



SCOIL MHUIRE

Nollaig/Christmas 2023



Dia dhaoibh a cháirde, agus fáilte romhaibh chuig Eagrán Nollag de Nuachtlitir Scoil Mhuire. Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taithneamh as! Hello everyone, and welcome to the Christmas 2023 Edition of Scoil Mhuire's Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it!

Réamhfhocal an Phríomhoide/Principal's Foreword

A Chairde Uilig,

Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

As we approach the end of our first term at Scoil Mhuire, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. It has been a very busy, eventful start to the 2023/24 School Year.

Fr. Michael McLoughlin, a great friend to Scoil Mhuire for the last 21 years, left us in early September to take up a new post as parish priest of Salthill. Fr. Martin Whelan was appointed parish priest of Moycullen in his place. Our Bishop Michael Duignan formally introduced Fr. Martin to his new parish on Saturday 16th December. On the sporting front, our Senior Boys Gaelic Football team lifted the Annual Bish Cup in September. Our Accelerated Reader Programme, the focus of last year's School Self-Evaluation (SSE) enters its second year. The focus of this year's SSE will be Wellbeing. The Colourstrings Music Programme, delivered by Katri and Peggy from Maoin Cheoil na Gaillimhe, continues this year, as do our Swimming Lessons in Leisureland for 3rd to 6th Classes. We were successful in securing a generous grant from Galway Wind Park Community Benefit Fund and are in the process of kitting out a Sensory Space, which will be of benefit to so many children in our school.

A new Primary Curriculum Framework, developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, is being introduced by the Department of Education, beginning with the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum, which will involve our school being closed for staff training on Tuesday 23rd January 2024.

After several post-pandemic attempts to resurrect our Parents' Association, we finally have a Parents' Association Committee in place. We held a very successful Book Fair in November, which raised over €2000 for our school library. Jennifer Asada came to our school to teach French to 4th and 5th Classes as part of the Say Yes to Languages Programme (teaching and learning of a foreign language will form part of the new Primary Curriculum.) 4th Classes are taking part in this year's Junior Entrepreneur Programme. Our Board of Management, whose term ended on 30th November 2023, held its final meeting on Thursday 9th November. Our new Board will hold its first meeting on Thursday 21st December. An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar briefly visited Scoil Mhuire, having officially opened the new Moycullen Bypass on Monday 11th December, and took off from our school yard in an Air Corps Helicopter!

Our New School Building Project is at Stage 2B and the Board of Management hopes to appoint a contractor early in the New Year, with works beginning soon thereafter.

As you can see, Scoil Mhuire is a very busy place. We hope that our teachers, our SNAs, our support staff and all of our pupils will enjoy a nice relaxing rest over the Christmas and return to school full of energy and enthusiasm on Monday 8th January 2024 for an exciting new school term in Scoil Mhuire.



Scoil Mhuire Student Council



We have just set up our first ever Student Council in Scoil Mhuire. It is made of up pupils from 3rd to 6th Class and we have had two meetings so far this term. T

The four elected Sixth Class pupils have the roles of Chairperson (Sophie Shaughnessy), Deputy Chairperson (Aodhán O' Neill), Secretary (Cleo Palmer) and Communications and Media Officer (Paul Rodgers).

Members of the council will meet at least once a month to share their class ideas, discuss issues that affect their life at school as well as being involved in some decision making and organisation of activities and events during the year.

Pupil voice, responsibility and involvement in all aspects of school life are really important to us in Scoil Mhuire and all children will be able to share their ideas through a class Google Form or suggestion box which will be circulated before meetings. Fifth and Sixth Class council members are linked to each of the Infant to Second Classes to gather their ideas and provide feedback after meetings.



An Crann Nollag agus an Máinséar. Scoil Mhuire Nollaig 2023.

[Christmas Art at Scoil Mhuire Video](#)

Scoil Mhuire School Attendance Campaign

Earlier this year, the Minister for Education launched the National School Attendance Campaign (NSAC). The campaign, a Tusla Education Support Services and Department of Education initiative, seeks to promote the importance of school attendance. Before COVID-19, attendance in Scoil Mhuire was excellent. Unfortunately, attendance figures have disimproved in the aftermath of the pandemic. In the 2018/19 School Year 20 pupils were absent from school on 20 or more days. Last year, the 2022/23 School Year, 57 pupils were absent from school on 20 or more days. In the 2018/19 School Year we recorded a school-wide total of 3,185 days of absence from school. Last year, the 2022/23 School Year, that figure was 4,882 days.

We will be producing a new School Attendance Strategy, with the aim of improving attendance and punctuality in our school. We will be in touch in January for your feedback and opinions. As parents/guardians, you can help us to improve attendance and punctuality in our school by:

- Not taking holidays during school term
- Sending your child to school when he/she is well enough to attend school
- Consulting with and cooperating with the school in resolving any issues around your child's reluctance to attend school
- Ensuring that your child arrives to school on time, i.e. before 9:00 a.m.
- Avoiding, if at all possible, withdrawing your child from school early, i.e. before 1:30 p.m. (Infants) or 2:30 p.m. (All other classes)

Although we really want to see our attendance figures return to what they once were, if a child is genuinely sick and unwell, i.e. nausea, vomiting, fever, sneezing & coughing and feeling unwell and miserable, he/she should not be at school.

Thanks for your help.

KEEPING OUR PUPILS SAFE ONLINE

We have recently invested in **Senso Class Cloud** Software for our suite of 65 chromebooks and assistive technology devices in Scoil Mhuire. Senso cloud is an internet-based safeguarding, monitoring, and management tool. With this software, we can take control of the class and keep students focussed on the task in hand. We can view the screens of multiple devices simultaneously, share documents, block distractions and much more.

In Scoil Mhuire, we use Senso to:

Safeguard our pupils.

Senso helps us to protect users by proactively monitoring school devices and indicating safeguarding concerns to the relevant staff. Senso flags users who may be vulnerable or at-risk and users who may pose a risk to others, as well as any inappropriate, off-task or harmful behaviour.

Manage Lessons.

We save time by getting the class where we want them as quickly as possible, we can push out a website or application to the whole group or selected machines. Keeping the class on task and ready to start work from the get-go.

Gain Student Feedback.

Send out a question for the class, small group, or individual in 2 easy steps. With instant feedback within the same window, we can act on the feedback straight away.

Minimise Distractions in Class.

When attention is required and distraction is not, we can turn the internet on or off or alternatively lock the pupil's screens so that the attention is back where we need it.

FAREWELL, FR. MICHAEL



DEAN MICHAEL M'CLOUGHLIN, OR FR. MICHAEL, AS HE WAS MOST FONDLY KNOWN, RETURNED TO OUR SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER TO BID US ALL A FOND FAREWELL. FR. MICHAEL, WHO HAD SERVED AS PARISH PRIEST IN MOYCULLEN FOR 21 YEARS, HAD BEEN APPOINTED PARISH PRIEST OF SALTHILL IN SEPTEMBER. FR. MICHAEL SERVED ON THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT OF ALL 4 PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS SERVING AS DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR FOR A TIME FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP MARTIN DRENNAN.

HAVING PREVIOUSLY LIVED AND WORKED IN SALTHILL, FR. MICHAEL (A PROUD NATIVE OF BALLINA CO. MAYO) WAS, IN MANY WAYS, RETURNING HOME. ALTHOUGH SAD TO BE LEAVING US, HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW CHALLENGE.

WE WERE VERY HAPPY TO SEE FR. MICHAEL AGAIN, AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT HIM WITH A CARD, SIGNED BY ALL PUPILS IN THE SCHOOL, AND A COUPLE OF GIFTS, FROM THE STAFF, PUPILS AND BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF SCOIL MUIRE, AS A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL HE HAD DONE FOR OUR SCHOOL AND PARISH DURING HIS TIME IN MOYCULLEN.

WE HOPE THAT FR. MICHAEL WILL TAKE TIME OUT FROM HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO VISIT US AGAIN SOON.

SLÁN FR. MICHAEL. BEANNACHT DÉ ORT AGUS AR DO CHUID OIBRE I DO PHARÓISTE NUA.



The Day the Taoiseach Came to Town!



On Monday 11th December, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar came to Moycullen to open the newly completed Moycullen Bypass.

Everyone in Scoil Mhuire was delighted when An Taoiseach paid us an impromptu visit, walking through our school yard on the way to his next engagement.

An Taoiseach, who was accompanied by Senator Seán Kyne, a past pupil of Scoil Mhuire, stopped briefly for a chat with Mr. Kavanagh, who took the opportunity to speak with him regarding our new school building project and of the urgent need for a secondary school in Moycullen. We are very grateful to Senator Kyne for facilitating this quick visit.

A short time later, much to the amazement and excitement of our pupils, An Taoiseach took off from our back yard in an Air Corps helicopter to continue with his busy schedule.

Go raibh maith agat as an gcúirt, a Thaoisigh. Tá súil againn go dtiocfaidh tú ar ais arís nuair a osclófar ár scoil nua.



Thanks Sen. Kyne for bringing An Taoiseach our way.

Many thanks also to Seán Lydon, expert photographer and thorough gentleman, for taking photos on the day.

Fáilte Fr. Martin

Our disappointment at losing Fr. Michael to Salthill was eased by the appointment of Fr. Martin Whelan as parish priest of Moycullen. Fr. Martin, who comes to us from Maree, has made a great impression on all in Scoil Mhuire.

Our Bishop, Michael Duignan visited Moycullen on Saturday 16th December and celebrated a special mass to formally introduce Fr. Martin to his new parish. After mass, Bishop Michael, Fr. Martin and many members of the congregation crossed the road to Aiseirí to enjoy some Christmas treats, view the amazing display of Christmas Cribbs and see Fr. Martin cut the special cake that had been baked in honour of his introduction as parish priest of Moycullen.



HOPE 4 Liam

The Board of Management, Staff and Pupils of Scoil Mhuire Moycullen are keeping Liam and the Davoren family in our prayers this Christmas. Guímís go dtiocfaidh biseach ar Liam agus go dtuga Dia misneach dá chlann.



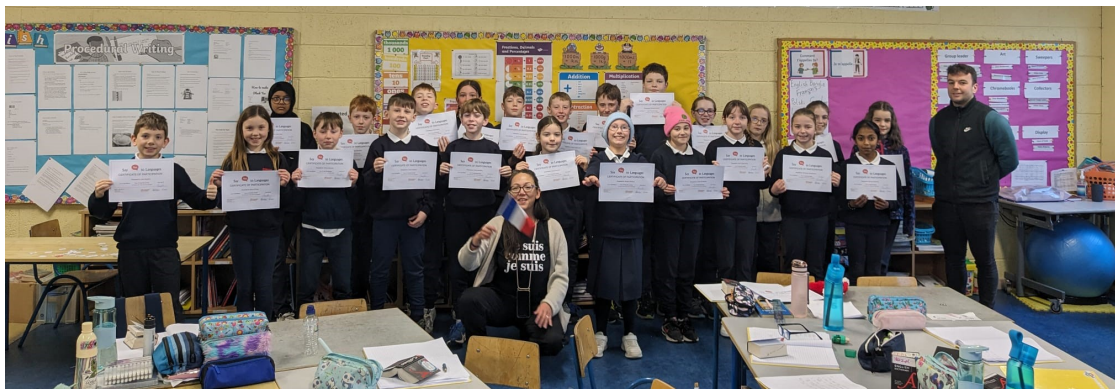
Thanks and well done to our pupils who contributed over €700 to the Hope for Liam Fund through our non-uniform Christmas Jumpers Fundraiser.



Say YES to Languages



Ms Joyces 4th Class with Ms. Jenniffer Asada and their certificates.



Mr Conneelys 4th Class with Ms. Jenniffer Asada and their certificates.

Merci Jennifer d'être venue dans notre école pour enseigner le Français. Bravo à tous nos étudiants pour vos efforts. Joyeux Noël à tous.

Cór na Scoile

Well done to all of our beautiful singers who have participated in the Scoil Mhuire Choir this term. They have been practicing really hard over the past month. There have been some in-school events and some out of school activities too. The children were invited to participate in the following events:

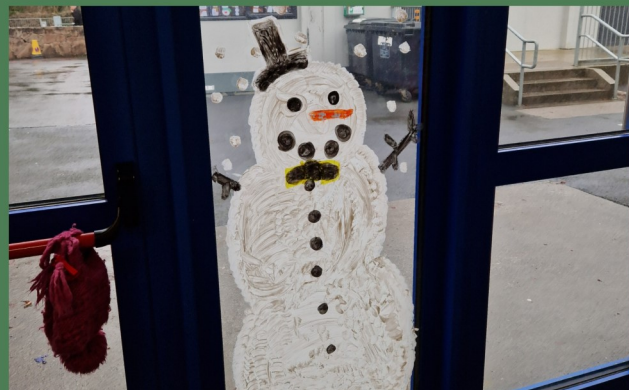
- * Church Feast Day on Friday Dec. 8th
- * 'Las Suas Maigh Cuilinn', Teach na Gaeilge, Saturday Dec 9th
- * Carol Service at the Moycullen Market on Friday Dec 15th
- * Singing at the annual Christmas Choir Service on Monday Dec 18th
- * DTIMM Mass on Saturday Dec 23rd—Christmas Eve Pageant on Sunday Dec 24th

All are welcome to come to the Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 5:30pm. Come early to get a seat!



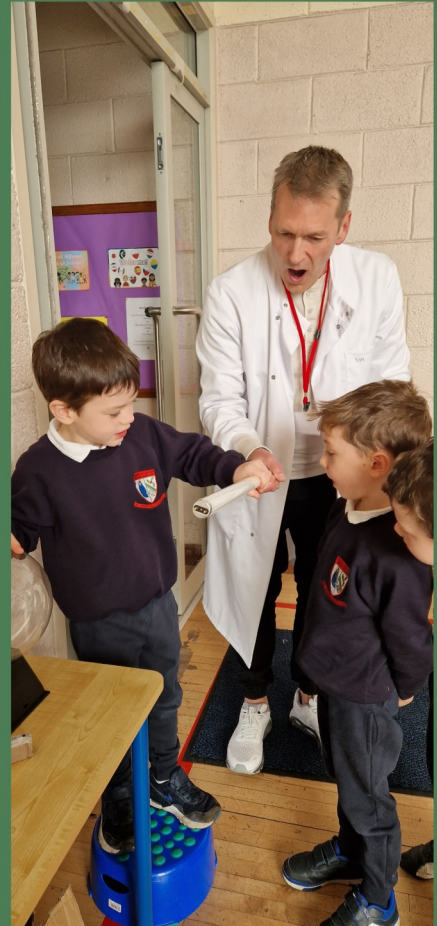
In-house Artists!

We have some excellent artists throughout the school from Junior Infants to Rang 6, who have brightened up our school windows at the entrance of the school. They worked so hard to make our Winter Wonderland even more special! Maith sibh!



Science Week 2023

Following on our wonderful tradition of STEM Education in Scoil Mhuire, we had a very successful whole school Science Day with an electrifying science show, in-house school scientist visits and even a beach safari visit. All classes promote STEM throughout the school year too! Congratulations and well done to our pupils and teachers.



Junior Infants

Miss Duggan & Ms Ní Dhonnacha



Santa's little elves have been singing happily in the workshop as they prepare for Christmas. The elves have enjoyed wrapping presents, making cookies, learning songs and poems and creating some lovely festive art pieces. We wish you all a Merry Christmas.



Junior Infants

Ms Hogan

We have had a super time getting ready for Christmas! We have had so much fun playing in Santa's workshop, wrapping presents, playing in the sensory snow box and creating lots of lovely art work!



Mrs. Mannion's Senior Infants!!



Senior Infants have been having great fun in Aistear visiting Santa's grotto, writing letters, making pin-art pictures, playdough creations and doing many other art activities!



We have been very busy practicing our writing and have written lovely Santa stories. We have also been practising all our songs and poems for our Christmas video and school performance.



We also learned all about the story of Christmas and enjoyed decorating our cribs and learning Away in a manger and jingle bells (in English and Irish!). Happy Christmas everyone!!



Senior Infants

Ms Bohan & Ms Hester



Senior Infants have been working very hard this term and having great fun too! We have been working in our groups during Language stations on Monday and Wednesday mornings, with Ms O'Toole and Ms Phillips. Every Friday morning we look forward to Maths stations too!

A big welcome to Abigail and Nthatsi, who have joined our class this term! The Senior Infants have done a great job helping our new classmates to settle in.



Senior Infants have been practicing for many weeks for the Christmas Play. This year's performance is called '[Prickly Hay](#)'. We hope everyone enjoys it!



1st Class

Ms Pierce/Ms Molloy

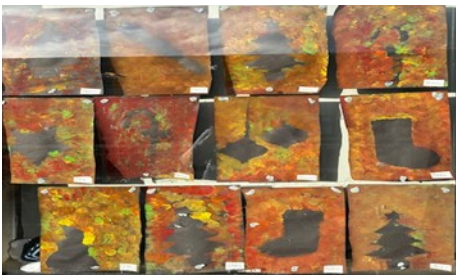


Our Christmas Tree

Ms Pierce's and Ms Molloy's First class are on the countdown to Christmas. We had great fun making various Christmas decorations for our "class Christmas tree". We were very busy making paper Snow Globes, Stars and Christmas presents etc. We are all very excited and on the countdown to Christmas! We have been shading in our Maths December calendar every morning in class.



CHRISTMAS ART



We have enjoyed all the different art activities in class. We had the opportunity to make snowflakes which we found really interesting to make using just a pencil, paper and scissors! We also drew pictures of ourselves catching falling snowflakes using oil pastels!

We made Christmas silhouettes using paint and different Christmas templates for e.g. stockings, Santa, bauble decorations and candy canes. We also painted lots of Christmas scenery pictures using our wonderful imagination. Our teachers were very impressed with our work! Finally, we created our own class Christmas gonk, with super inspirations from our Christmas jumpers which we wore in class.

Nollaig Shona dhaoibh ó Rang a hAon!

1st Class

Ms Concannon

First class Ms Concannon we are really looking forward to the Christmas! We all had turns painting and decorating our classroom windows using glass markers, paint and stencils.



We also painted and made Arctic penguins! We made colourful Christmas trees using crepe paper and paint!



We had great fun making winter wonderland houses using paper and felt fabrics. We also made Christmas wreaths for the imminent arrival of Baby Jesus.



Nollag Shona daoibh ón Rang a hAon

Rang a Dó

Mr Fahy



In our class...

We have had a busy term! All the boys and girls have been working extremely hard. We have really enjoyed decorating the classroom and preparing for our Christmas break.

All of the children got to design, decorate and cut out their own classroom snow globes and Christmas baubles.

While lots of children were singing their hearts out in the school choir other kids got a chance to paint our class windows!

The children are enjoying their Accelerated Reading time every day. During this time, they read independently and test themselves on their books. They are working their way through all of the books in our class library. Keep up the great work boys and girls!

We are very lucky to be so close to our local church. We have taken several trips up to the church throughout this term where we have been taking part in Adoration. This is all part of our First Holy Communion preparation which we are looking forward to next year.



A big well done to all of those involved in the school choir and those practicing for the pageant! You have put in a lot of great work! Enjoy the break and Merry Christmas from all of us here in Rang a Dó!

Mr Fahy



Rang 2

Ms Ní Dhonnacha



The festive cheer is in full swing, in Rang a Dó this year. The children have been busy creating lovely art displays and learning about Christmas around the world. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone!



Nollaig Shona Daoibh ó Rang a Trí

Ms B. Maloney

We have been very busy in Rang a Trí this term. We attended an Electrifying Science Show with Raymond Whyte aka Professor Messer who came to teach us about electricity for Science Week! We enjoyed taking part in a Toy Show Table Quiz and designed our own Christmas jumpers before the Late Late Toy Show. It was lots of fun!



Coming up to the Christmas Holidays, we made our own Christmas Village to display outside our classroom. There are lots of things to see and do when you Step into our Christmas Village! You can wander around while listening to Christmas music via the QR code! Have a look below!



Best Wishes for the New Year!
We can't wait to see what
2024 has in store!

[Christmas Village video](#)

Rang a Trí

Ms Maloney & Ms O Fátharta



Christmas Drama

Third Class had great fun writing, directing and acting in their own Christmas drama's over the past few weeks. We had great fun performing them in our classroom for the other classes in the school. We look forward to lots more drama in 2024!



Our Christmas Drama Groups

Christmas Art

We were busy over the past few weeks crafting and creating lots of Christmas Art. From bobble hat decorations to Nutcracker drawings, Rang a Trí have



We will miss you!

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to one of our dear classmates who has been a student in our school since Junior Infants. She is a great friend to us all. We wish and her sister all the best in their new school.

Mr Conneely 4th class



We have been very busy with our Junior Entrepreneur programme.

The children worked extremely hard preparing our key chains. We sold the keychains to all the other classes in the school.

As a reward for their hard work and with the money they have raised we are got food delivered from Roma to the school. We are also planning a trip to Wildlands in the New Year with our remaining budget.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



MS JOYCE 4TH CLASS

Fourth class Ms Joyce and Mr Conneely have participated in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme. We thank Fiona Faherty from Fusion Fashion and Gerard O'Donoghue from Álainn for coming in to chat to us about life in business

We decided to sell personalized keychains and we ran a hugely successful business so much so, that the pupils will enjoy a takeaway meal from Roma on Thursday December 21st and we will go to Wildlands in January to participate in two activities all paid for by our business venture

We have learned so much and had so much fun participating in this Programme!
We have had a great first term and we look forward to more work and fun in term 2!!



Ms Joyce held the best looking cookie competition and here are some of the entries.



This was the winner by Martha Carter.
Chosen by our resident food critic Mr. Flaherty.





Mr. O'Neill's 5th Class



So far it's been a great year! We've been doing a lot of fun stuff! We went swimming for 6 weeks, as in every Thursday, and it was a lot of fun! We've also been doing Colourstrings and learning about music, which has also been a lot of fun.

But the true highlight of the year was our French lessons. It is always amazing to learn a new language, as it will come in handy for many occasions as you can talk to French people who don't know how to speak English. It will also help us learn how to speak a foreign language for secondary school.



Our class has also been learning lots of cool experiments during science week. We have also been learning and excelling in quite challenging 5th class maths! Our thanks to Mr O'Neill who has been making it easy for all the pupils in 5th classroom to understand. In our class we do lots of drama in lots of different ways. We do drama and role play in English and Irish! 5th class has been really fun so far.

By the children in 5th class



Nollaig Shona Daoibh go Léir Ó Rang a Cúig Ms Donohoe



This term has gone by as quick as a flash, we cannot believe that Christmas time is upon us! We have been very busy all term learning in Rang 5. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2024.



Let's take a quick look back of all the things we have accomplished this term. We have been making great progress with our everyday learning, with some fun added into the mix! For science week, we were lucky enough to have scientists visit us from NUIG to carry out experiments with liquid nitrogen! We finished up our French lessons with Jennifer and got to make delicious croissants. Our classroom is so colourful; we painted our windows, put up our Christmas tree and hung our Christmas art around the room. We loved learning about volcanoes, researching about the wonderful animals of the world and doing in-class individual Christmas plays. To top it all off, we spent a day making our own cookie dough pizzas! We cannot wait for 2024.



Rang a Sé

Seán Óg

Art and Design

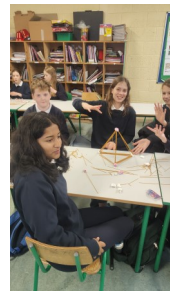
Rang a Sé used Tinkercad along with pasta and marshmallows to design and create 3D art pieces



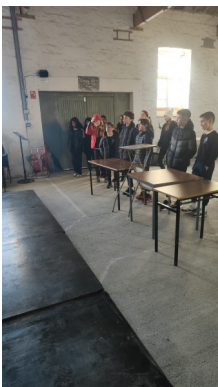
Using Tinkercad



Pasta Design



Trip to the Workhouse



The class visited the workhouse in late November leaving the school at 9:00 am and returning at 2.30 pm. We were given an excellent guided tour at the workhouse from one of the official guides and we learned that this is one of the best preserved workhouses in Britain and Ireland. We saw the dormitories, the refectory and the sanitary units {not very sanitary, back then anyway}. On the way home we stopped at Doughiska playground and park for an hour. A very enjoyable day out.



Rang a Sé

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir

Ms Elliffe



We worked in groups to learn about new countries and learned about how Christmas is celebrated around the world.



Chuamar go dtí an trá. Lá fuar a bhí ann! Rang a Sé were invited to take part in a seashore safari by the Explorer's office in Atlantaquaria. Dr. Maria Marra visited our classroom to teach us about the types of plant and animal life to be found at low tide in Salthill. We then visited Grattan beach with Dr. Marra to see what we could find.



To finish off 2023 we have created a movie called ['Nativity'](#) for all of our families to enjoy, we hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoyed filming it.



Respect

Respect is a core principle of our Code of Positive Behaviour.

In Scoil Mhuire, we believe that every person is worthy of respect as a human being and a Child of God.

The respect we show other people mirrors the respect we have for ourselves.

We make our school a better place when we treat each other with respect, kindness and compassion.

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

Guíonn Bord Bainistíochta Scoil Mhuire Nollaig shona, shíochánta agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise ar ar ndaltaí agus a muintir agus ar ár bhfoireann scoile.

Oscloídh Scoil Mhuire arís I ndiaidh Saoire na Nollag ar an Luan 8ú Eanáir 2024 ag 8:40 r.n.

The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire would like to wish all our pupils, their families and our staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Scoil Mhuire will reopen after the Christmas Holidays on Monday 8th January 2024 at 8:40 a.m.



The Greatest Gift of All

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir. Happy Christmas to all.