



# Ardfinnan N.S.



## Nollaig 2023 Nuacht Scoil Náisiúnta Ard Fhionáin

### Ardfinnan NS: Under 11 County Champions

We left at eleven o'clock, the bus was packed, not one spot was left. It took the best part of an hour, to get to Moycarkey Borris GAA Club. When we arrived, we had to wait a couple of minutes for a free dressing room. We togged out and went to the side of the pitch where the railings were. After we all got warmed up Mr Barrett and Mr Moroney called in the starting team for a quick talk about our tactics and then the ref called for the captains. After he called the captains the ref called in the two teams to start the match and throw up the ball.

At the start of the match it we were passing the ball around and trying to get a score, then James opened up the scoring with a wonder goal, after that goal it went well for Ardfinnan. Cullen got a goal and then JJ got a super point. At half time we took off James and replaced him with Adam but Gaelscoil Nenagh came back and got a goal. Then Fionn got a lovely point but that wasn't enough, they won a penalty but we got lucky as the kicker just missed by an inch. Still after that they didn't give up as they sneaked into our back line they shot for goal but Conor Dalton hit off it last second to hit over the bar. After that score Niall kicked out and JJ got the ball and shot for a point and it soared over the bar. Then we won the ball and Cullen scored.

In the dying seconds JJ went for his third point and scored. It was happiness after that as the ref blew the final whistle. We all jumped on each other and celebrated like mad. After all the celebrations one of the officials presented the shield to Cullen and we all lifted it up with pride. The bus journey home was one of the best as we were singing all way back to school. As we were coming over the bridge, we saw the whole school waiting outside the school. We walked off the bus and the whole school clapped and we were beaming with pride and it got better as Ms Quinlivan said everyone had no homework.

We would like to thank Mr Leahy and Mr Moroney for training us, we also want to thank everyone for believing we can win it and last but not least we would like to thank Ms Quinlivan for supporting us through and through.

By A.J. Howe and Cullen Casey

### A Word from our Principal

Christmas is just around the corner and we have had a very busy couple of weeks here in school filled with Christmas Shows, Christmas jumpers, county finals, decorations and of course the arrival of our newest staff member, school therapy dog, Teddy.

Christmas is a time to reflect and give thanks and we extend our warmest wishes to our entire school community for your kindness and support this year. I'd like to say a special thank you to our amazing school team and all that you do on a daily basis to care for and encourage our pupils.

As we look forward to a new year filled with possibilities, here's hoping that it will bring health and happiness to one and all. Merry Christmas!

Ms. Quinlivan.



**Super Sixth Class** are very happy that term one is coming to a close, we have had a very busy time learning many new things, attending shows and applying for our new schools. Thanks to Nigel and Barry for the games/training.

We thoroughly enjoyed writing, producing and performing our Christmas Show – Christmas with the Stars; oh what fun we had.

Our class helped to set up a set of rules and recommendations for Soccer, Liam and Alex designed an amazing poster which is on view around the classes.

We also had some amazing athletes who participated in Clonmel and Ava got a medal. Conor H received a rosette and medal for Inter- school equestrian.

We have such a sporty, crafty and creative hardworking class.

**First Class** have been busy preparing for our Christmas Show, “Ralph the Reindeer”. We loved all the songs and practice session and did ourselves proud on the night. Mrs. Lawlor was over the moon with us all! We took part in Dare to Believe Olympic Brain Breaks over the past few weeks. We really enjoyed the variety of sports and skills and got familiar with some Irish athletes and Olympians.

We participated in an online art class with artist, Sinéad McDermott as one of over 140 classes all over the country who took part. Sinéad was teaching us from her studio in Belfast! We learned about different painting techniques, take a peek at our creations on the school website. We took part in an athletics program called Fit4Class and have been working on our agility, balance and coordination. We would like to wish everyone a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS, Nollaig Shona Daoibh go Léir!  
Le ghrá, Rang a hAon x

### Shoe Box Appeal

We would like to thank everyone who dropped in a shoebox for the Team Hope Christmas Appeal. We are delighted to say that we collected 72 boxes in total which will travel to Eastern Europe or Africa and put a huge smile on the faces of the children there.



**Second Class** have been having great fun with Barry on Thursdays. We have been playing cooperative games and brushing up on our GAA football skills. We had a great day at the Blitz in Dunesk winning many of our mini games.

We are attending mass every Friday and well on our journey to making our First Holy Communion next year.

We have been busy in class with our Christmas art activities and really enjoyed performing our Christmas show in the church.

Here's a Christmas joke for you. What do you get when you cross a Christmas tree with an apple?

A pineapple. 😊

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Senior Infants' Snowmen

Christmas is here and Senior Infants have had a great term. We have been so busy preparing for our show and Mrs. Purcell thinks we were just amazing!! We also did lots of science activities such as making musical shakers, testing materials to see are they waterproof and making bird feeders for all the birds in our gardens. We have loved all our arts and crafts and have made lots of little keepsakes to have for many years to come. As you have heard, we welcomed our new dog 'Teddy' into our school and we love when he visits our classroom for lots of kisses and cuddles!! Finally we would like to wish all our friends and families a safe and happy Christmas.

*Why is it so cold at Christmas? Because it's Decem-birrrrrrr!*





### Junior Infants - Yellow

What a busy term it has been for Miss Cahill's Junior Infants! Our classroom has been a hive of activity these past few weeks as we prepared for our Christmas show in the church last Thursday. We have also been very busy all term learning and playing with our friends each day. We are looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the Christmas but are equally excited for 2024 to see all the wonderful things the New Year will bring. We wish you and all your loved ones a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all in January for another term of learning and fun! Lots of love, Miss Cahill and all the children



### Ms Griffin's Class

**Ms Byrne** has joined Ms Griffin's class and we have had the best time over the past few weeks. We wish Ms Griffin and family the best of luck as they await their new baby! The class has had a wonderful term and we are very proud of the independence, hard work and progress of every child. We have welcomed Finn to the class and he is having great fun with all of his friends. We have enjoyed Yoga with Brenda, Smart Moves with Mr. Slattery and going to Barry with our classes. We love teaming up with Mr. Moroney's class daily and we had the best day with them when we visited Santa and Mrs. Claus in Cahir. Congratulations to everyone that took part in the Christmas shows, you were all amazing! We wish everyone the best of health and happiness over the Christmas period!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Class News

This term was a joyful and happy one, it was great for sports, arts and crafts, getting outdoors and having loads of good fun along the way. Our class enjoyed going to the SETU Arena in Waterford for Peace Proms practice, it was a great day out with lots of good singers in the class. We had a great time organising and practicing for our Christmas shows, it was tiring but it was all worthwhile in the end as everyone really enjoyed it and it all went well. We're having loads of fun with Barry improving our FMS and football skills as well.

We love our 'Tea on Thursdays', which we do on the first Thursday of every month as it's a time to chat and relax and have a few biscuits. And last but not least we are all really enjoying reading and hitting our targets on the accelerated reading targets.

By Cullen Casey

### Mr Moroney's Class

It has been a busy few months in Mr Moroney's class! One of the highlights of the term was our recent visit to Santa in Cahir! We also loved the trips to the musicals; 'Rock of Ages' in Clonmel and 'Sister Act' in Cahir. It has been an active term, and we are really enjoying Smart Moves with Mr Slattery every week and yoga on Mondays, as well as football and hurling with Nigel and Barry. Speaking of football, congratulations to Toran on winning a county medal with the U-11 footballers.

We have very talented singers and musicians in our class and enjoyed our Christmas shows in the church. We have also been practicing for Peace Proms and had a great day at the rehearsal in Waterford. At the moment, we are looking forward to Christmas and we're very busy making Christmas art and decorations.

**Green Schools** have focused on planting the new raised beds provided by GIY and kindly assembled by Dan. We look forward to harvesting our crops next autumn. Next term we aim to clear all the weeds from the school garden and do some more planting.



### Junior Infants - Blue

Mrs Fogarty's Junior infants have been working hard this term in school and it is hard to believe our first term is nearly over. It has been so much fun! We have all continued to settle into school life very well. We are working hard on our Jolly Phonics sounds and are enjoying reading our words and phrases. We are learning Gaeilge and we all love and enjoy the subject! We have been working well in maths learning 2D shapes and we even went on a Maths trail in school! We have made lots of friends and we are so kind and helpful and great at involving everyone to play. We are becoming independent tidying up, tucking in our chairs and sticking to our golden rules throughout our school day! We are loving decorating our classes and school with our Christmas art! We know that Santa, Elfie and Ted are very busy watching us on our best behaviour.

### Third Class

We have had a very busy term. We took part in swimming lessons for seven weeks in Clonmel before Halloween. Great progress was made by all! We have been perfecting our hurling & football skills under the guidance of our GAA coaches, Barry & Nigel. Ardfinnan and Ballybacon's GAA future looks bright! We are really enjoying participating in Accelerated Reading & everyone has made a huge effort to reach their targets.

We have really enjoyed art this year & took part in an online art lesson with professional artist, Sinéad McDermott creating unique individual snow scenes. Merry Christmas from Third Class. We're looking forward to what 2024 holds for us all!

*What is a Christmas tree's favourite sweet? An orna-mint!*



**Muscially speaking** we have had a busy term, our Peace Prom Choir travelled to Waterford for rehearsal and the conductor Greg was so impressed by our singers as they were so well behaved and sang amazingly. 3rd Class have now started music lessons and look forward to showcasing their talent in the new year. Our orchestra performed beautifully for our school concert.

Our recently clothing collection raised a grand total of €457 for the school. Our next collection is booked for 1st May, 2024.

**Fourth Class: Food Dudes** is a healthy eating program. We get different food every day. Every class has to do it from Juniors to 6<sup>th</sup>. What did the tomato say when he was losing the race? I'm gonna ketch-up! By Charlie Purcell and Adam Savage. **The U11 County Final** was against Nenagh Gaelscoil They started off with a great goal by James Hyland followed by a goal from Cullen Casey and great points from JJ, Cullen and Fionn. The boys were over the moon and there was even a father and son duo from the 1993 final. By Fionn Griffin and JJ O'Gorman. **Athletics:** We had a wonderful day in Clonmel at the cross country. It was in mid October and it was very wet which made it hard to run, but we tried our best and had some very lucky winners who came in the top ten; Cara O'Connor in 4<sup>th</sup> class who came 8<sup>th</sup> and Ava Walsh in 6<sup>th</sup> class who came 5<sup>th</sup>. By Hannah Kearns and Cara O'Connor. **Accelerated Reader** helps our vocabulary and understanding of words. The books are good to read, it gives us more words to use also gets us more intrigued to read books everyday which is very good to read at a young age, there is a big range of books. Just last week the vice principal gave chocolate Santas to anyone who has reached their target...kinda bribing us. By Harry and Jacob. **4th class Christmas Concert** was doing our Peace Proms songs, we had our dress rehearsal in the church in front of all the classes. While we were there we got to see 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>'s play. It was nice to see all the others. We played the tin whistle and then 6 people did a funny poem. Finally we sang Pompeii and a Medley. By Emily and Amy Ann. This year we are writing **letters to children in Lismore school**. First we wrote letters to them then they wrote back to us. It is a really fun experience to get to know them, we can talk to them about holidays and Christmas and we also get to tell them about friends and family and school work. By Sadhbh and Amelia

*Who is Santa's favourite singer?  
Beyon-sleigh!*

