



# Our Lady's Abbey

## September Newsletter 2021



**#BEACTIVE**

European Week of Sport

European School Sports Day

#ESSD2021

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European Week of Sport

We celebrated European School Sports Day on Friday, September 24th and a fantastic day was had by all. The aim of this day was to celebrate sport through fun and enjoyable activities. We were particularly excited this year to welcome camera crews from RTE News2Day and a videographer and photographer from Sport Ireland to capture the excitement in the school on the day.

The whole school took part in a day of sport playing games like Rock/Paper/Scissors War, Tag Rugby, Volleyball Tennis, Street Handball, Elastics, Foam Polo, Parachute Games, Skipping, Balloon Relays, Tangram Relays and much more. A firm favourite every year is "Take on the Teachers", where our older classes took part in a "Clothes Line" challenge against our teachers.

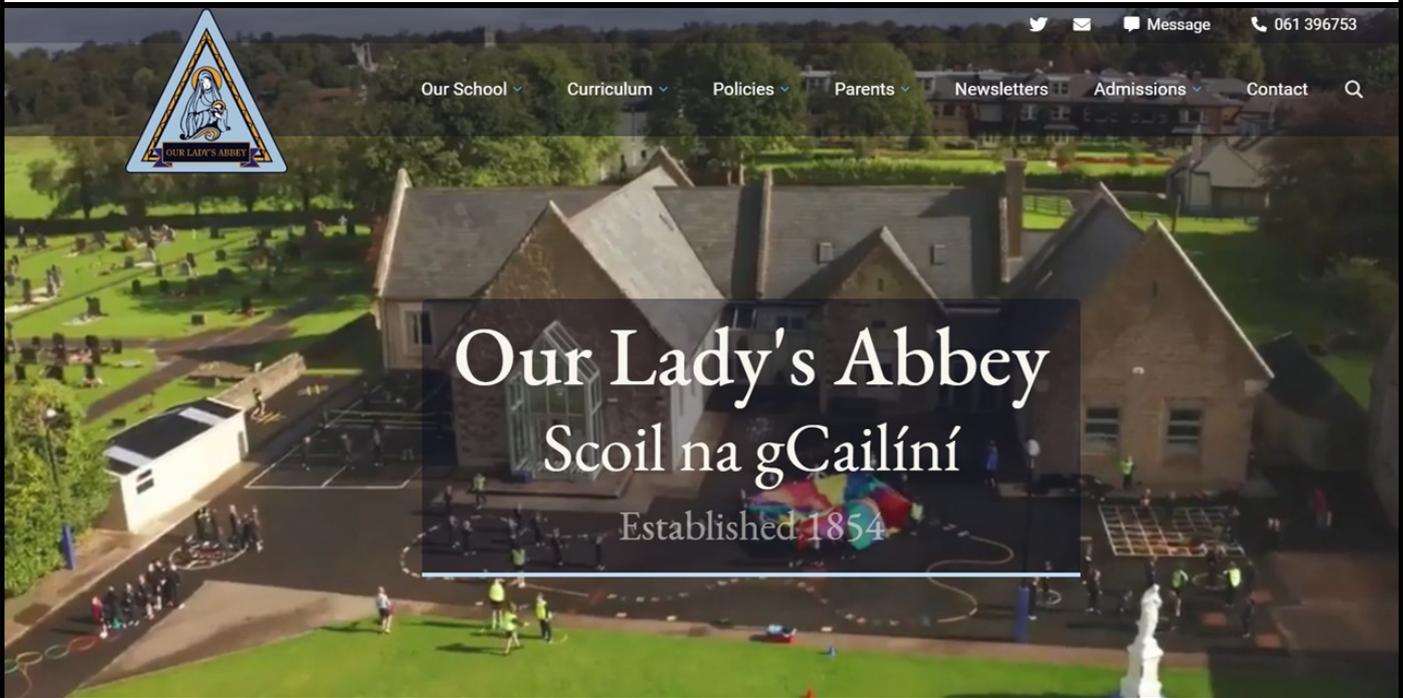
An extra special treat was a visit from Declan Hannon, Limerick hurling captain, who chatted with the girls and posed for endless photos! Photos of the day can be seen here and on the school Twitter feed, @OurLadysAbbey. The link to the news report on News2Day is also available to watch on our Twitter feed. A huge well done to all our daltaí agus múinteoirí for such a fantastic day! Míle buíochas also to Múinteoir Trisha for organising all the yard leagues, which the girls are enjoying at the moment.





## New School Website

We are delighted to have launched a brand new school website at [www.ourladyssabbey.com](http://www.ourladyssabbey.com). We encourage everyone to log on and take a look around the website. It contains useful information about the school and fabulous photos of daily life at Our Lady's Abbey.



## First Holy Communion

Huge congratulations to the girls in 3rd class, who finally made their First Holy Communion on Saturday, September 25th. Although they had a long wait, the sun shone for them on the day and we hope they all had a fantastic weekend. Special thanks to Múinteoirí Avril and Caoimhe for preparing the girls for their special day.



## New Interactive Whiteboards

All students and múinteoirí are absolutely delighted with our new SMART 75" Interactive Screens. These were installed in every classroom during the summer and we are having a great time enjoying lessons using this advanced technology!

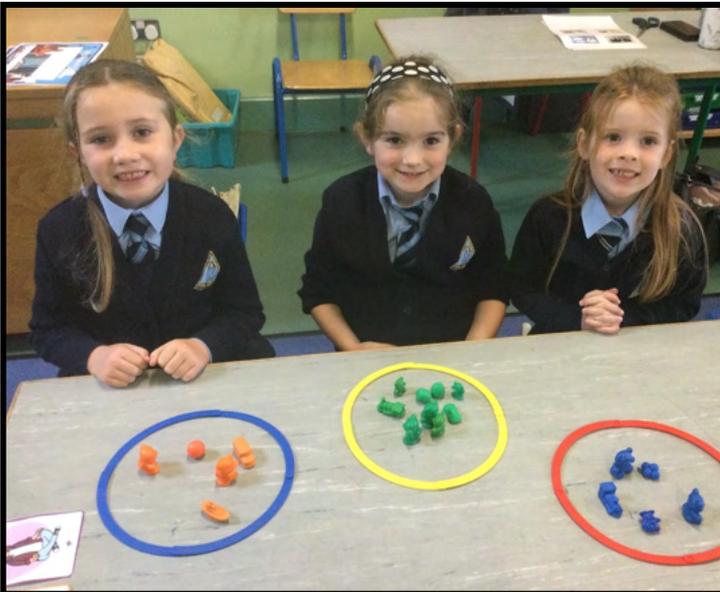
## Halloween Fun Day

Don't forget to start getting your costumes ready for our annual Halloween Hooley! Every year, we enjoy spooky Halloween games, quizzes and musical games with prizes galore! Keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks!

## Swimming Lessons in U.L.

It is simply fantastic news that we are finally in a position to resume swimming lessons in U.L. Sports Arena on Friday, October 8th. We are all so excited!! The focus of these lessons will be on reintroducing the children to the water, promoting enjoyment in the water, water safety and progressing the skills we have learned in previous lessons. The girls will also continue to work towards their Primary Aquatic Water Safety swimming levels with the instructors in U.L.





## Junior Infants

What a busy first month at Our Lady's Abbey for our Junior Infants. It has been such fun making so many new friends.

We have worked to develop our gross and fine motor skills

with our new six bricks games. In English, we played games to improve our listening and phonemic awareness skills. We learned all about prediction, procedural writing and acrostic poems too. Our Maths games, using lots of concrete materials, were a big hit. Some of us loved the sorting tree, while others preferred exploring number with



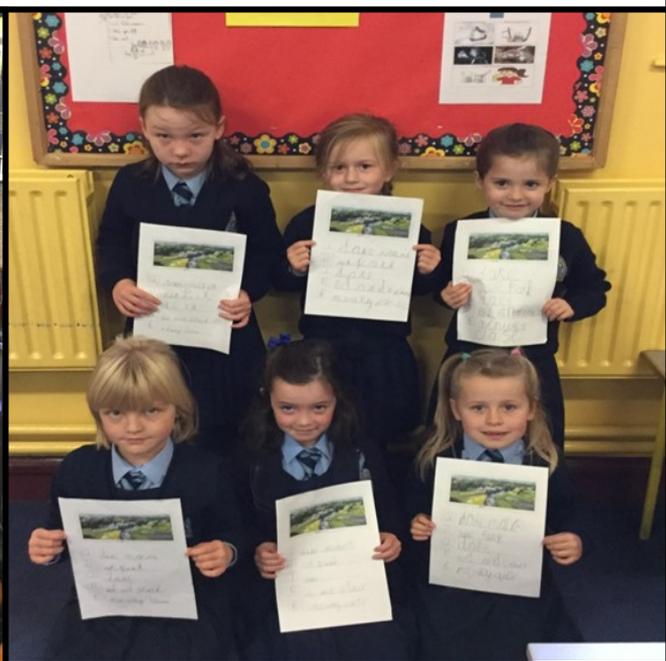
Numicon. Our mixing colours science experiment created some amazing results that we recreated in our art lessons when we mixed paint. Our favourite way to finish the day is to do some dancing.

Múinteoir Emer is so impressed with us that we have already earned enough stickers for our first active treat! On a lovely crisp Autumn day, we enjoyed a trip around Adare park. A great reward for our excellent work.



### Senior Infants & First Class

September has been a super, action packed month for the girls. They have been busy writing acrostic poems on Adare, designing Autumnal pictures, engaging in playful activities in the classroom and getting to soak in the atmosphere of European School Sports Day. The visit with Geoff Hunt so early in the year was a massive bonus for all the girls. The girls got to explore the school garden and came across some interesting creatures. Senior Infants have been busy working on their cursive writing and striving to get on the writing wall, while First Class have been working diligently at perfecting their musical notes on their tin whistles. The highlight of the year to date would have to be the girls' appearance on RTÉ for European Sports Day and there are definitely a few T.V stars in the making. If September is anything to go by, it will be a fun filled year for the girls of Senior Infants and First Class. Stay safe everyone.



## Second & Third Class

We have been very busy in Second and Third class this month. In Gaeilge, we have been learning about Mé Féin and the song Dilín O Deamhas. In Maths, we have been learning about place value, addition and subtraction and playing lots of games using our target boards, number fans and whiteboards. In Literacy we started a new novel called 'The Twits' and are writing lots of Limericks about Adare. We have been writing about how to create musical instruments and writing lots of recipes in procedural writing. We are looking forward to making our rice crispy buns!! We enjoyed going on a History trail of Adare looking at various places such as the Dovecot and Washing Pool. In Art we have been very busy painting hot air balloons, exploring the colour wheel, designing clothes for our dolls and weaving beautiful butterflies. We really enjoyed our balloon races last week during European Sports Day. We also had a very busy month preparing for the First Holy Communion.





### Third & Fourth Class

We have had a busy start to life in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class! We can't wait to share with you some of things we've been doing this September.

We have been hard at work every morning doing Literacy Lift-Off with Múinteoir Sandra, Múinteoir Brian and Cindy. We have been using iPads and computers to listen to stories and have been learning how to type correctly, as well as reading some great digital stories.

Over the past few weeks, we have learned how to write a *Haiku* poem, which originates in Japan!! We entered the Poetry Town Schools Award competition and wrote lots of poems about Adare!

In Art, we designed stunning owls for our classroom door. We are delighted with how they turned out. We have also been learning how to weave and created beautiful Dreamcatchers, which are on display in our classroom.

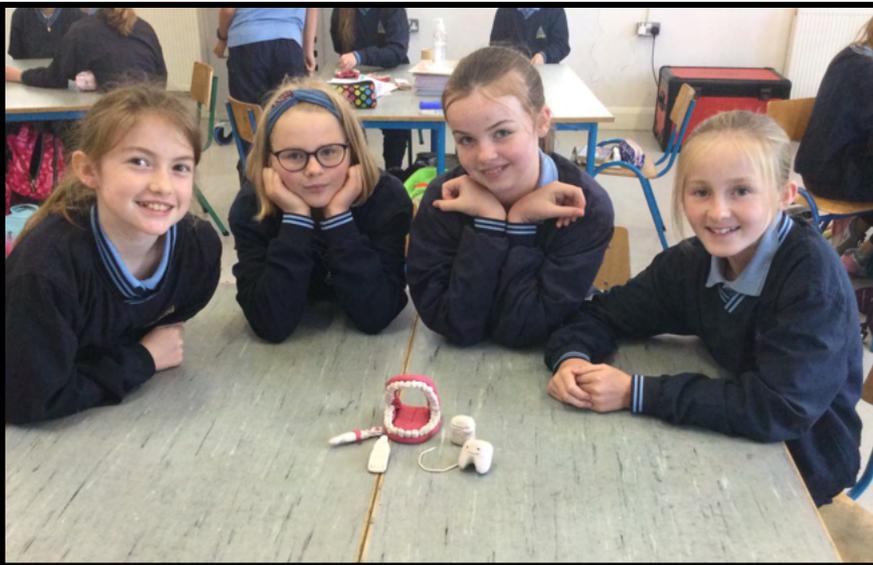
Recently, we went on a trip to the park and learned about lots of different trees. We learned how to identify the Horse Chestnut tree, the Ash tree, the Oak tree and so much more. Did you know that Áth Dara means the 'Ford of the Oak'?

In Science, we have been investigating the effect exercise has on our heart rate. This involved completing various activities and taking our own pulse. We had lots of fun integrating P.E with Science.



We have had great fun participating in our yard leagues. This term we are learning to play Tag Rugby and Volleyball Tennis as well as soccer and elastics!





### Fifth Class

We are delighted to be back in school again in 5th class and catching up with all our friends!! We are building on the great work completed last year in Gaeilge and the standard of Irish is already 'thar cionn'. We have written detailed letters to our penpals as Gaeilge, learned songs and poems and the room is buzzing with outstanding Irish Mé Féin conversations

We have been integrating ICT into everything we do, including using Microsoft Publisher to create name pages. We have even learned how to install new fonts on our laptops. We've used Microsoft Word to type up our penpal letters and we are creating Biodiversity books using Book Creator on our iPads. We also enjoyed a Zoom workshop with famous author David Walliams!!

We are learning all about Living Things including a very interesting few weeks investigating Teeth. We examined our own teeth, made lifelike model sets of teeth and even managed to source real teeth to experiment on. Huge thanks to Dr. John Hennessy for providing us with a selection of cleaned and sanitised teeth!! Our field trip with wildlife expert Geoff Hunt was a huge highlight, as always, and we are very skilled in identifying river life including pond skaters, shrimp, eels, three-spine sticklebacks and much more!

Our room is awash with colour already!! We have been studying Fabric and Fibre and have created beautiful rainbow weaving, wool butterflies and gorgeous cup weaving. We are also studying the colour wheel at the moment, so keep an eye out for our works of art on Twitter! Our Likes Mind Maps have turned out really well and our Self Assessment and Learning Folders are filling up already with our samples of work.

Between Yard Leagues, European School Sports Day and PE, we have been kept moving and active every day!!

## Sixth Class

Bhí Mí Meán Fómhair an-ghnóthach ar fad i Rang a Sé. We have been out and about exploring our amazing village as part of our SESE programme. Our trip to the Desmond Castle was a fantastic highlight. We are so lucky to have this superb example of a Norman castle on our doorstep and following our visit, we all created our own books about the “Normans and the Desmond Castle” on the Book Creator app on our iPads. Our local park was our next port of call with wildlife expert Geoff Hunt, to examine the biodiversity in the stream there. We discovered an abundance of species there, including pond skaters, eels, three spined sticklebacks, whirligig beetles and much more. Who knew our stream could be home to so many living things? In Science, we have also been learning about the importance of our lungs and our respiratory system. We created mini lungs to understand how they work and even designed models of our respiratory system with plasticine. We have been exploring poetry writing in English and have started compiling our own poetry anthologies. So far, we have written diamentes and a poem about our beautiful village of Adare for the Poetry Ireland competition. We enjoyed an insightful webinar with David Walliams in early September, in which he explained his own love of reading and what inspired him to begin to write. September’s art lessons have involved making and designing with Fabric and Fibre. Our beautifully woven God’s Eyes and bags hang proudly in the classroom. European School Sports Day was a great success and everyone in Rang a Sé got a chance to meet our local hero, Declan Hannon and also “take on the teachers”! This annual event gets more competitive every year. It’s been a busy, but enjoyable September and we’re looking forward to the rest of our final year in Our Lady’s Abbey. Beimid ag caint arís leat.

