



# MUIRE GAN SMÁL NEWS

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## October 2022

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Muire Gan Smál  
Primary School



The children in every class are busy designing and decorating their own Christmas cards. Every family will have the opportunity to buy these cards if they so wish. The cost will be €8.00 for a pack of 10 cards.



The theme for the month of October in Muire gan Smál was

**CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE**

Thanks to the girls from 2nd Class and 3rd Class for their work showing how

**WE ARE ALL UNIQUE!**

### Some Upcoming Dates

Science Week will run from Nov. 7th –11th in Muire gan Smál.

Christmas Performances: We will be in touch after Halloween with dates for our Christmas Concerts!

## What's been happening...



### **Tennis is back!**

The children from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th Classes as well as some of our Senior Infants are delighted to be back playing tennis with Janis. The other classes will participate later in the year.



### **The Magic of Music!**

We are delighted to have Gráinne from Music Generation come to our school as part of our Creative Schools initiative. She is working with our Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class for seven weeks introducing them to sound, rhythm and beat.



**Ready for Phase Two– Painting!**

### Plans for a New Sensory Room

Thanks to Laoise, Paediatric Occupational Therapist, and Maureen, Senior Paediatric Speech and Language Therapist with **Sensational Kids Claremorris**, who came to our school to advise us on how to plan our **Sensory Room**.

“Students learn more effectively and have better academic outcomes if they are happy in their work, believe in themselves and feel acknowledged and supported in their schools.”

(NCSE Sensory Spaces in Schools)

**Their first piece of advise for our Sensory Room was to gut it!!!**

Thanks to all, especially our **SNAs**, who put their shoulder to the wheel to complete this first stage.

We will keep you updated on our progress.

### **Caught in The Act...**



**...of KINDNESS.**

**These girls came to teachers attention for showing great kindness to others.**

We are almost up and running with **Star Assessment** and **Accelerated Reader** for all pupils from **2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes**.



### **Star Assessment**

Star Assessment is a new and valuable approach to assessing Literacy using computer-adaptive tests. Unlike conventional Reading tests that had a very limited amount of material to test each pupil, Star Assessment has a bank of over 4,000 questions. It also adapts the questions to the students responses. This means that a more able student will get more challenging questions while a student experiencing difficulty will get questions at their level of ability. In this way every student experiences success.

Conventional tests are only valid if there is a significant time gap between tests. With Star Assessment however, it can be used as often as every two months as the pupil will be given different questions each time. As it is self-correcting a whole class can be tested in twenty minutes and results are reported immediately.

The test identifies not only what the child knows but also what they need to learn next. It highlights what intervention needs to take place. It also tells you whether they are performing below, above or as expected.

### **Accelerated Reader**

Following the Star Assessment each pupil will be given a Reading Zone (e.g. between 1.6 and 2.3). The student then chooses a book from the school library within this zone.

Once they finish a book, students take a short quiz on what they have read. Each quiz is written to ensure students have read the entire book. Accelerated Reader has quizzes on more than 200,000 books.

Teachers and parents gain instant insight into students' quiz results. They can use that data to set goals and monitor students' continued progress.

Accelerated Reader awards points for different books read. This way the student can build up points as they are encouraged to read more books. It also lets them know when they have read one million words, becoming a Millionaire!!

A huge thank you to **Mrs Cosgrove** who has spent many, many hours outside of school, in the evenings and at the weekends, in order to get Accelerated Reader up and running in our school. The level of **every** book had to be established and labelled accordingly. Then the books had to be arranged in the library according to level.

**We will send photos of our new Junior and Senior libraries when they are complete.**

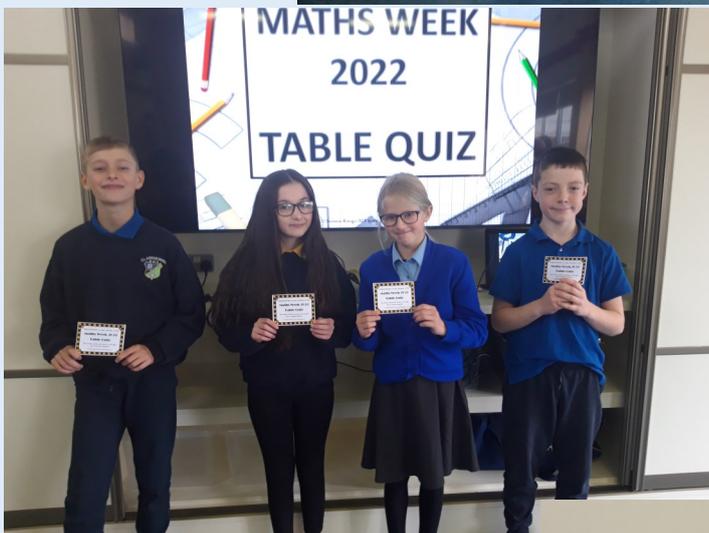


## Delighted to Welcome Back some of our past pupils!

We were delighted to welcome the boys from 5th and 6th Classes in the Boys' School to our school. Most of them are past pupils.

First we welcomed the 5th Class boys who took part in a Maths Quiz in mixed teams with the 5th Class girls. The following day it was the turn of the 6th Class.

The boys were delighted to visit all the classes in the school and see their siblings hard at work. We hope to have further similar events throughout the school year.



**The winning 5th Class Team**



**The winning 6th Class Team**

# Happy Halloween Everyone

