

OCTOBER 2021

SAINT MICHAEL'S NS NEWSLETTER



Thank you!

I wanted to start the first newsletter of the year with a big thank you to the whole Saint Michael's National School community for the warm welcome extended to me since September. I am delighted to be part of such a kind, vibrant and inclusive school community and I am looking forward to many years working with everyone to make Saint Michael's a happy, safe and fun learning environment for all the pupils, parents and staff. I would also like to welcome our new Junior Infants, new pupils in other classes and Ms. Halpin and Ms. Stackpoole who are new to the school this year also.

Thank you to all the children who created works for art for my office. You can see some pictures below of this term's selection. I was given so many that I will have to rotate them as the year goes on. We have some very talented pupils here in Saint Michael's!

It has been a very busy start to the school year and I want to congratulate everyone on settling in so well. So far this term we have had a visit from our Creative Schools associate, Joanne, 2nd - 6th classes took part in a Zoom session with author and comedian David Walliams, we have had trips to the park, had a Greek Feast and restarted our whole school assemblies out in the yard. Being able to gather together as a whole school is so important to create and maintain our sense of community and something we have really missed over the past year and a half. We hope as the year goes on we will be able to expand the range of activities we can offer, depending on changing public health guidance.

Dates for you diary

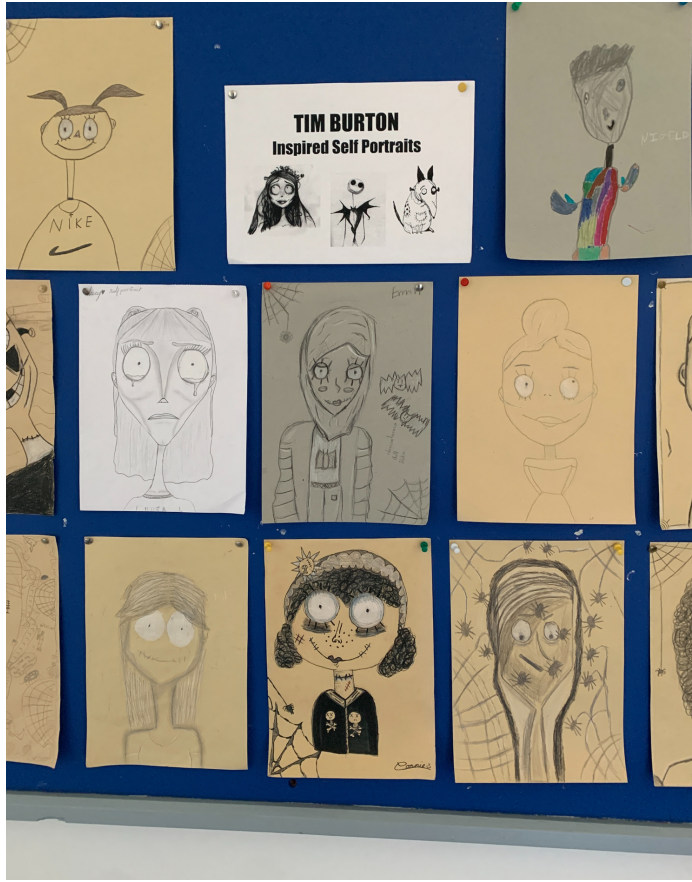
Nov 4th: Diwali

Nov 7th - 14th: Science Week

Nov 11th: Poland Day

Nov 12th: Heritage in Schools visit (Junior Infants - 1st class)

Nov 28th Start of Advent



What's inside?

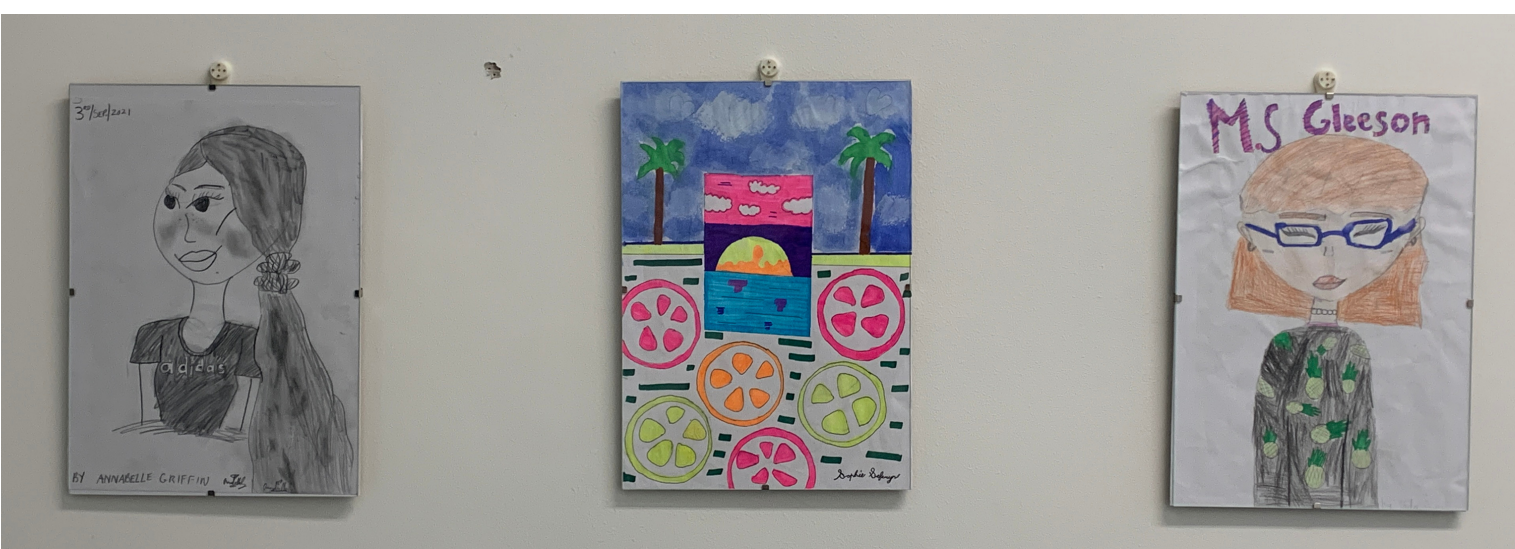
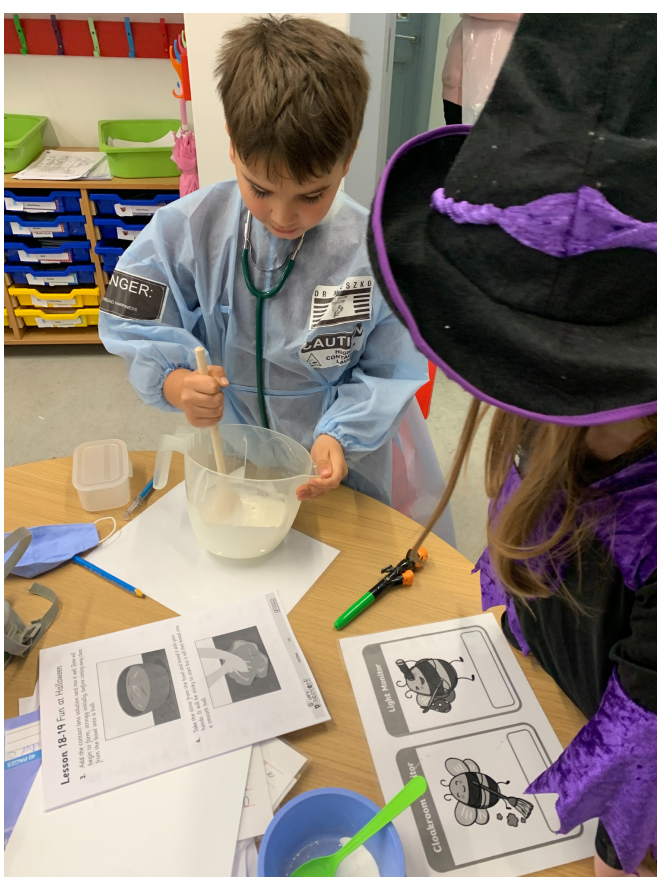
Thank you!

Dates for your diary

PTA news

Creative Schools News

Parish News



PTA News

The PTA met on October 4th on Zoom. The committee until the AGM in January is:

Angie Smalis - Co-chairperson and 2nd & 3rd class representative

Dearbhla Acheson - Co-chairperson and 5th & 6th class representative

Rebecca Tumwebaze - Secretary and 4th & 5th class representative

Anya Bialek - Treasurer & Senior Infant & 1st Class representative

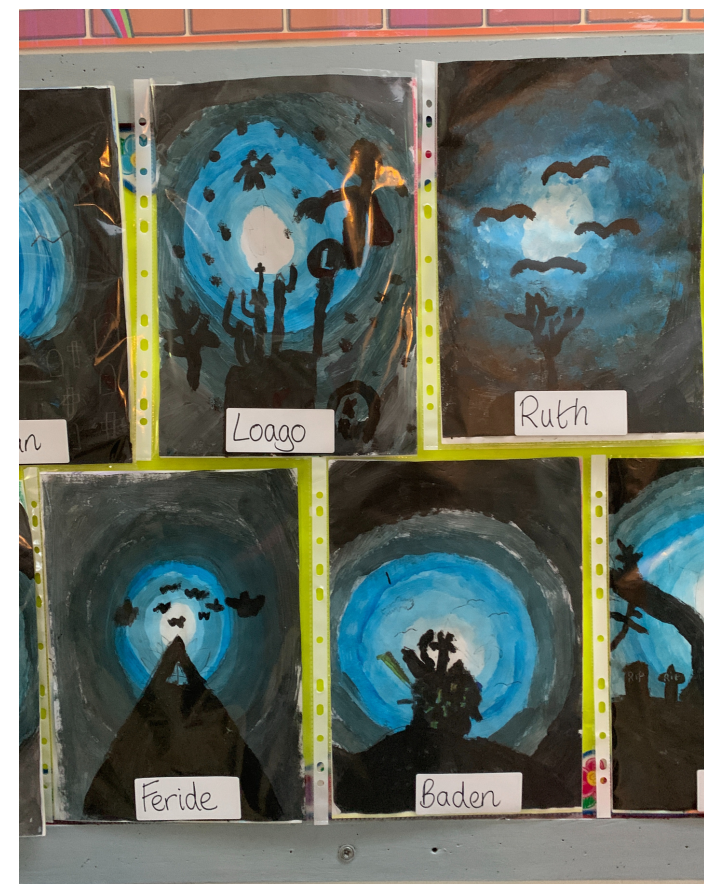
Shawn Jamieson - Committee Member & Junior Infant class representative

The PTA are aiming to raise funds towards the cost of resurfacing part of the school yard. We organised a Dress Up Day on the Friday of the Midterm Break with children contributing €2. The PTA are also running a Clothes Collection in November - full information has been sent out via email.

As always, the PTA needs your help and support. If you have any skills or ideas that would help the school please let the PTA know. Sometimes parents think they need lots of time to get involved with the PTA, but every little bit of help is worthwhile and much appreciated.

The next meeting of the PTA will be on Monday, November 8th at 7.30pm on Zoom. A link for the meeting will be sent to parents that day. We are hoping to be able to meet in person in 2022.

If you wish to contact the PTA, the email address is ptasaintmichaelsns@gmail.com. You can also contact Dearbhla by SMS on 0872204352.



Parish News

Remembrance:

I am conscious that November heralds a more reflective time in the Church's year. As part of our liturgies on Sunday 31st October (the eve of All Saints) we will have an opportunity to remember those parishioners and loved ones who have passed away. As we remember them may we give thanks for their faith, love and example. (The Dean)

Harvest:

Many thanks to our Choirs, Music Directors and the Flower Guilds who decorated our Churches with artistic flair and all who enhanced our worship during this autumn season. Our preachers were warmly received, and we thank them for their inspiring reflections! As we journey through the season of Harvest may we take time to pause each day to give God thanks for 'all good gifts around us'.

Creative Schools News

Saint Michael's is partaking in Creative Schools again this year. We started Year 2 of the project with a visit from Joanne Parkes, our Creative Schools Associate who did a short workshop with each class. We are hoping to celebrate and explore our school's rich diversity this year and would love to hear from any members of the school community who can share any skills or talents they have in any creative area. As informed by the pupil consultation last year, we are hoping to complete some workshops on visual arts and digital media/ animation.

WhatsApp Groups

Just a gentle reminder that WhatsApp groups and social media are great ways of communicating with other parents but messages should please be kept respectful and should not contain personal information about children or teachers, including speculation around anyone's health. If you have any concerns in relation to your child at any time, please contact the class teacher.