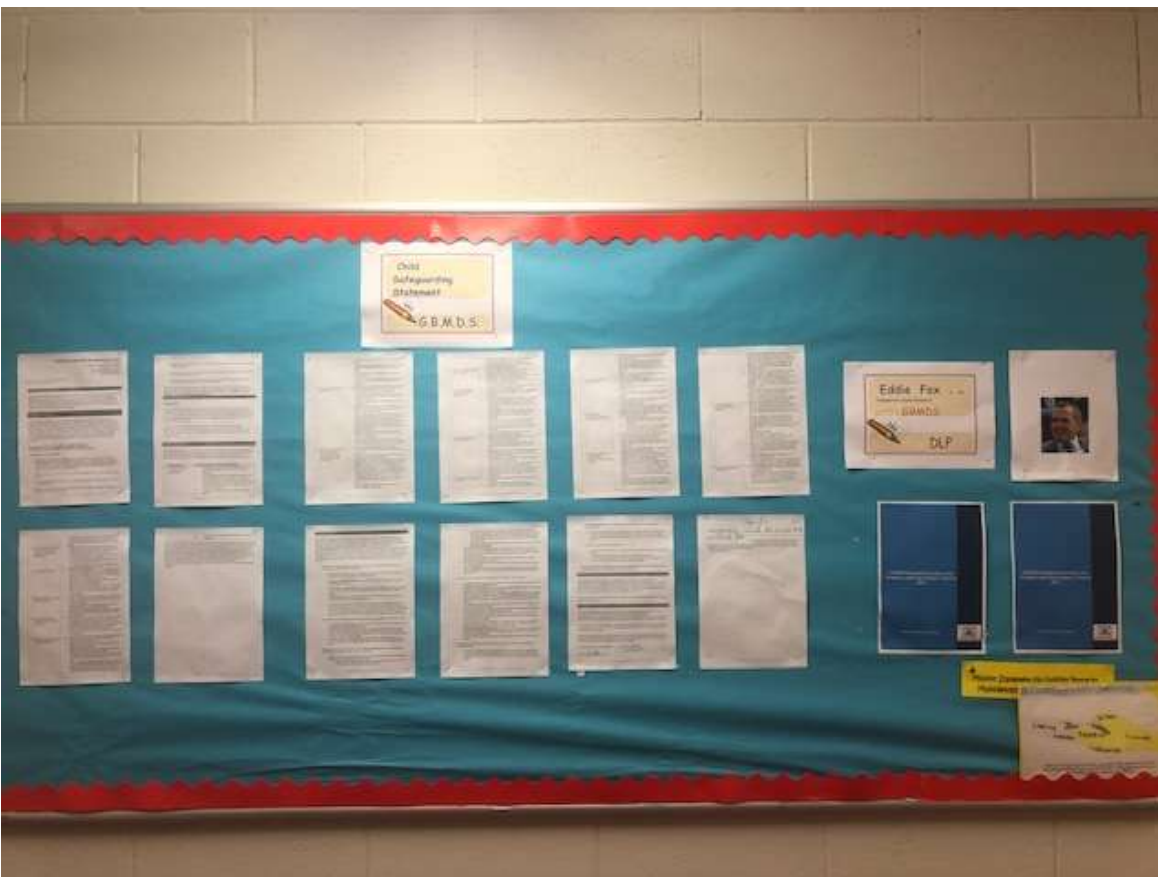


Figure 5 The Child Protection Safeguarding Statement is displayed beside the entrance to the school outside Eddie's office



Figure 6 Great work in Junior Infants Cian



Figure 7 Winter scenes in Senior Infants Ruth

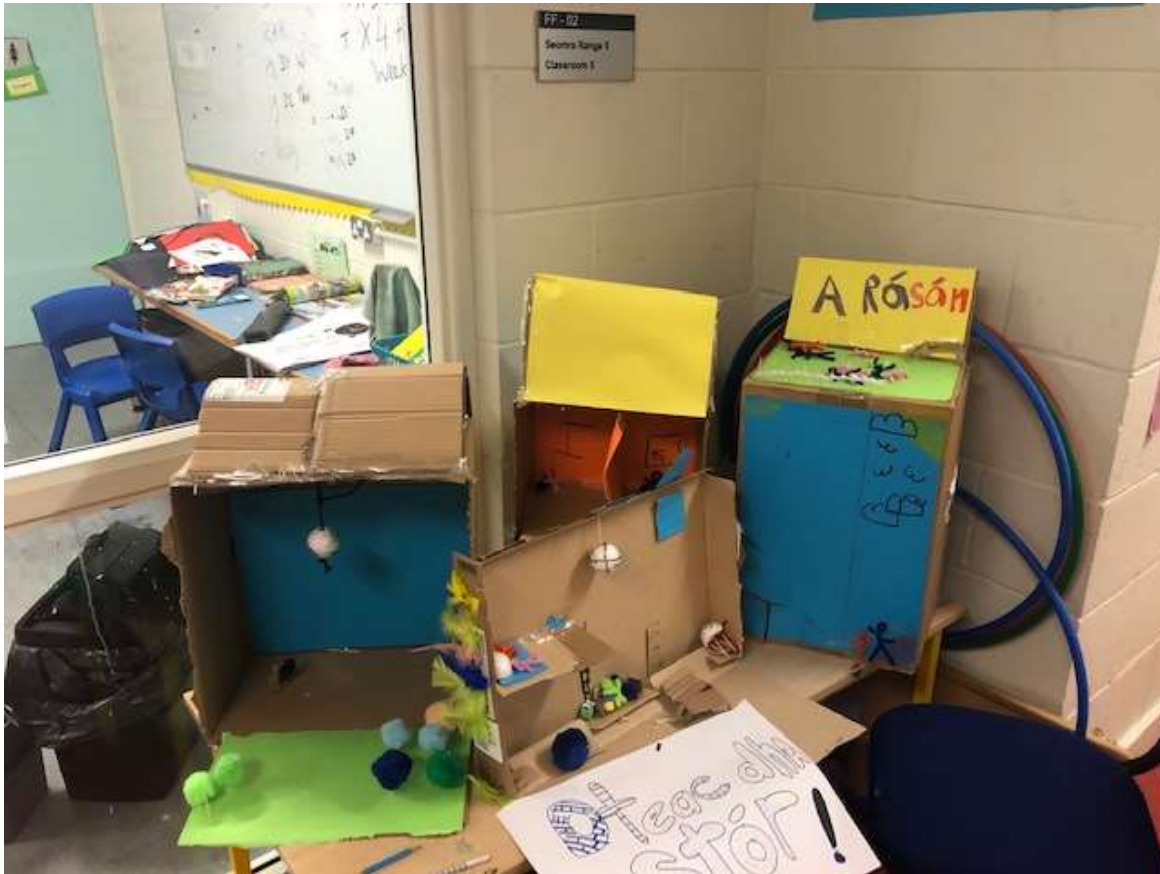


Figure 8 Learning about homes in Gaelige through construction. Learning a skill through a language in 3rd Class Derek



Figure 9 Helping the conversation to flow in 6th Class as Gaelige



Figure 10 We all fit together in Junior Infants Cian

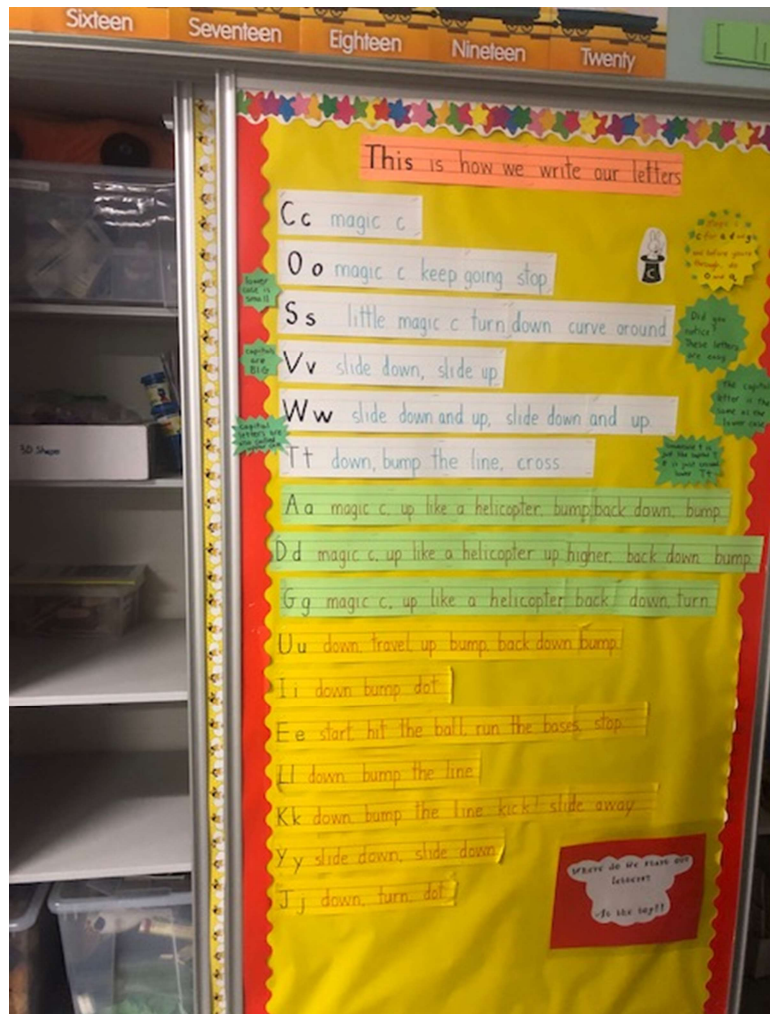


Figure 11 We use the Jolly Phonics programme across all the infant classes in the school



Figure 3 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Blast Off into Space in Senior Infants Claire

Figure 4 Handy hints for writing your letters



Beir Bua,  
Eddie (Príomhoide)