

# Castleplunkett NS Newsletter



December 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Term one of the school year is now complete and a well-deserved break for everyone has arrived.

The Senior room pupils have covered a lot of material in the run up to end of term. They completed their work on the novel War Horse and had lots of good discussion comparing Michael Morpurgo's work, having done Kensuke's Kingdom early in the term. They have also been reading some picture books linked to their themes and studied the poem Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, completing their own visualisations of the poem after reading, then comparing them to the PJ Lynch illustrated book version of the poem. The children have also been working on reading An Chéad Nollaig as Gaeilge with fluency and expression. There was some great experimenting and trialling going on with a number of science activities this final week of school and the fruits of their artistic labours throughout December can be seen in their magnificent clay crib art and beautiful tinfoil winter print scenes.



In the Junior Room, the children have been working on the Toy shop theme, with Christmas and Winter links to our poetry, stories, writing and vocabulary. The Aistear toy shop had busy days, and plenty of shelf stock, wrapping and toy repairs going on. Our reading books and read aloud stories were very popular, with lots of predictions, connections and comparisons being made in our discussions. The book tally for the term is now 25! The 1st class and 2nd class children have been working on letter writing also. We learned about and played with magnets, studied all about shapes and our art work was various types of Christmas tree hanging decorations.

We had a great day out at the panto, when we travelled to Dublin to see Sammy, Buffy and the Beanstalk on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of December. It was a first-time trip to the panto for many and the fun, singing and dancing provided great entertainment. The children were very well behaved while we were out and about and they enjoyed their meal in Supermac's on the return journey. Our final day of term will see us exchange our Secret Santa gifts, listen to the Christmas story as Gaeilge, hold a prayer service and carol singing and we will hopefully have great fun playing board games together.



Great effort went into preparation and organisation for the Santa Experience in Kilmurry Hall in the weeks running up to December 9<sup>th</sup> by the PA committee and parent volunteers, The culmination of their hard work was to be seen on the big day and the Santa Experience was another success. The support of the committee and wider parent body for the school is excellent and we thank everyone sincerely for their efforts. In term one money raised by the PA contributed to the cost of swimming, the purchase of three additional Story Sacks for use in the Junior Room and the cost of the children's food and a dent in the bus costs for the Panto on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2024.

