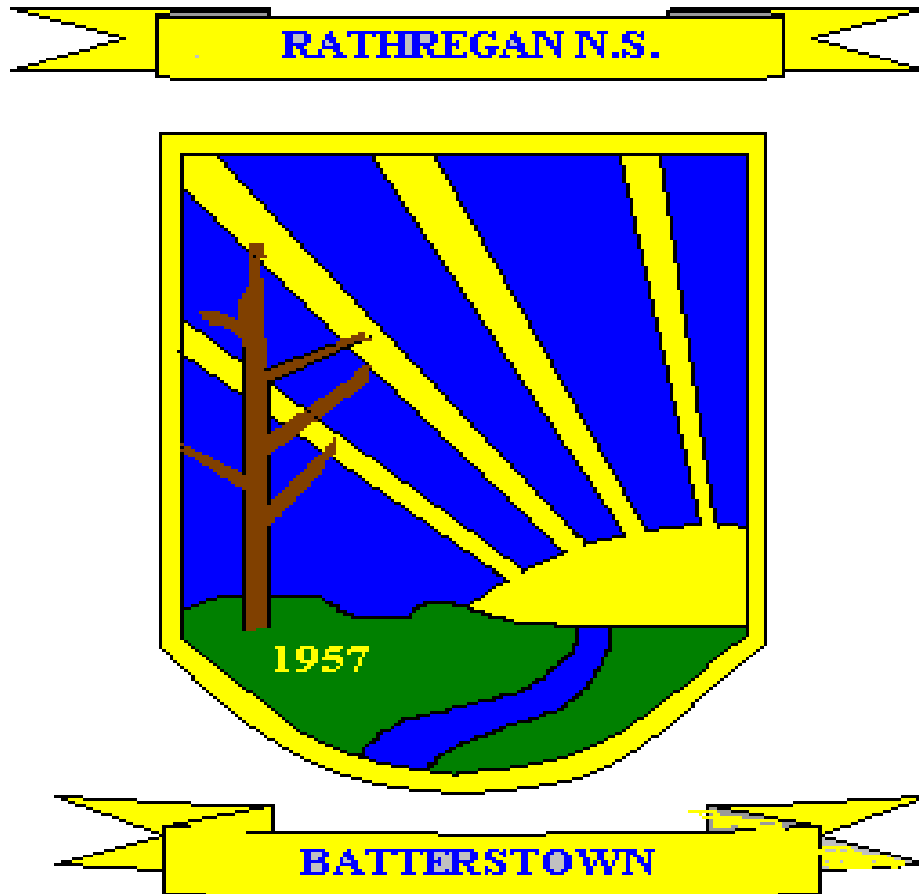


# Rathregan School Magazine

## 2015 / 16



**Sixth Class 2015/16:** Gemma Padden, Julie Plunkett, Rachel O'Neill, Róisín O'Connor, Alannah McQuade, Emily Murray, Eoghan Mooney, Donagh McCarrick, Conor Mc Cool, James Padden and Oran O' Mahony

## Blogsite



This year the pupils have posting news on our school blogsite 'Rathregan Scoilnet'. This has taught us how to post items on websites and has improved both our typing skills and our creative writing skills immensely. We must write five good sentences in each post. We also post a picture and sometimes even a voice recording. Each week a new pupil is taught how to post and soon they will be able to post by themselves. We usually write about events in the school such as school tours, visits, class projects and more. We really enjoy posting news and we hope that you read what we post on our website [rathregan.scoilnet.ie](http://rathregan.scoilnet.ie)

**Credit Union Quiz** The school usually enters the Credit Union Quiz, which is an annual event that takes place on the last Friday of January. There are two categories: Under 11s and under 13s. This year we entered six teams, one under 11s team and five under 13s team and were very lucky to have won both categories. The regional finals were on in Tallaght but, unfortunately, none of the Rathregan teams won, but we all still enjoyed every moment of it.

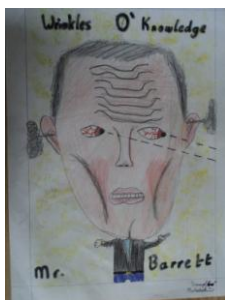


## Art

Each and every class does some form of art each week. Whether it's an Infants' paper plate fish, or a clay model created by a Sixth Class student, there's always a fascinating piece of work done by each pupil. At the start of the year, each pupil is given an 'Art Folder' of which they decorate, by the time the year is over, each pupil will have lots of different variations of art in their art folder.



'Volcano Art' Alex Nardone



'Mr.Barrett' Donagh McCarrick



'Symmetry By: Sean O' Neill



Pastel Art' Rían Porter

**Music** Have you ever wondered how Mr. Barrett teaches music? ????

Well... you're about to find out. We sing songs like 'We Will Rock You' and 'Molly Malone'. There is also a good side on how Mr. Barrett teaches music, we spend two minutes a day playing recorder, which is good, so then we don't get stressed out on playing it. The majority of the class would agree, and say that music isn't his strongest subject, but he's getting there. We have never heard Mr. Barrett sing so we don't know what he's like, not yet anyway!



## **Choir**

The whole school takes part in choir in the hall. We are taught by Ms. Flynn and a music teacher, Lisa came in and thought us as well, there're both very good at teaching music and there might be a bit of competition between them, but nobody is convinced. At the moment, we are practising Communion hymns, and they are thoroughly enjoyable, the whole school enjoys it and there have been no complaints so far.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Class' Trip to Town**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 6<sup>th</sup> class went into town with Mr. Barrett. All the pupils went to the M3 Parkway to meet Mr. Barrett, when all the pupils arrived we got on the train. Once we arrived at Connolly Station we walked around town looking at sights from the Easter Rising, we also went into a photo gallery of pictures from 1916. We visited St. Stephen's Green, where James Fox, a 16 year old from Drumree was shot during the Easter Rising. Towards the end of the day, we took a guided tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral; we also learned the meaning of the phrase 'Chancing Your Arm' during the tour. When we visited the G.P.O, Mr. Barrett was in a good mood, so he bought us all a commemorative 1916 stamp. Finally, when we all walked back to 'Connolly Station' and got on the train back to the M3 Parkway. We all enjoyed the day immensely and we were all very thankful to Mr. Barrett for bringing us out.

**M3 Parkway**

**Train**

**Town**

**St Patrick's Cathedral**

T

# Book Club

Groups of pupils complete Book Club after four weeks of meetings, reading times and tidying the library. They meet every Thursday afternoon in the school library. They choose their own books. They also have discussions on their books, make presentations, write up book reports, compose artwork and carry out activities based on their chosen book. All children from First to Sixth will get a chance to take part in book club. The parents association organized certificates and striking bookmarks the pupils obtain following the conclusion of their time in book club.



## 5 Good / 5 Bad Comments About Our School

Good Points	Not so Good
Everyone knows everyone.	Not enough space for break time on the tarmac during winter.
Excellent, outstanding, exceptional, dazzling, ect. Pupils.	Too much homework.
Tight knit community.	Not enough diverse sports, not just soccer and Gaelic football.
Warm, caring, educational environment.	The uniform is to dull and can be a bit stifling during the hot summer months.
After school activities .E.g. = Chess, Sport, Homework Club etc.	Not enough school sport matches.

## CONFIRMATION

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, 6<sup>th</sup> class made their confirmation along with Kilcloon N.S, Mulhussey N.S and Stepping Stones. We made it in Kilcloon Parish church with Father Stan Deegan and Michael Our Bishop. All of the principals attended the mass including Mrs McCabe {Mulhussey's Principal} Mrs O'Donoghue {Kilcloon's Principal} and our principal Mr Barrett. It was very enjoyable for all those involved.

## Confirmation May 13th

# Future Expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> Class:

This is a project we did on where we think 6<sup>th</sup> class will be in 15 years!

**James Padden**



We think James would be a skilful soccer player because he is fast, and he certainly wouldn't give away the ball to the other team! (Or his team for that matter) He really enjoys the sport and we expect he will play for Liverpool!

**Gemma Padden**



We think Gemma would be an amazing, excellent pharmacist because she cares about everyone (excluding James), she is extremely smart and she has a passion for the medical agency.



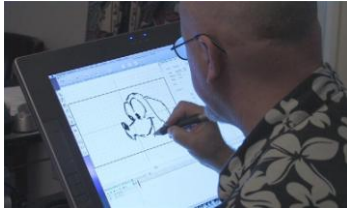
**Oran O'Mahony** We think Oran will be a scientist because he is smart-ish, and I mean ISH! He will be an epidemiologist that specialises in disease because he can memorise names and we think this skill would come in handy.



**Rachel O'Neill**

We think Rachel will be a caring, helpful, loving vet because she always looks out for her friends and has a great love for animals. We also think she will be a part-time camogie player for the Meath team. She is an excellent player and definitely better than James Padden!

**Eoghan Mooney**



We think Eoghan would be an animator for children's games and movies because he is talented at drawing cartoons and he enjoys playing "Scratch", a computer animation game

**Emily Murray**



We think Emily will be a very successful jockey because she is amazing at horse riding and has a passion for horses. We predict she will win the ladies Grand National!

**Conor McCool**



We think Conor will be an I.T Specialist because he has an interest in computers and he is independent, and he gets work done without any fuss.



**Julie Plunkett**

We think Julie would be a fantastic junior infants teacher because she is very patient with children and enjoys helping people to learn. She is smart and she will be able to come up with creative questions for her pupils.



**Róisín O'Connor** I think Róisín would be an excellent paediatric doctor because she is great with children, enjoys caring for people and has a passion for the medical system. I also think she will play part time for the Meath team because she is very talented at GAA and loves the sport.





**Donagh McCarrick** We think Donagh would be a great rugby player because he is really interested in the sport and we suspect he will play for the Irish Rugby Team! He is well built and he may grow to be as skilled as Robbie Henshaw. (Donagh put the last bit in)



**Alannah McQuade** I think Alannah will be a friendly, cheerful Zookeeper because she has a love for animals and she is very talented at coming up with her own species! She is very loving and she would never hurt any of the animals.

## Our School Library:

Reading is very important to the school, hence the reason we have a library. Most children in the school enjoy going to the library. We have a collection of books in the library from Harry Potter to Tracy Beaker to Greg Heffley.

Recently the library got redecorated, thanks to the wonderful parents committee; we now have a squeaky clean library which is now used a lot more often.

Ms. Kelly {Junior and Senior Infants' teacher} set up 'Book Club'. Book Club is where a group of children go into the library and read books, keep the library in good condition as well as writing book reports, reviews and drawing illustration.

When 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class go over to the library, Róisín O'Connor, Julie Plunkett and Rachel O'Neill scan the books in and out {as well as having a little chat} for the pupils in the class.

We all really enjoy going to library and hope it is kept in good nick as time goes by. [Fifth Class Pupil]



# Our Proclamation 2016

We speak today of what we want to see in modern Ireland. Our hopes, dreams and aspirations of what we desire for the citizens of modern Ireland, are outlined.

***We assert:***

That men, woman, children, young, old, those of different religions and nationalities are all equal in our country.

That all should respect the flag, anthem, symbols and institutions of our country.

That a person should not be judged by the colour of their skin, wealth or education.

That in the future people should have life free from prosecution.

That all will have the right to a job or career.

That everyone should have sufficient food.

That everyone should be encouraged to prevent global warming.

That everyone will live in peace with each other.

That everyone should be encouraged to try their best in their education, sports and everything they do.

That everyone should respect the people who gave up their lives to fight for our country.

That everybody will keep our country clean and tidy.

That all animals should be treated fairly and should not be abused or neglected.

That all should respect their elders.

That everyone should be entitled to health care medicine.

That everyone should have access to clean water and sanitation.

That all people should have access to third level education.

That everyone should have a home.

Thank you.

## The Rising

The Rising, it came and went,  
But it left our country broken and bent.  
Sam and I were nine,  
He was my best friend.  
But Easter, 1916 brought that to an end.

Word came from the powers that be,  
That Sam was now my enemy,  
I was lonely, I was sad,  
I missed Sam, It made me mad.  
He only lived a mile away,  
But that mile meant we could no longer play.

*Danny Morgan*



# Break Times in Rathregan National School

## **Pupil's lunches:**

The teachers of our school really encourage pupils to bring in fruit or vegetables in their lunch each day. Some classes even embrace a strict rule of no sweets unless it's Friday. The school took part in the Food Dude organization that revolves around healthy eating. We enjoyed all of the food (except the mushy grapes and the hard courgettes) that the Food Dudes provided us with.

## **Breaks:**

Our average school day consist of two lunch breaks. The first break begins at eleven and we have five minutes to eat and ten to play. Lunch break begins at twenty past twelve and ends at one o' clock. We have ten minutes to eat and half an hour to play. If it's sunny, were allowed to play on the grass, but, if not, we play on the tarmac. The sixth class pupils are allowed to kick a ball around the top of corner of the basketball court, but other pupils have to pass the ball (says Mr.barrett)

## **Rainy Days:**

When it's raining, the pupils are not allowed to go outside. So, two pupils from sixth and fifth go to look after the infants and makes sure they are not messing. Mr. Barrett leaves games out at the the back of our class for us to play with, like chess and other board games. A teacher usually goes from class to class checking on them and supervising them. Juniors and Senior Infants usually watch movies. Different classes do different things.



# The First Hour of School

***What do you think of the first hour in school?***

I think the first hour of school is a brilliant wake up for all the pupils as the conundrum and the 'Starter Of The Day' makes you think.

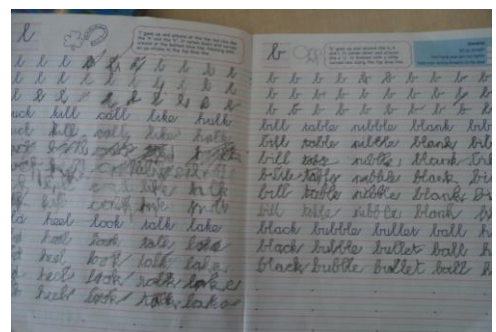
A sixth class boy: 'I like the first hour of school because the conundrum is challenging and the Starter Of The Day is equally as good. I also like Know Your Ireland as it is a fun way of learning the geography of Ireland and Europe'.



A fifth class boy: 'We do Maths and Irish in the morning. I prefer Maths and enjoy doing 'Brain Teasers' each morning.



A fourth class boy: 'We do our creative writing, which I enjoy because I like creating imaginative stories. I also enjoy Maths. We do division and multiplication. I enjoy the maths because it's fun'.



A third class girl: 'Tiring, as I am still half asleep. We have to write out our HOMEWORK!!! And we have maths challenge and English grammar'.

2<sup>nd</sup> class boy: ,Yes I do enjoy the first hour of the day but I think the maths challenge is too early I think we should do it at 11 am. I also think we should take down our homework later in school.



As soon as we come into school we hang up our coats and hats put our lunch boxes on the shelves. Then we start Play time. We play lots of different toys like Lego, Jigsaws, Play Dough and there is also an art station. [Senior infant girl]

When we come into the school we have play time for about half an hour. We play with all types of toys after playtime we do our maths and English. [Junior infant girl]



## Bullying [Interview No 1]

We take the word bullying very seriously and do not throw it around jokingly. There have been a couple of issues in the school but only in some cases the word bullying was used.

It is up to the teacher in that class or sometimes Mr.Barrett to decide if it is bullying or not. Nine times out of ten it is not bullying, just a misunderstanding.

Children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class were recently learning about staying safe online.

**Interview by 6<sup>th</sup> class girl and 5<sup>th</sup> class boy.**

**Have you ever seen someone getting bullied?**

1. Yes, a boy was called names by one of his friends.
2. Yes, a girl was being neglected by her friends.

**Have you ever bullied anybody?**

1. As far as I know I didn't.
2. Maybe, but not out of badness.

**Have you ever been bullied?**

1. Not in the school, but outside school.
2. No, not at all.

**Do you think the stay safe programme has an impact?**

1. Yes, more so in the younger classes.
2. I think that it gives a positive impact on children while they are having fun learning about bullying.

**Are there any improvements that could be made to the schools bullying programme?**

1. Yes, because in some cases children are blamed in the wrong and teacher never finds out.
2. I think that the anti - bullying system is ok.

## Tours [Interview No 2]

Do you ever wonder how teachers decide where their class is going on their school tour? Well here is the answer.

Interview of Ms.Kelly, the Juniors and Seniors teacher.

Do you enjoy bringing your pupils on the tour? Why?

1. Yes, because it's fun, all the kids enjoy it, the weather is usually nice and it's educational.

How do you think of where to go on the tour?

1. Weather permitting, distance for the little ones, make sure it's fun, educational and the price need to be reasonable

What is the best school tour you've ever been on?

1. Lullymore, where we are going this year.

What is the worst school tour you've ever been on?

1. A play centre, which was very boring fo the children

Name a funny incident that happened on a tour?

1. Someone got onto the bus with wet swimming trunks on under their clothes!

Did anyone ever get hurt on a tour?

1. Just cuts and bruises, luckily nothing too major.

This year juniors and seniors are going to the Lullymore on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. First and second are going to the hill of Tara and \_on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are going to Funtasia Waterpark on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> are going canoeing on the Boyne on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June.

## What Do You Like? [Interview No 3]

I like the way the school is small and we have lots of fundraisers to help lots of different charities.

Ms. Kelly would be my favourite teacher because she is really nice and she doesn't make us do a lot of work when we are in her classroom. {Sixth Class Pupil}

I like all of the teachers but if I had to choose my favourite, it would be Ms. Conlon because she teaches maths in different ways, and explains new strategies on how to do the hard sums in maths. {Fourth Class Pupil}

I like the way everybody knows each other. My favourite teacher is Ms. Kavanagh because she is unreal at sport and P.E is my favourite subject. {Third Class Pupil}

I like after school activities and sport. I like the way the school is small and you can find your friends easily. My favourite teacher would be Ms. Flynn because she gives us extra break. {First Class Pupil}

# Swimming: [Interview No 4]

On Tuesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, Rathregan started going swimming in Coolmine. Juniors and Seniors and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> went first for half an hour, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and sexy 6<sup>th</sup>. We travelled on the bus over to the pool, got changed and went out to the pool deck. Each person swam the width of the pool and got assessed. There were 3 groups and everyone got divided into the groups according to their ability. Most of the kids found fun but some thought it was too short! It became clear from the interviews that the main positive of going swimming in school is doing something different with your friends.

Interview by second, fourth and sixth class girls:

Sixth class girl= 1 / Fourth class girl= 2 / Second class girl= 3

## **Do you enjoy going to swimming? Why?**

1 Yes, I do enjoy swimming, but the teachers are a bit strict.

2 Yes, because you get to be with your friends and you get off a bit of school.

3 Yes, because all of my friends are with me.

## **Name one bad thing about swimming.**

1 It's very hard to get changed in front of other people.

2 The lessons should be longer and there should be more groups.

3 I don't think there are any bad things about it.

## **Do you feel the groups were fair and even?**

1 In my opinion I don't think the groups were fair and even because we had some younger people with less experience in the highest group.

2 I do, but there should be another higher level for people who already swim.

3 Yes, because there are the starters, the middle and the highest level.

## **Name one good thing about the swimming.**

1 Swimming is very good for playing with your friends and singing songs on the bus.

2 You are with your friends.

3 You get a morning off with your friends.

## **Do you like swimming with your friends? Why?**

1 I don't like swimming with some of my friends because some are older and aren't the best at swimming.

2 Yes, because it's more fun with your friends and there is company in the pool.

3 Yes, it's great company.

## **Do you like travelling on the bus?**

1 Very much so, because you get to chat with your friends and talk about life.

2 Yes, because you don't have to choose which friends come with you, like you do in a car, you are with all of them.

3 Yes, because you can be with all of your friends.





# School Committee: [Interview]

The Rathregan school committee consists of two people from sixth, two people from fifth, one person from fourth, one person from third, two people from second.

These are the pupils that are on the school committee

Bláthnaid O'Connor

Eoin Pearl

Finn Gallagher

Danny Morgan

Alannah McQuade

Rachel O'Neill

Aisling O'Connor

Michael Padden

Miss Kelly and Miss Staunton help run the committee. The school committee run and organise certain events e.g. The Easter egg hunt, the stationary box and pancake Tuesday.

An interview from a pupil that is on the school committee and a pupil who isn't:

A= pupil on the committee

B= pupil who isn't

Do you think everyone on the school committee is committed?

A: Yes, I think but I am only new on the committee

B: Yes, but I think there are some more than others.

Which event was your favourite?

A: Pancake Tuesday, because the pancakes were delicious.

B: Pancake Tuesday, because I got a lot of pancakes.

Is there anything you want to change on the school committee?

A: No, because the last group did so well.

B: More meetings, so they can discuss more.

4. Who do you think is the most dedicated on the last committee?

A: I think Donagh was the most dedicated, because he came up with the Easter egg hunt, and it was very good.

B: I think Emily is the most dedicated.



## Events During the Year

## 'Seachtain Na Gaeilge'

'Seachtain Na Gaeilge' is an Annual Week that occurs in February, we do a chéilí on the Friday of 'Seachtain Na Gaeilge' and we try our best to speak Irish as much as we can.



All the classes perform an Irish dance in front of the school and they wear green as much as possible. It is always very enjoyable.

Le linn na seachtaine Márta go luath a rinne an scoil iomlán iarracht mhór chun iarracht a dhéanamh agus an Ghaeilge a labhairt . Ar Dé hAoine an tseachtain sin chuaigh an scoil ar fad síos go dtí an halla spóirt a triail a bhaint as damhsa Ghaelach.

## Cake Sale



On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> we had a cake sale in aid of 'Friends of Temple Street'. Each cake was 50c {great value!!!} they were homemade by the pupils {and their parents!}. It was a great day, everyone had a great time and it all went to a good cause. Thanks to everyone that came along to help and support 'Temple Street'. Well done 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class!!

## Easter Egg Hunt

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the Student Council organized a fantastic Easter Egg Hunt for the whole school, around the school grounds. The whole school was broken up in to groups with children from each class in the groups and first group back with the message that was hidden within the eggs got creme eggs. They had lots of fun and enjoyed the hunt!





## First Confession

On March 15th, all of the children in Second Class made their First Confession at 6.30 in Batterstown Church. They worked so hard to learn their prayers and create amazing artwork for their special mass.



**World Book Day** On March the 14<sup>th</sup>, we had lots of fun celebrating 'World Book Day'. There were lots of wonderful costumes based on different characters in books that we read. The winner for best costume was Nyles Ledwith in 1<sup>st</sup> class, who was dressed as Willy Wonka.



**Slinky Malinky and Dorothy**



**The Naughtiest Girl in School, Ellen Jane, Fairy Princess, Hermione Granger and Danny Champion of the World**



**Horrid Henry, Billionaire Boy, Percy Jackson, Pirate and Roald Dahl**

## Coast Guard Visit 23/02/16

We welcomed some members of the 'Irish Coast Guard' to the school on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. The team that visited us is based in Drogheda and gave us so much information about the very important job they do. The most fun part was when we got to see some of the equipment they use during rescues. We learned so much and really enjoyed the visit. It seems we certainly have many eager Coast Guard volunteers in our school!!



## PANCAKE TUESDAY



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, we hosted a pancake fundraiser in aid of 'Tallaght Hospital'. Julie Morgan, one of the Parents Association, made over 150 pancakes and we donated €1 each for a pancake. The student-council organized the event to celebrate Pancake Tuesday. We have a variety of toppings to choose from that includes Nutella, maple syrup, lemon and sugar. "I really enjoyed my pancake and the toppings just made it scrumptious". [5th Class pupil]

## The Christmas Fair

A superb Christmassy atmosphere and a great buzz filled the school hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December as pupils, staff, parents and friends came to see the exciting stalls and games at the 2015 Christmas Fair. There was a terrific attendance and €2,005 was raised for the new school Graded Readers Scheme being ordered for use in the New Year. The whole school was very indebted to everyone who came and supported the Fair with their attendance and generosity.



# AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



## Art

On Thursdays after school *Art Zone* classes are here until 16:30. Every week they learn how to make something new from their professional art teacher Orla. So far they have made clay figures, paintings, drawings and more.

## Chess

From September until Easter Chess club was on every Monday from home time until 3:45. Everyone would play a game of chess with their friends then two people would play a big game while everyone watches, helps and learn new strategies.



## Homework Club

From Monday – Thursday afterschool homework club is on in the school library. Everyone who goes does their homework then learn their spellings with Miss Staunton. When they have completed their homework they then have the option to read or talk. Although no one likes homework everyone enjoys being with their friends during homework club.

## Sports

From May onwards afterschool sports will be on. During sports Miss Kavanagh teaches us basketball, football, hockey, tag rugby and more. Sports is definitely the most popular afterschool activity in the school most people enjoy doing the afterschool sports and everyone develops new skills.



*All the pupils in Sixth Class hoped you enjoyed reading our Yearly Magazine*



**Sixth Class 2015/16:** Gemma Padden, Julie Plunkett, Rachel O'Neill, Róisín O'Connor, Alannah McQuade, Emily Murray, Eoghan Mooney, Donagh McCarrick, Conor Mc Cool, James Padden and Oran O' Mahony