



The Shountrade Scéal

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2025

Welcome to the first edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal' in 2025. We hope everyone has enjoyed an incredible start to 2025 just like we have here in Shountrade N.S! What an exciting month it has been for the boys and girls. Firstly, we would like to wish a warm welcome to Valerie who joined the staff here in Shountrade before the Christmas holidays. Additionally, we are delighted to welcome three new pupils who joined us this month Tino, Tari and Polo.

Some highlights this month include GAA coaching commencing in the school every Friday, Grandparents Day and Catholic Schools Week 2025. We are delighted to have our GAA coach David join us every Friday and look forward to seeing the progress made over the coming months. Special congratulations to Chloe O'Brien and Michael Collopy who this month were prize winners in this years Credit Union Art Competition.

Junior & Senior Infants

What a busy month it has been in junior and senior infants! The children came back to school after the unexpected snow week full of energy and enthusiasm to learn. The theme across all subjects has been 'Africa'. We have been learning all about the animals that live in the African Savannah, African weather, as well as traditional foods and meals eaten in Africa. We have compared and contrasted these to the animals, food and traditional meals in Ireland. The role play area has been set up as the African market. Children have been busy making homemade bracelets and jewellery, as well as traditional African masks, to sell in the market. In construction the children built an incredible giraffe with polydrons, and animal enclosures.

In English the juniors have been working very hard at learning their lowercase cursive letters and are now able to write lots of words. Meanwhile the seniors are perfecting their uppercase cursive letters. The juniors have been learning lots of new sounds and are very excited to now be reading books. We have also been learning how to write information reports and have written reports about Africa, Ireland and the lion. In Maths the children have been working with Data. We carried out surveys of the children's favourite fruit before graphing the information on a pictogram. The children loved completing and comparing individual block graphs of a box of smarties. The best part was, of course, getting to eat the smarties!

The children have been working on their Gymnastics skills in PE. Their balance and poses have been improving immensely over the course of the month. In addition the children are enjoying developing their hurling and camogie skills with our visiting coach from UL.



1st Class

First class has 2025 off to a great start. We have really enjoyed all our lessons with Ms. Mulcaire who is a final year student from Marino College. We enjoyed learning facts about New Zealand and doing our project work in groups. We enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a turtle. We particularly loved learning skip counting in maths and making our own hopscotch game outside. The children created lovely hot chocolate mugs for art.

The children are doing great work on Irish and enjoy singing Ceann, Gualainn, Glúin is Cos. Literacy Lift-Off is now in full swing and the children are making great progress with reading, phonics and comprehension skills. The children are also having great fun developing their hurling skills on Friday mornings with visiting coach Conor McKelvey. Thanks to Ms. Mulcaire for all your amazing work with first class and we wish you the best with your further studies. Well done first class on all your work this January.

2nd Class

January has brought a wonderful burst of enthusiasm and eager minds to Second Class! We've started the year with excitement, diving into historical research on the Blizzard of 1947. The students have worked diligently on their report writing, showcasing their growing skills as young historians. In Maths, our budding mathematicians have been exploring Fractions using hands-on materials. Through interactive games and engaging activities, they are deepening their understanding while having fun along the way.

Creativity has flourished in Art, where the children have used printing techniques to create stunning firework prints. Their vibrant and imaginative pieces have truly brightened up our classroom! Inspired by Irish Olympians, our movement breaks have been filled with energy and motivation, helping us improve our running techniques. We are also developing our gymnastic skills, focusing on strength, balance, and coordination.

A very special milestone is approaching as we prepare for our First Confession. The children are looking forward to visiting the church and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we step into 2025, Second Class is ready for a year filled with discovery, learning, and growth. Here's to an exciting and memorable journey ahead!



3rd Class

Happy New Year! Despite the snow and the unexpected school closures, we've had a productive start to 2025. While the extra break was lovely, we managed to complete plenty of work. In Maths, we learned about money by tackling a fun challenge: deciding how to spend our last €50 at Aldi! It was a great way to practice budgeting and make thoughtful decisions.

In our Irish studies, we dived into myths and legends, with a particular focus on the hero Setanta and his legendary hurling skills. Speaking of hurling, we were thrilled to dust off our hurls and get back into the game on Friday, with Conor guiding us through some exciting drills.

In Irish, we've been working hard on verbs and are now beginning to form simple sentences, which is a big step forward! Looking ahead, we're excited for what February will bring, especially in our STEAM project. We've started to plan our building bridges project and can't wait to see what creations we'll come up with in the coming weeks. Here's to an exciting February!

4th Class

January was another wonderful month in fourth class! We dived straight into report writing when we returned to school, we learned about many female leaders before completing our own reports on Irish trailblazers such as Mary Robinson and Richard Harris. Another highlight this month was the beginning of 'Friends for Life' in our class. We are thoroughly looking forward to the lessons that are to come as we work to understand and develop our social skills and resilience with Mr. Hannon.

In Gaeilge we learned our first 'Aiste' this month, the boys and girls put in an incredible effort as they confidently spoke about 'Me féin agus mo chlann'. We had some fantastic fun as we explored how houses and homes have changed throughout history. We had a fantastic time as we split into groups and acted as auctioneers trying to sell caves, crannógs, thatched cottages, stone castles and modern homes. Each group put together a sales pitch in an attempt to convince us that their home was best. Finally, we have loved using 99Maths.com this month in fourth class. It has been great fun using the Chromebooks to work on our times tables and time this month.



REMINDER



Reminder

Please ensure your child brings a helmet and hurley to school every Friday to participate in weekly GAA sessions.

5th & 6th Class



Bhaineamar lán taitneamh as an titim sneachta agus rinneamar staidéar air nuair a d'fhillamar ar ais ar scoil. Rinneamar staidéar ar na briathra buail agus bain agus ar téarmaí Nollag chomh maith. We revised many areas in Maths including the four number operations, addition and subtraction of fractions, rounding and strategies for problem solving. We are currently exploring decimal fractions.

We are studying and investigating carnivorous plants and have made presentations on some of these plants to our class. We are enjoying the poem 'Keep Going' which encourages us to 'Never give up'. We are learning about collective nouns, plurals and apostrophes. We are learning about the Irish coastline and we tracked the progress and windspeeds of the recent storm. We also listened to the recount of 'The Night of the Big Wind'.

We celebrated Catholic Schools week and we learned all about climate justice and the Pope's encyclical on 'Laudato Si'. We have investigated different feelings in the 'Stay Safe Program'. We are enjoying gymnastics in PE. We are learning new songs /hymns for our Confirmation Ceremony and we are practicing for the Peace Proms event.