

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents, guardians, children and families,

We have come to the end of another year at Citywest & Saggart Community National School, and what a year it has been. It has not been without its challenges, but let us not let the closure of the schools dampen the positive and exciting events that the 2019-2020 year gave to us.

Throughout the year, the children and staff have been working tirelessly to create a learning environment to develop the children in all aspects. We have had STEM week, the Junior Entrepreneur Programme in 6th class, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Book Fairs, Bake sales as well as school trips and guest speakers. All of these activities are to create long lasting memories for the children in our school. We have had many successes in quizzes, sporting events and art competitions as well as all of the personal achievements of each individual child in our school.

Our move to the new school building may have felt like it would never come, but it did prove that good things are worth waiting for. The move injected a new life into our school community and we hope it continues to do so for years to come.

I must, however, acknowledge the huge challenge that the school closures have posed. It has been difficult on us all, but we must also acknowledge the incredible work and resilience shown by our children and parents in adapting to this difficult time – you are all to be commended. A massive thank you must also go to the teachers, SNAs and ancillary staff of our school, who went above and beyond to ensure that the children and families were supported through this time. I feel we can get through almost anything now!

On a personal note, this year has been a big one. However, I feel I have been made so welcome and have a sense of belonging in Citywest & Saggart CNS. I am extremely lucky to have a wonderful staff, community of children and parents and an involved school community. I wish to extend a thank you to our Board of Management, Parent-Teacher Association and all other groups who work together to make our school an incredible place to work and learn.

I want to wish you all a relaxing, safe and peaceful summer break. I hope to see you all back with us again in August (In whatever form that may be).

Mike Byrne

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

A board of management meeting was held on 9th June 2020. The minutes for the community are on our website. Our Health and Safety Policy was ratified and we completed the Anti-bullying and Child Safeguarding checklists as per our annual review.

Dates to note:

30th June - Last day of school

26th August - Provisional start date for Junior infants

27th August - Provisional start date for all students

6th Class Graduation

This year we say goodbye to our first group of 6th class students. 8 years ago, a small group of parents entrusted a new model of school with their children. The school community have watched these young people grow and develop over the past few years and now they make the first step into the next chapter of their lives. We wish them every happiness and success in post-primary school and into their future.



Our Parent-Teacher Association

We have not had the fundraising year that we had hoped for this year. However we still managed to raise €2445 plus €1398 in book credit this year from the events we did manage to have which were: Recycling Drive, Halloween Bake Sale, Book Fair, Design a Card & Family Bingo Night.

We were in the middle of organising the school disco and we will wait until school returns in September so we can see how Social Distancing is to be implemented before making a decision if this can go ahead or not.

Finally, the current committee will remain as is for next year 2020/21.

We plan to hold our AGM in September all going well.

Thank you to our dedicated group of parents for the help and support this year!



LETTERS FROM SOME OF OUR CHILDREN AND SOME OF THE SEESAW ACTIVITIES

This year, we finally moved into our new school building which was really exciting. I also enjoyed seeing my friends and Mr Mount everyday. I have learnt lots of different subjects including space and planets, sea creatures, counting coins, adding and subtracting, presentation skills and many more which were really fun. I remember going to a nature walk with the other 2nd class. We also made elephant toothpaste, went to the school library and we danced and sang songs. I hope we can come back to school next year without the virus so we can learn much more.

Sofia Morgan, 2nd Class



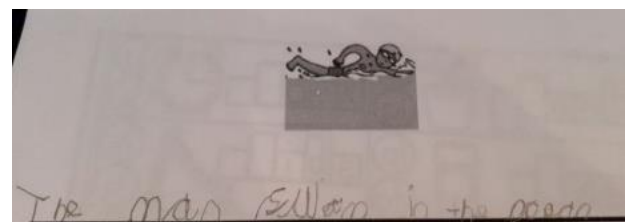
The projects I enjoyed doing were about Egypt, the Vikings and The Science Week Project. For the Egypt project I worked with my class table group as a team. For the Viking project I built a longhouse out of lollipop sticks and for my science project I put old copper coins in different substances and saw which cleaned them best. I also enjoyed all the new maths we learned such as long multiplication, long division, negative numbers and the parts of a circle. In January, we finally moved into our new school building after waiting many years. It is great now to have a proper school building with a PE Hall and our own yard. Unfortunately, we didn't get to enjoy our new building for very long as then the coronavirus outbreak forced all schools in Ireland to close. We have spent the last three months of the school year working on Seesaw from home. It has been strange and difficult at times working on my own but something I will never forget. I have missed all my friends at school and I can't wait to see them all in 6th class in September.

Tyler Branning, 5th Class

This year was for me very challenging but fun. I enjoyed going to the post office with my class. I learned a lot about space and the planets. I could try a scientists microscope to see insects and scorpions. I really like our lunch times because we get to watch the stories and go to the yard and play with my friends. I hope that I will meet all my friends after summer. I am so excited to go to first class. I would like to learn about Egyptian mummies and more about reptiles and snakes. I hope you all have nice holidays.



Matej Gonsenica, Senior Infants



Isobel O'Halloran, 3rd class

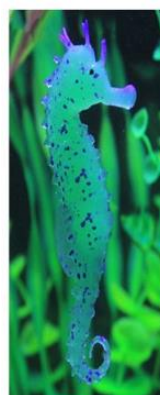


I enjoyed having Ms Harney as my 3rd class teacher, moving to our new school and having a much bigger yard and P.E hall. I learned to speak a lot more Irish and how to use PowerPoint for my project's. At home I learned to bake and ride my skateboard. I joined the school choir for the first time this year and sang in the Peace Proms which was really fun. I also joined the school football and GAA team. My hope's for next year is to get back to school to see all my friends. To return to all my activities, go to the Peace Proms again and to go away on a holiday as mine was cancelled this year.

I had such a fun year in 2nd class. Some of the cool things I remember are our super duper Halloween party, our nature walk and the BIG move to our new school! I can't wait to see everyone again when we go back to 3rd class - I wonder which classroom we'll be in? Arts and Crafts was also lots of fun this year especially quilling.

I missed going to school for the last few months, but it was great learning how to use Seesaw and finding out new things on the Internet. My mam and dad tried their best but they're not as good at teaching as Ms Mehta is :)

Abigail Quinn, 2nd Class



SEAHORSES !

HABITAT :
SEAHORSES ARE
MAINLY FOUND IN
SHALLOW TROPICAL
AND TEMPERATE
SALT WATER.

DIET :
SEAHORSES EAT
SMALL CRUSTACEA
SUCH AS MYSIS
SHRIMP.

AMAZING FACT :
THERE ARE
ABOUT 40
KNOWN SPECIES
OF SEAHORSE!

HOW IT SURVIVES :
THEY SWIM UPRIGHT AND AVOID PREDATORS BY MIMICKING THE COLOUR OF UNDER
WATER PLANTS. EXCEPT FOR CRABS, NOT MANY MARINE PREDATORS EAT THE
SEAHORSE - THEY ARE TOO BONY AND INDIGESTIBLE.

My 3rd class Memories

3rd class was a year I enjoyed because I knew everyone and had a nice teacher. Some of my favourite memories were when I played with my friends in the school yard. I think lots of children in my class enjoyed art.

I also made lots of friends in 3rd class. I found math, geography and science very interesting this year. P. E was also fun since Ms Whelan believed in being active in a fun way.

I am really saddened the year had to end like this, but I know next year will be different and my friends know that too.

Things I Am Looking forward to.

I am looking forward to getting one step closer to 6th class although I am going to really miss 3rd class.

Nathan Varghese, 3rd Class

In 1st class our teacher Miss Farren got sick and Mr O' Sullivan became our new teacher. This year was exciting because we moved to our new school and it is great to have an intercom and hear all the messages in our class. Our new classroom is very big and we love the new yard, the P.E. hall and playworks in the yard. Fridays are fun because the winner of the class raffle gets a treat and it's Basketball Friday for the class.

In 1st class we said goodbye to old friends and made new friends too. We learned how to do chimney sums and lots of food names in gaeilge. We planted baby potatoes, put them in egg boxes in a dark cupboard and waited for them to grow. One of our favourite moments was when the Sam Maguire Cup visited our school and class. We wore Dublin shirts and headbands.

We can't wait to see each other in September in 2nd class and get our new classroom upstairs!

Laura Kelly, 1st Class



Naseem Ayilara, 6th Class

As we all know the 6th class of Citywest and Saggart Community National School are going to be graduating from primary school to secondary school. They will all be missed as they will be the first to graduate from the school. Some of the things sixth class enjoyed were going on extra tours, doing project work and being in there last year of primary school. They have been learning about new topics such as the fearsome Native Americans to the wonders of algebra and everything in between. Despite all the work they have done the sixth class students have been doing a lot of fun activities such as rugby, GAA, quizzes and football and it was all very enjoyable. Finally we have their hopes and their hopes were to make new friends, join new clubs, go to a new school and to enjoy secondary school.

Sometimes now it is a bit hard to remember all the things we did in school because it's so long since I've been there. I have really missed going to school since Coronavirus started because I miss my teacher Mrs Swan and seeing all my friends. This year people came to visit us with dogs who help blind people. They were called Guide Dogs. I loved that!

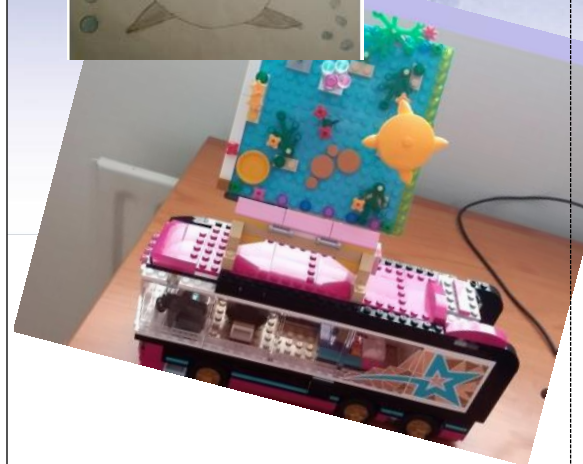
It was really exciting too when we got to move to our new school in January. I loved our new yard and classroom. Also in Room 6 we learned all about space and the Solar System. We learned about Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong and how they were the first people to land on the moon. This year I had to learn a different way of seeing people. We did Zoom calls with my class so we could still see each other. My family did quizzes together on the computer and we played music bingo. That was fun. I learned how to do some of my schoolwork on SeeSaw too, sometimes it was fun but other times I missed doing it in my class. I hope that next year I can learn lots more things and I can't wait to come back to school in September.

Naomi Carter, Senior Infants

This year has been kind of crazy but thanks to Ms. Rojack it got a bit less. When some of my friends and myself walked in to the new class in September, we were really happy that we got Ms. Rojack. One thing that most of my classmates and I enjoyed was learning with her as she made everything very clear for us - although sometimes challenging, but always for our own level.

Moving to our new school building, was one of the highlights of this year. We learnt about Picasso, industrial revolution and many more. We also learnt a lot in Irish too including conversations and a few games that helped us remember it. This year was even better when Ms. Rojack asked four of us to help Junior Infants to be gentle and kind during yard. It was a hard job but Rebeca Curran, Charlotte Carter, Amal Williams and myself made it happen.

A lot of my class (including me) are hoping we get Ms. Rojack again next year. She understands and knows us very well, and we all think she was one of the kindest teachers we've had. Thank you so much for all the work you did for us and we hope to see you again next year.



Peter Morgan, 5th Class



I really enjoyed junior infants this year. Some of my favourite parts of this year were being in big school with my big brother and sister, making lots of new friends and learning lots of new things. I learned all the sounds so now I can start to read books at home. We learned shapes and counting for Maths. I learned some Irish words and songs. My favourite thing is numbers and learning to count and add. I loved playing in the Aistear activity corner, some of the themes were, Doctor surgery, Shop and playing House. My favourite play area was the Doctors office. I hope that next year we get to go back to school and be able to play with all my friends and for the coronavirus to go away!

Sophie Branning, Junior Infants

Eva Filler, 4th Class

I enjoyed about the year that there was a new school, new classroom and that I got to learn amazing subjects with my teacher, Ms. Smyth. We learned new things in Maths, got better at drawing and learned about China. I enjoyed doing the China project.

I participated in activities like the science experiment, attendance competition, swimming classes and school Bingo night which I really enjoyed.

When the pandemic situation came, things got a little strange because of the lockdown, you couldn't go to school, in nature, playgrounds or mostly go anywhere. I felt a bit lonely and sad at first, but at least we got to stay healthy at home and still do stuff like in School. I enjoyed the online learning through the Seesaw app, also doing online homework. I think Seesaw is fun and very easy. I also like Seesaw blog where you can check your friends work and leave notes to your teacher in case you need to tell him or her something. I did a few virtual school tours, also saw my teacher and my friends on Zoom calls.

I am very excited to go back to School and see all my friends after so long. We also have to stay Safe, wash our hands and keep a 2 meter distance so we can get rid of the Virus.

It is the last week of School and also Active Sports Week!! It's going to be so fun this week for everyone as we can win medals and stuff that we did just like on a normal Sports Day.

My hopes for the next year I hope we all meet healthy and happy, learn new things and have lots of fun in school.

Dane Moody, 4th Class

what you
need



enjoyed my first year in bigger school and having a nice new uniform. I made lots of new friends who are in my class. I also liked my mammy and daddy doing school work with me at home. I learned to write all of the letters in the alphabet, I have started to learn how to read including some tricky words! I also learned how to cycle my bike without stablisers!

I took part in the bake sale, I took tennis lessons, art class and hip hop dancing. Tennis was my favourite. We also won a prize when we played bingo in the hotel! I hope we get to go back to an actual classroom so I can see all my friends again, and to practice even more reading.

Hannah Dermody, Junior Infants



Shatakshi Gupta, 1st Class

My highlight has been a very interesting year. It's been a very interesting year. The GAA team was awesome and Mr Maher made it so fun. It was great meeting other teams from other schools and also getting to spend some extra time with our own friends and also getting to know people from different classes. Unfortunately we did not get to play our first soccer match because of the coronavirus but I already can not wait for next year for our team to play and show all the other teams what Citywest and Saggart CNS can do! Even though our year was cut short we still did a lot of cool stuff. I am already excited for September.

This year is a special year of my childhood not only because we shifted to the new wonderful school building, but also have the joy of learning from home using seesaw app, meeting my friends virtually on zoom call and writing email to the teacher for all the doubts.

It was great learning at school- I love my school, distinct activities we do like weaving, food prints using thermocol, playing basket-ball, leaf-printing, writing in cursive, counting in twos, etc apart from regular studies. Unfortunately, we had to spend school days at home with mommy as our teacher guiding us how to do not only homework but classwork too. The sad part about this year is we missed the play time, yard time, arguments with my friends, learning and chatting with my classmates and that timeout call of my teacher. I wish going to next class, without being disturbed by the horrible monster (Covid-19), so that we all can enjoy together happily ever after.

Suggested activities for the summer

Parents,

The children of our community have done so well to continue with their learning over the past few months. It has not been easy and now is time for a well-deserved rest for them. Allow the children to enjoy their summer holidays and help them to return to some sort of normality. They have missed out on learning, but we hope to start off where they left off when the schools closed in March. Below is a selection of activities that you can engage with over the summer months. Even if your child was to do a small selection of these each week, it would help with the continuity of learning. They may not seem like learning activities, but every life experience is a learning one!

English	Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read to your child often and discuss the pictures/text• Engage with audio books for your child to listen to• Encourage your child to read, read, read! Visit the library, buy books as presents• Challenge: Finish as many books as you can over the summer.• Set up a book club• Sing nursery rhymes
	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build up the muscles in your child's hand by using scissors, helping with jobs around the home, playing with paly-doh• Encourage your child to keep a daily diary for handwriting• Encourage your child to create books of their own• Allow your child to write letter, notes, emails to their friends• Encourage your child to do the shopping lists• Writing recipes• Writing letters to friends/family/making penpals
Helpful online resources https://bookcreator.com/2020/03/support-for-schools-affected-by-coronavirus/ https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home https://www.vooks.com/ (animated story books) https://www.storynory.com/ Great website for audio story		

Maths	Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow your child to count objects• Encourage your child to help adding the shopping bill• Encourage your child to engage with online maths games rather than other computer games• Sudoku puzzles in newspapers
	Shapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go on a shape hunt• Look at items around the home to identify shapes in the environment and examine the properties

	Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to use money and calculate change
	Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you doing some DIY? Allow your child to get involved with measuring Do some baking and allow your child to measure the ingredients Track your height over the summer Walk as many steps as you can (Keep track)
	Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn to tell the time Use a calendar to mark off the days until school starts
Helpful online resources https://nrich.maths.org/ https://pages.sumdog.com/ https://login.mathletics.com/ www.topmarks.co.uk		

Irish	Speaking and listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to watch cartoons on TG4 rather than other channels
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Other activities that your child could engage with:

- Wellbeing booklet
- Artwork
- Creating video tutorials
- Photography
- Learn how to make your own lunch/bed
- Project work that they could show us in September
- Do some of the Seesaw activities that have been assigned.

School's
OUT
Summer is
ON!