



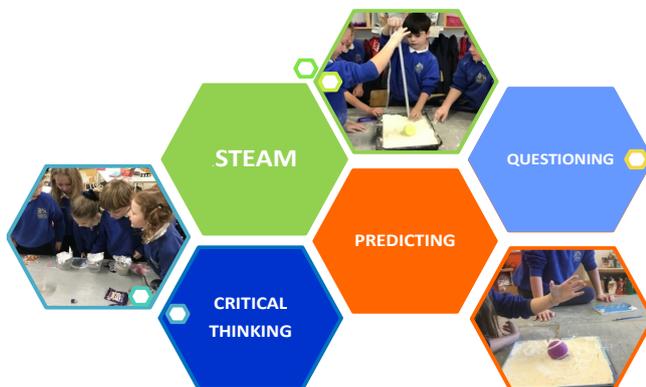
Cobh Tidy Towns have been generous enough to help us plant 28 native tree species on the school grounds. They are aiming to create tree-corridors in our community to help encourage wild life and ensure sustainable habitats. Colm and Ruth from Tidy Towns have been fantastic in explaining all about the native trees and helping the class plant a tree of their choice.

Tidy Towns are also carrying out this project with other schools and at various locations around the town. Go raibh mile maith ag Tidy Towns!



Science Club

Science Club is taking place every Friday and the children are currently working on an exciting project using electrical circuits. A huge thank you to Ruth who comes in every Friday to teach and facilitate this.



SSE STEAM

As we continue to focus on STEAM we are now looking at the different skills which will help children to become critical thinkers. The 2 skills we are focusing on are :

Predicting - whereby the children predict the outcome of an experiment or predict how to conduct an experiment. When doing this they must explain why they think this might happen.

Questioning - where the children question what is happening before, during and after an experiment. They may question eg. What if....?, I wonder why....?, How will I find....?

By using these skills it shows us that the children are thinking about the experiments and becoming critical thinkers.

Science – questioning/ predicting

We've been looking at how we teach Science in the school. The children are engaging in and enjoying practical scientific experiments on a more regular basis now. The teachers are more confident in teaching Science and our students' parents are being hugely supportive through funding and sharing their own expertise. We're continuing to enhance Science now with focus on the scientific skills. This term we have picked questioning, predicting & observing.

You can help your child by: Asking about their Science lesson Encouraging your child's sense of enquiry during conversations and allow the child to discover their own answers / solutions through research – digitally, maps, TV, books etc. Keep an eye on our App and get in touch if you have any feedback!



Mental Health Martina Ryan, the Education Officer with Cork Mental Health paid a visit to our school, on January 16th, to speak with the sixth classes. She covered topics such as negative emotions and how to deal with them, the importance of talking to an adult you trust, moving on to Secondary School, social media and peer pressure. The children really engaged with Martina and asked questions they may never have had the chance to in a regular classroom setting..

Martina emphasised the '5 a Day for Mental Health': Eat Well 2. Keep Active 3. Sleep Well 4. Communicate 5. Be Nice. Children and teachers alike thoroughly enjoyed and learnt so much from Martina's visit.

FIRST AID TRAINING FOR BUNSCOIL RINN AN CHABHLAIGH TEACHERS

Here in Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh, we make sure that all our pupils and teachers can learn and work in a safe environment. As part of our continued Health and Safety procedures, a number of teachers and SNAs will take part in First Aid training in the school on Tuesday, Feb. 11th. This training will prove to be invaluable in the event of any incidents or accidents that may potentially take place in the school.



Art commission

The art commission Alpha, Bravo, Charlie is now complete! This commission was funded by the Arts Council and Dept of Education under their Per Cent for Art Scheme. The artists, The Project Twins, took their inspiration from the area's maritime heritage. They used nautical flags – each of which ordinarily represents a letter – in a creative way to make boat patterns. Keep an eye out for some patterns which might spell some something!

Thanks to the volunteers who selected the successful artists and to the Parents' Council and staff for their input.

Like any art, its purpose is to create conversation and engage the viewer... and it certainly brightens up the yard!



Library/ Book fair

This year's book fair was another huge success here in BSRAC! We are delighted to announce we raised a grand total of 4,595.35. This means we earned a wonderful €2,682.21 to spend on brand new books to add to our school library. Each class has handed in their wish-list for new books to be added to our collection and we look forward to reading them very soon! A huge thanks to all those who made this book fair such a success and especially to everyone who took the time to visit our fair and purchase books. It's great to see BSRAC and the wider community encouraging all our pupils to become eager readers! We can't wait for next years fair already!



Student Council

This year's Student Council have been hard at work coming up with ideas and events for our school for the 2019/2020 school year.

Before Christmas they organised a 'Christmas Jumper/Pyjama Day' fundraiser in aid of Simon Community and St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks to everyone's support and generosity the school raised €771.95 which was split between the two charities.

Our Student Council are now busy preparing for their Valentine's Cake Sale on Friday 14th of February and everyone is very excited for all the treats and baked goods. This year's cake sale is in aid of Marymount Hospice, as chosen by our Student Council representatives. Many thanks in advance to the parents and guardians who make this fundraiser possible each year with their support. The students love it and it's always a great success!



Digital learning

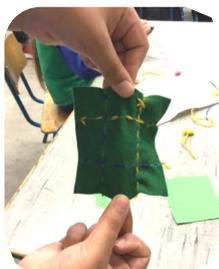
24 new Ipad's on the way!! Digital learning in BSRAC is about to get a boost with the imminent arrival of 24 new Ipad's. These will be shared among the classes giving us a total of 72 Ipad's for the school.

Many thanks to the Parents Council and to all parents whose support makes it possible for us to continue to make Digital Learning an important part of our teaching and learning in BSRAC.

RANG A 4 HOST GRANDPARENTS IN OUR SCHOOL AS PART OF LEARNING ABOUT LIFE IN IRELAND IN THE 1950'S AND 60'S

Recently, our 4th Class pupils learned about life in Ireland in the 1950's and 1960's as part of the History curriculum. They completed very interesting and creative research projects about this era and they also presented their projects to the other pupils. To coincide with these lessons, some of the children's grandparents kindly took time out to visit the school last month and they took part in a series of interviews with the children about what their lives were like when they were 9 and 10 years old.

The interviews proved to be a huge success and the children learned so much about what life was like for a child in Ireland 60 or 70 years ago. Both pupils and grandparents thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the grandparents enjoyed some well-deserved refreshments in the staff room afterwards. A special day to be remembered by all involved!



Art Workshops with Carmel Creaner

Fourth Class have been very lucky to have the opportunity to work with local artist Carmel Creaner. The project is based on what we have been learning in History about the 1950's. Carmel Brought in some objects from this period for us to draw - an old sewing machine, a record player amongst others. We then printed our drawings onto card. At the moment we are learning to sew! Something that was an important skill in the 1950's. Next we hope to print our drawings onto material and then sew onto this!



ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY OFFICER'S VISIT TO BUNSCOIL RINN AN CHABHLAIGH: FEB 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH 2020.

The Munster RSA Officer Paul Stafford spent 3 days in our school recently and carried out practical and interactive lessons in every class from Junior Infants to 6th Class. The children learned about the importance of Road Safety, how to BE SAFE AND BE SEEN when out and about and they learned how seatbelts can save lives.

The Road Safety Authority's visit to the school is part of Bunscoil's ongoing drive to promote and encourage road safety among our pupils. To make things even more exciting, Bunscoil Rinn an Chabhlaigh has recently been selected to take part in the RSA's Street Smart initiative! This event, which takes place in our school from March 23rd to 27th, will see a model town with accompanying roads and traffic set up in the school hall with daily interactive lessons and events for the children. More details to follow closer to the date!



Credit Union Quiz

Great success for BSRAC in the recent Credit Union Quiz. We had a first and third place in the U 13 competition. The winning team will now go on to the next round. We are equally proud of all our students who took part on the night and represented our school so well.



Food Dudes

Food Dudes Healthy Eating Programme returned to the school in Nov. and Dec! We were very lucky to be selected to participate in this programme which is managed by Bord Bia and funded by the E.U. and the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Fresh fruit and veg was delivered to the school every morning for over two weeks and the children were encouraged to taste it. Educational videos and prizes were also included!

We are currently involved in Phase two of the programme where the children bring in their own fruit and veg from home, filling in a tick chart in the class and receiving certificates for their healthy eating!

We expect to receive another week of summer fruit and veg at the end of May!



German Language Club "Guten Tag!"

A group of children from 5th and 6th class have been learning German over the past month. Some have chosen to take part in this club as they wish to study German in secondary school while others just want to take the opportunity to learn a new language. The children have made fantastic progress in just a short number of weeks! Some of the themes we have covered include Myself, Numbers, Days of the Week, Colours and Sport. We are all very excited for next week's class as we will be tasting some traditional German food! If your child is taking part in the club, ask them to teach you a word or phrase in German! Danke schön!



Camogie

The third and fourth class indoor camogie blitz days were a huge success! 23 girls attended across the two blitz days with ten games played in total.

The fourth class girls played against six other schools on the 16th January in Little Island. The girls really enjoyed having so many games to practice their skills. Our girls showed fantastic enthusiasm and great energy throughout the day. They won four games with plenty of goal scoring from a number of players!

The third class camogie travelled to Little Island on Tuesday 28th January to take part in a blitz with four other schools. The girls were a credit to the school on the day both on and off the pitch. We lost our first encounter of the day however showed great improvements from here with no further loss all day! Each girl played in every game with plenty of skill on display. Huge well done to all!



Book Club

Book Club takes place every week in our Library for Fifth and Sixth Classes and so far, it has proved to be a huge success.

Every Wednesday the children chat about the story, do some research, listen to each other's ideas or do some other creative, book-related work. The children also bring along and discuss different books that they read outside of book club- thus widening the reading repertoire through peer recommendation. This term the children have been enjoying the work of great, Irish female authors'. The first book 'The Rabbit Girl' by Mary Arrigan was a real page-turner. It told a tale of young Tony and teenage Mallie, whose lives weave together in 1940's Ireland and wartime London. The group really enjoyed it and gave it an average rating of 9 out of 10 stars!

Book Club members look forward to our next read in book club which will be, 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhán Dowd. We are very grateful that we could get a full new school set of this popular novel using our rewards collected from the Scholastic Book Fair!

All book club members are very excited to enjoy lots of World Book Day events coming up in March as well as a visit from a children's author.

Basketball

The 6th Class boys and girls have had training recently for a basketball tournament which will take place soon in Cork city. There was an overwhelming response to the training on Friday afternoons. The talent and enthusiasm is outstanding which will make choosing the teams a very difficult task! We wish them the very best of luck and we hope it will encourage a continued interest in basketball in the years to come.



5th Class Robotics

Ms Murphy's 5th class took part in the VEX IQ Robotics competition in CIT on the 16th of January. In preparation for this the class designed, built, and programmed their own robot 'Armstrong'. On the day the children were a credit to the school when they participated in individual and teamwork challenges. They achieved the highest team score of the day and were unfortunate not to reach the national finals. It was a wonderful learning experience for the children which allowed them show their creativity in many different ways.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017—2022



Creative Schools

We were delighted that our application was successful to become involved in the Creative Schools initiative.

Creative Schools is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme to enable the creative potential of every child. This initiative will understand, develop and celebrate the arts and creativity in our school.

We have met with our school coordinator Fionn and begun Step 1- Understand-your school's analysis.

Fionn met with children from every level and carried out various workshops to give the children an opportunity to give their opinion on what they feel is working well and where improvements could be made. Teachers and management filled in surveys. Fionn also met with parents for their feedback and ideas. We will now gather our information and make a plan for Step 2- Develop a Creative Plan

Restorative practice

In BSRAC every effort is made to adopt a positive approach to behaviour management. The staff have completed an information session on RP which is a Conflict Resolution tool for the whole school community to use. The focus is on getting the individual to self-reflect on the impact of their behaviour on their peers/ class, find ways to move forward and prevent reoccurrences. This term 12 staff members have volunteered to attend training on RP this term.

Mission statement

As you can see from all the articles in this newsletter, BSRAC gives a wide range of experiences and opportunities to learn and express themselves to all our students. From sports, to science and digital technology, to the arts and beyond we encourage all our children to participate in lots of activities both inside and outside the classroom. Here in BSRAC we place a great emphasis on encouraging the voice of our students. As we begin the early stages of writing our new Mission Statement and Student, Parent Charter we will certainly be encouraging our children's voice along with those of parents and teachers. We look forward to this process so that put into words the ethos and aims of our school for all to see.

Green school

Great news! Our Green Schools Committee have been accepted into the 2nd round of the SEAI 'One Good Idea' competition! Our one good idea is a NO POWER HOUR every month. During this time our aim is to turn off all lights and electrical devices.



So on the 24th February our Green Schools Committee will go to the Omniplex cinema in Cork where their one-minute movie will be screened. They will also present a project about their idea.

Some members recently attended a 'Life below water' workshop in the Lifetime Lab where they learned about the pollution threats to our oceans and how it affects both marine and human life.

Hurling

The third and fourth class boys took part in an indoor hurling blitz in January. Both days were a huge success and enjoyed by all.

The fourth class boys were up first and, despite some tough opponents, played with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship throughout the day. The team put all their hurling skills that they have learned to good use. In the end, we won two and lost two.

The third class boys played at the beginning of February. The boys were determined to put their hurling skills to use. They showed great energy and sportsmanship on the day with everyone playing in a full game. Well done to the third class boys who also won two and lost two.