



# The Shountrade Scéal



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2025

Welcome to the February edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal'. We hope everyone enjoyed their midterm holidays and we are already looking forward to Spring time in Shountrade N.S. Firstly, all the boys and girls would like to wish the fifth and sixth class children making their Confirmation on March 6th in Holy Trinity Abbey Church the very best of luck. We hope you all have a truly special day! We also want to pass on our best wishes to the Shountrade N.S pupils attending Peace Proms this weekend. A special thank you to Mrs. Spillane for all the dedication she has displayed in preparing the boys and girls for the incredible performance.

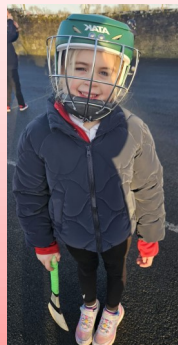
We would also like to congratulate both teams who represented Shountrade N.S in the Credit Union Quiz this month. Both teams put in fantastic performances with both the under 10 and under 12 team finishing in third place on the day.

### Junior & Senior Infants

February has been a busy month in junior and senior infants. This month we introduced an exciting new learning theme by setting up a vet's play area in the classroom. The children worked together to create the 'Vet's Surgery', taking on roles as vets, nurses, and pet owners. They cared for stuffed animals, wrote appointment cards, and issued prescriptions. Through this imaginative play, they learned about animal care, the importance of kindness towards pets, and how vets help keep animals healthy.

For Valentine's Day, the junior and senior infants created stunning oil pastel heart artworks, drawing inspiration from the renowned Brazilian artist Romero Britto. Their vibrant and colourful designs reflected Britto's signature style, combining bold patterns and bright hues. The activity allowed the children to express their creativity while celebrating the spirit of love and friendship.

Finally, both junior and senior infants have made fantastic progress during their hurling lessons with Conor this month. They have been developing essential movement skills while improving their catching and striking techniques. Their enthusiasm and determination have been evident, making each session a fun and rewarding experience.



### 1st Class

February has been a fun month in first class with lots of learning. In maths we have been learning how to subtract and how to read the time. The children are very good at reading o'clock and half past times. First class are doing fantastic work during Literacy Lift-Off and are all making great progress with their reading. Everyone in the class is working really well on their beautiful cursive handwriting. We are all enjoying hurling training each Friday with Conor.

We all enjoyed doing lots of Valentine's art. The children learned about the artist Wassily Kandinsky. We learned about his abstract style of art and his use of colour. We created love heart paintings in the style of Kandinsky. The children have been doing great work on ukelele and recorder. Keep up the recorder practise at home! We are exploring the narrative writing genre. We have learned that a narrative is in past tense and always has a problem and resolution. We look forward to writing some of our own narratives. Well done first class on a great month.



## 2nd Class

February was a month full of fun, learning, and creativity in Second Class! In literacy, we dived into the theme of Spring feasts, discovering the fascinating traditions behind St. Valentine, St. Patrick, and St. Brigid. As part of our learning, the children honed their report-writing skills, crafting thoughtful and creative pieces that showcased both their knowledge and imagination. Art was a highlight this month as the children worked with clay, learning new techniques and creating fantastic pieces.

Maths lessons were filled with excitement as we explored the concept of length through interactive games and activities. Measuring and comparing different objects helped bring learning to life in a fun and practical way. In science, we investigated floating and sinking, designing and building our own boats before testing how much weight they could carry. The children loved predicting, experimenting, and discovering how different materials and shapes affect buoyancy. A special part of this month was preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children have been working hard in their preparations, and we were delighted to receive a lovely visit from Monsignor Neenan, who spoke with the class and offered words of encouragement. It has been a busy and exciting month, and we look forward to all the learning and adventures ahead!



## 3rd Class

February has been a fantastic month in Third Class. We've been busy exploring a variety of topics and we are excited to share what we've been up to. In Maths, we concluded our unit on Chance, where we learned all about probability and how likely or unlikely events can be. Now, we're diving into the topic of Time, and the students are having a blast learning to read analogue clocks and understand time intervals. It's been a rewarding challenge, and we're loving it! In English, the class completed their very own report books. Each pupil wrote a detailed report on a topic they are passionate about, everything from animals to space and sports. Everyone did an excellent job researching and presenting their findings! Gymnastics was another highlight, and we're proud to say the class has mastered some fantastic skills! We wrapped up the topic with a performance that left us all in awe. Third Class was even better than Ms. Lenihan, we think!

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we took part in a heartwarming activity called "Spread the Love", where we wrote reasons why each classmate is loved and created beautiful heart-inspired artwork to go with it. It was a lovely way to show kindness and appreciation for each other. Lastly, our STEAM project on building bridges has been a real hit! The students worked in groups to design and build four unique bridge models. We can't wait to compare them and see which design holds the most weight! It's been a wonderful month of learning and growing, and we look forward to what March brings!

## 4th Class

February was another fantastic month in fourth class. Firstly, everyone in fourth class would like to welcome Ms. Mulcaire to our classroom and we are so excited to see what she has planned with us over the coming weeks.

Fourth Class had an amazing time exploring the fascinating world of the Vikings this February! We loved learning about how they arrived in Ireland, their daring voyages, and the lasting impact they had on our history. It was exciting to discover the different roles Vikings played, from fierce warriors to skilled traders and settlers. Using Chromebooks, we explored the Dublinia online resources, which helped us investigate how the Vikings shaped Dublin, from its earliest settlements to becoming the city it is today.

In Maths, we spent time this month learning about decimals before focusing on money. We loved solving real world problems as we had to work within a budget to purchase items in Smyths and worked in groups to plan the cost of a trip away. We also had great fun learning all about 3D Shapes with Ms. Mulcaire. In particular when we used spaghetti and marshmallows to create our own 3D shapes!

## 5th & 6th Class

Bhíomar an ghnóthach i rith mí Feabhra. Rinneamar staidéar ar shaol Naomh Bhríde agus rinneamar croiseanna Bhríde le Ms. Mulcaire sa halla. Bhí siad go hálainn.

We enjoyed solving problems in Decimals and we have investigated time and the challenges it presents while carrying out the normal operations. We made oral presentations in Literacy and we enjoyed our Valentines Comprehension.. We learned lots about Nationalism and Unionism and we discovered lots about our Irish coastline too. We are continuing our Stay Safe lessons and focusing on a child's right to feel safe. We are thoroughly enjoying our hurling skills and our gymnastics skills have been stretched too.

We are really focusing on our preparation for Confirmation. We have learned lots about the fruits and gifts of the holy spirit and we have created beautiful Confirmation booklets. We can't wait for our Confirmation Day and are extremely grateful for Mrs Spillanes help and enthusiasm in supporting the incredible music on the day.

