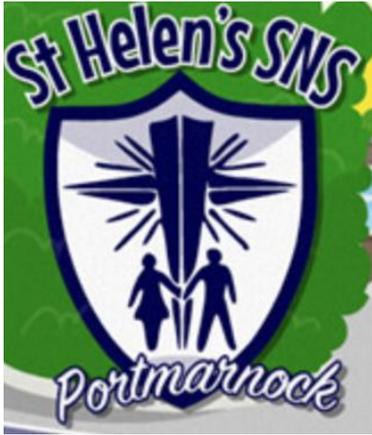


Litir Nuacht Naomh Lean S.N.S



29ú Meitheamh 2021

Dia dhaoibh!

Fáilte romhaibh go léir Litir Nuacht Naomh Lean. Scríobhaimid faoi chursaí scoile agus ár n-éachtaí. Bain taitneamh as ag léamh!

Hello!

Welcome to St.Helens newsletter. We write about school events and our accomplishments. Happy reading!

Online Learning

This year was a bit different, we spent three months learning from home. We got insight from some of our pupils here in St.Helen's. We took a survey about the experience of homeschooling. Overall, students found it an enjoyable experience. 67.2% voted that they enjoyed it. Some of the aspects they enjoyed were; having shorter days, zoom calls and art! 93.1% pupils enjoyed seeing their friends over zoom. Some things we didn't enjoy were; not seeing our friends, the work was harder and not working in the classroom. Interestingly, 45% of pupils enjoyed working from home. More than 70% said they would not like to engage in distant learning again. The 3 most popular subjects during homeschool were Maths, Irish and Art. We asked to rate homeschool out of 5 and here and over 50% of students voted 4 out of 5.

Oisín and Brian (5th Class)

Green Schools and Biodiversity

The green school's flag this year is about biodiversity, which is all about the variety of plants and animals on our school grounds.

The first thing we did this year was to elect one student from each class to be on the green school's committee. Then we sent out a survey for classes to complete to see what their knowledge of biodiversity was. When we do the same survey next year we're hoping people will have a better understanding of what biodiversity is.

We are so lucky in St.Helen's school to have such high biodiversity on our grounds. Native hedgerows and meadows surround the school. Wildflowers such as bush vetch, cowslips, red clover and even orchids are to be found in these meadows. We have actually counted 22 different species of wildflowers! These beautiful meadows do need to be managed though. Our caretaker Mr.Newman has to cut the meadows at certain times of the year. This maximises the diversity of the wildflowers and consequently food for our pollinators. Some classes have also enjoyed doing a biodiversity scavenger hunt in and around the green areas of our school.

We also made a biodiversity map of the school grounds which has been put up just inside the main door of the school. It highlights how biodiverse our school grounds are. Next year the green school's team will be coming up with more projects to help boost our biodiversity even more.

Belle O'Sullivan (3rd class)



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Litter in Portmarnock

Litter in Portmarnock has gotten terrible over the last couple of years. On the 4th of June my class and I went to the beach and did litter picking. We found a huge amount of litter and we had filled 4 big bags of rubbish. We need to stop littering because our sea life is dying, for the safety of our community, and also promote recycling. But we need your help for this to get better and to have a better and cleaner community.

Our Sea Life

Surely, you know that our sea life is dying and species are getting smaller. When you don't recycle plastic or don't even put it in a bin it enters the ocean. Currently there is estimated to be around 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean! Well 269,000 tons of plastic are floating, 4 billion microfibers are below the surface and in terms of plastic 8.3 million metric tons are dumped into the sea each year. There are also 400 dead zones around the world, dead zones are places where nothing can survive because of so many chemicals from plastic and loads of pollution.

Safety on our beach

Additionally, there are countless amounts of rubbish on Portmarnock beach. This is because people are leaving their rubbish around, they might not have noticed it blowing away or when they are packing up they forget about it. Sometimes there is a lot of glass. Glass can be really dangerous on the beach because people are walking in their bare feet and kids are playing with the sand. You don't want your child or yourself to be hurt because of someone else's litter.

Promote Recycling

Lastly, there is a way to recycle your plastic correctly and help the sea. If you recycle your plastic then it most likely will be turned into something you might be using right now! In the recycling bin you can put

plastic bottles, plastic containers, cardboard, paper, cans and tins. Everything else can be put in the black or brown bins. It is essential that more people get involved in the recycling process.

In conclusion, we need you to help and stop littering to save sea life, safety on our beach and to recycle correctly. It takes everyone to make a difference.

Aisling Cummins (5th class)

Amber Flag

This year we successfully achieved the Amber Flag for our school. We raised €2,214 for Pieta House. Thank you to everyone for working so hard. We spent time every Monday doing Mindful activities for Mindful Mondays. We also had a crazy hair day to raise money for Pieta House and displayed an Amber Flag Display to promote positive self-talk with a mirror and positive messages. Everyone did a great job and hopefully next year we can keep doing more mindful activities. Thanks so much and have a great Summer.



Julie Hanifan (5th class)

World Earth Day

Stop denying our planet is dying.
Turn off the light, be bright.
Don't be a brat, turn off the tap.
Reuse it, don't refuse it.
Pollution is not an illusion.
Turn around, look around,
Make sure our
Planet is not on the ground.

Carragh Nighflionn (3rd class)