

intouch

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School Tour Special

**Pay equality in the
European Court**

**Brexit concerns
brought to Brussels**



Keeping InTouch

{ *Interactive dialogue with members, and key news items* }



GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMMENT

#NoMorePlasticPaddy

Welcome to the March edition of InTouch Magazine and our annual 'School Tour Special' featuring lots of terrific ideas for your forthcoming school tours.

Stories are incredibly powerful. With World Book Day on the horizon (7 March), we are proud to include a series of age appropriate LGBT+ friendly books which introduce diverse characters and family types.

This St Patrick's Day (17 March) INTO will be doing something very special. Our Global Solidarity Campaign is asking all primary schools in Ireland to ditch single use plastics, a key component of the UN sustainable development goals. Read more about our #NoMorePlasticPaddy campaign inside.

In a few days our Special Education Conference will take place on 9 March. This timely gathering will focus on inclusion – the continuum of support. This month's magazine features an outstanding article by autism experts

on enhancing social and communication skills of students on the autistic spectrum.

Brexit is on the front pages of all national newspapers most days at the moment. Our own members, some of whom cross the border to work each day have been in touch to raise their concerns on mutual recognition, pensions, health insurance and so on. Our President, Joe Killeen and Northern Ireland Chair, Paddy McAllister, led a delegation to Brussels last month to raise these concerns with key decision makers there. You can read more about the delegation in the magazine.

In just about six weeks' time we will be gathering in Galway for our Annual Congress. Delegates representing branches all over the country will be in attendance to decide INTO policy on a range of topics.

Sheila Nunan

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CONTENTS



31

KEEPING INTOUCH

- 3 Editorial**
#NoMorePlasticPaddy
- 7 Connect with INTO**
- 10 Things you should know**

INTO NEWS

- 9 Brexit concerns raised in Brussels**
- Consultation on School Completion Programme**
- 10 European Court of Justice case**
Payment of substitute teachers
- 13 Vere Foster collection**
A collection of Vere Foster memorabilia has gone on display in INTO Head Office
- Long-serving officers in District 6 honoured**
- 14 Reproductive health survey**
- INTO summer learning programme**
- 15 Special education conference**
Minister visits District 3
- 17 INTO 150 events**
- 19 Benefits**
Discover benefits available to members with their Membership Plus card
- 20 Global citizenship schools**
#NoMorePlasticPaddy campaign

- Primary pupils hold demonstration for climate action**

NEWSDESK

- 21 Child protection and safeguarding inspections**
- Re-vetting of teachers**
- Vere Foster medal winners**
- 23 School libraries survey**
- School milk jingle winners**
- Dolly Parton shares books in Tallaght**



25 Retirements

Retirement functions around the branches

26 InFocus

InTouch profiles the Conditions of Employment team

27 Teachers' Musical Society

TMS stage Evita

29 Incredible Edibles

An Post/INTO Scéal Eile competition

30 Forbairt leadership programme

Mellon Educate

Mellon Educate are looking for volunteers to join their Teaching Blitz

41 Cumann na mBunscol

31 SCHOOL TOUR SPECIAL

37 Staying safe on farms

Alma Jordan shares advice for your school trip to the farm.

38 School tour tips

Top tips to make the most of your school tour

LIFE

43 Travel

Ciara McNally shares the must-see attractions of Abu Dhabi

45 Recipes

Pancakes with a difference and traditional Irish scones

23



27

62 Comhar Linn

- Comhar Linn Crossword
- December Prize winners

63 Scoilnet Panel



43

FINISHING TOUCHES

61 Noticeboard

Upcoming events

55



TEACHING MATTERS

47 Maps in the Classroom

Using Ordnance Survey Ireland maps to enhance the geography curriculum

48 Enhancing social and communication skills of pupils on the autism spectrum

Research-based guidance

51 Art and mindfulness

Sample lessons from online course

53 Under the Hawthorn Tree

Helen Hallissey shares drama ideas based on the best-selling book

54 LGBT+ inclusive books for World Book Day

The INTO LGBT+ Teachers Group share their top books for different age groups.

57 Celebrating Lady Nelson

Michelle O'Connor looks the first female owner of a Grand National winner.

58 Irish resources

COGG share lesson ideas for two Michael Morpurgo books available as Gaeilge

59 Reviews

53



51



Stay informed



Social media

Follow the INTO on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news and updates.

- ✉ Facebook: facebook.com/intonews
- ✉ Twitter: @intonews

E-Newsletter

INTO's weekly e-newsletter with important union news and education updates for members. Subscribe to the INTO e-newsletter at into.newsweaver.ie

Subsearch

INTO SubSearch is designed to help teachers find substitute work and to help principals find substitutes.

Schools and substitutes register on subsearch.into.ie – substitutes can register their availability on the site while principals can search for registered substitutes in their area by date or location.

Video tutorials and FAQs on how to use SubSearch are available on the website.

Subsearch mobile is now available for your smartphone.



10 things you should know

- 1 Brexit concerns raised in Brussels. Page 9
- 2 Latest on substitute pay issues. Page 10
- 3 #NoMorePlasticPaddy campaign. Page 20
- 4 INTO at European Court on pay equality. Page 10

- 5 School tour ideas. From page 31
- 6 Teachers' Musical Society are staging Evita. Page 27
- 7 LGBT+ inclusive books for World Book Day. Page 54

- 8 INTO Learning summer programme. Page 14
- 9 Social and communication skills for pupils with ASDs. Page 48
- 10 INTO/AnPost Scéal Eile competition. Page 29

« The Irish National Teachers' Organisation ... who's who, what's new, and what's happening »

Members raise Brexit concerns

On 20 February 2019, the INTO President, Joe Killeen and the INTO Northern Ireland Chair, Paddy McAllister, met with senior parliamentarians and stakeholders in Brussels to raise members' concerns on a no-deal Brexit. Among the concerns they raised were:

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

Currently, a teacher who has obtained qualified teacher status in an European Union (EU) member state in compliance with EU Directives is eligible to be registered in another member state subject to certain conditions. It remains to be seen how this mutual recognition will be facilitated should the United Kingdom

depart the EU without a deal.

Crossing the border

INTO is aware of teachers who cross the border every day to take up teaching roles in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In a recent freedom of information request to the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI), the INTO discovered that their current list contains members who list their address as being in the Republic of Ireland.

Supply crisis

Schools in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland continue to notify the INTO of their ongoing struggle to secure substitute teachers. At such a critical time

for staffing these positions, it's imperative that additional barriers not be created which will only affect schools' ability to provide quality teachers day in, day out.

INTO's response

INTO President, Joe Killeen said, "With the increasingly haphazard approach being taken to Brexit by the UK Government, and the very real possibility that the UK might depart the EU without a deal, our members deserve guarantees that their jobs will be protected. Whether training in one jurisdiction and working in another, or commuting across the border daily, we are concerned that teachers are being overlooked. Today in Brussels, we have taken our concerns to senior decision makers and MEPs."

The INTOs Northern Ireland Chair, Paddy McAllister said, "As a trade union that operates across the island of Ireland, we are concerned that a no-deal Brexit would leave some of our members without protection. Those members crossing the border each day to teach in schools in both jurisdictions, play a critical role in our society and deserve clarity on their roles. In meetings with senior voices in Brussels today we have demanded that teachers receive this clarity from both the UK and Dublin governments."



David Geary, INTO Head of Communications;
Emer Deane, Brexit Lead Staffer at the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, Paddy McAllister, INTO Northern Ireland Chair, Joe Killeen, INTO President



School Completion Programme

The INTO recently met with principals and school representatives to explore the experiences of schools in relation to the School Completion Programme. Meetings were held in Cork, Donegal, Dublin and Galway.

Pictured left are attendees from the Cork meeting with John Driscoll, INTO CEC District 12.

Pay Equality: Fight Goes on Despite European Court Ruling

The INTO fundamentally disagreed with the judgement of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in its recent case, but won't be stopped in pursuit of pay equality.

The INTO supported members Tomás Horgan and Claire Keegan in their claim before the European Court of Justice seeking redress, on age discrimination grounds, for the unilateral decision of the government to cut new entrant pay. Questions were referred to the ECJ from the Irish Labour Court, following previous hearings.

The claim to the Labour Court is that the 10 per cent salary cut and scale reversion imposed on new entrant teachers, such as the claimants, from January 2011, represents indirect discrimination on age grounds.

New entrant = young teacher

The state's own statistics show that well over 70 per cent of new entrants to primary teaching in 2011 were 25 years of age or under. To impose a salary cut on these entrants means in reality that younger teachers were paid less than older teachers had been, a disadvantage which across the career could result in a substantial differential in career earnings.



The response of the ECJ to the questions posed to it by the Irish Labour Court is a bitter disappointment. The Court chose not to hold an oral hearing where Tomás and Claire could have set out their specific case and been represented.

Court finding and INTO response

In its ruling of 14 February, the ECJ stated that the date of recruitment was the key factor in determining starting pay and that this was a "neutral factor, manifestly

unconnected" to age. The change had not therefore constituted indirect discrimination on age grounds.

INTO views this finding as narrow and not having regard to the reality that most teachers are of a particular age on recruitment. This European ruling now goes before the Labour Court. INTO continues to pursue the remaining aspects of pay equality and the CEC acknowledges the contribution of Tomás Horgan and Claire Keegan to this battle over many years.

Substitute pay

INTO is aware that a number of substitute members were affected by a technical problem in the Department of Education and Skills (DES), arising from the PAYE modernisation project. We understand from the DES that some substitutes were "ceased" by the DES payroll and this resulted in them being overtaxed. INTO contacted the DES seeking clarifications for our members, and assurances that the matter would be resolved quickly.

INTO acknowledges the size and complexity of the DES payroll, but this should not have happened. The teachers



involved are among our most vulnerable members, who are dependent on casual work, and who are ensuring that there are qualified teachers in classrooms

when teachers are absent.

The INTO contacted the DES ahead of payday on Thursday, 21 February. They advised that, for most teachers affected, the issue has been solved and refunds have been issued. However, there are some teachers who will have an unrelated tax issue, perhaps arising from dual employment. These teachers should contact Revenue directly to ensure the correct allocation of their tax credits. People in

receipt of maternity or illness benefit may also be in this situation and should contact Revenue directly if they have a taxation issue.

Vere Foster Exhibition Opened at INTO Head Office

Vere Foster was INTO's founding president and a noted philanthropist in nineteenth-century Ireland. Subject of at least three biographical works, the 200th anniversary of Foster's birth occurs in April 2019.

Varied memorabilia

An exhibit of Vere Foster memorabilia has recently been opened in the reception area of INTO head office (Vere Foster House) in Dublin. This was made possible mainly through the work of retired INTO member Bart Bambury in collecting Foster memorabilia over the years. The display represents a selection of what has been assembled but it is broadly representative of Vere Foster's life and involvement in education.

Included are both handwriting and drawing copybooks for use in schools (Vere Foster published almost 200 separate copybook titles), a 'hat' inkwell of a type he had produced specifically for schoolchildren, a book written by Foster, a letter to his niece in the year of his death, and a prize certificate for the schools' handwriting competitions which he organised.

Thanks from Ennis Teachers' Association

INTO has added to the display a number of biographies and a copy of the Vere



INTO Deputy General Secretary/General Treasurer Noel Ward, Bart Bambury, General Secretary Sheila Nunan and President Joe Killeen at the opening of the Vere Foster Exhibition.

Foster medal, which is presented annually to outstanding students in teacher education institutions. Included in one of the biographies is a letter from Ennis National Teachers' Association to Foster in gratitude for his work in improving school

buildings. The letter (of 1872) is signed by, among others, the GAA founder-member Michael Cusack. Cusack was then principal teacher of Lough Cutra NS, where current INTO President Joe Killeen is now principal.

District 6 officers honoured



Presentation by Joe Killeen, INTO President 2018/19; to Michael Gallagher, PDC; and Paddy Forde, District Treasurer and National Accounts Committee; from District 6 on their retirement having each served for over 22 years on District



INTO Summer Programme 2019

Scoil Samhraidh An Ghaeilge: *Cumarsáid, Comhluadar & Craic 2019*

The Scoil Samhraidh An Ghaeilge: Cumarsáid, Comhluadar & Craic set in the stunning environs of Dun Chaoin will run from Monday, 1 to Friday, 5 July. This summer school caters for all levels of Gaeilge competency and uses fun, creative, communicative approaches to language enhancement. The programme includes a day boat trip to the Blasket Islands as well as organised evening entertainment. Previous participants in this course have shared the following feedback.

"Tá an cúrsa in mholta cheanna féin mar tá éagsúlacht ábhair gach lá

agus bíonn deis iontach ag gach múinteoir cumarsáid & comhrá a dhéanamh."

"Is cúrsa fé leith an chúrsa seo. Tá ard chaighdeán ag baint leis. Tugann na teagascóirí grá agus meas don Ghaeilge do na múinteoirí. Togha!"

"Díreach mar atá.. bhí an amhránaíocht ar fheabhas... bhí na teagascóirí thar bhar ar fad... fair play dóibh ... beidh mé ar ais!!!"

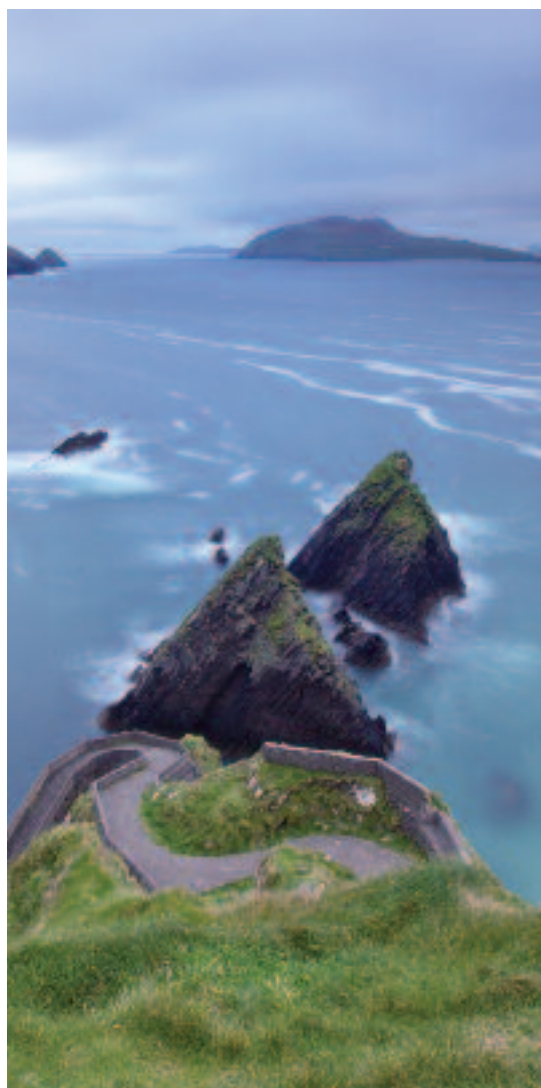
The course will be open for bookings from the end of April.

Reduced programme for 2019

INTO Learning is running a smaller summer programme this year. The programme will consist of eight INTO Learning online courses and one Scoil Samhraidh.

The online courses will run for a three week period from Monday, 1 July to Monday, July 22.

This reduced programme will afford INTO Learning the capacity to offer members an enhanced Autumn Programme of short courses and stand alone modules.



Member survey on reproductive health related matters

Since the introduction of the new sick leave scheme that reduced the number of self-certified sick leave days, the INTO Equality Committee has noted a growing number of motions to INTO Congresses from members experiencing difficulties managing reproductive health related matters that fall outside our sick leave and pregnancy related sick leave schemes.

Therefore, the Committee established a small sub-committee to discuss such

difficulties and draft a member survey to gather evidence of how members and their partners/spouses are managing such difficulties and how they might be better supported.

This survey was sent out to all members with an email address on our membership database before the February mid-term with a return date of Monday, 11 March. If you received this survey and have not yet returned it, we would ask that you would

return it as soon as possible.

The CEC has submitted a motion to INTO Congress 2019 seeking a Reproductive Health Related Leave Scheme for teachers. It is intended that the evidence garnered in this member survey will inform the motion, should it be debated at Congress. To enable members engage with the issues arising from this survey, the Equality Committee will hold a lunchtime event at Congress in Galway.

Special Education Conference

The INTO's Special Education Conference will take place in Cork on Saturday, 9 March. The theme of the conference is 'Inclusion – a continuum of support' and delegates will have the opportunity to discuss developments in supports of special education and the challenges for the future.

Keynote speakers

The keynote speakers for the conference will be Finn Ó Murchú, Head of School (post-primary), in the Thurles Campus of Mary Immaculate College, and Katherine O'Leary, a passionate activist for the rights, independence, dignity and equality of people with disabilities, who teaches home economics to pupils with intellectual disabilities in Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Ballincollig.

Conference app

Delegates to the special education conference should download the INTO conference app. The app will allow delegates to view the conference agenda, find their way to the conference venue, view press releases and speeches, connect with friends and receive reminders of key events and news alerts during the event. The app is available to download free for both Apple and Android devices.



Keynote speakers Finn Ó Murchú and Katherine O'Leary

Minister meets with District 3

The Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh, attended District 3's recent meeting of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation in Harvey's Point, Donegal Town. District 3 were honoured to have current INTO President, Joe Killeen, and newly appointed General Secretary designate, John Boyle – a proud Donegal man, in attendance with Minister McHugh. Delegates to District include primary teachers from both Donegal and Leitrim, as well as local National Committee representatives.



L-R: INTO President Joe Killeen, INTO General Secretary Designate John Boyle, Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh, District 3 Equality Committee Representative Doreen Sheridan Kennedy.

Delegates to District 3 with Minister Joe McHugh, General Secretary Designate John Boyle and President Joe Killeen



INTO 150 celebrations

To commemorate INTO 150, a range of events was organised throughout the country during 2018

Dundrum branch



Back row left to right: Mairéad Sheehy, Maria O'Donoghue, Patrick Carroll, Seán Hennessey, Marian Anderson, Sylvia White, Eimhin O'Meara, Katie Ryan, Jennifer Kileen, Margaret O'Brien, Sinéad Ryan and Helen O'Brien.
Front row left to right: Anne Dalton, Olivia Ryan, Kevin Moran, Donnacha Ó Duibhir, Kevin O'Reilly.

Dublin South branch

Dublin South County Branch hosted an event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the INTO. All retired members who taught in South Dublin were invited to an event in UCD on 23 November 2018. The centre piece of the event was a guided

tour of the National Folklore Collection in the Arts department. A fitting conclusion to the event was the presentation of the *Kindling the Flame* book which documents the 150 years of the INTO to the retirees. All the retired teachers in attendance

really appreciated this gift and that the branch chose to acknowledge their past commitments to the union.



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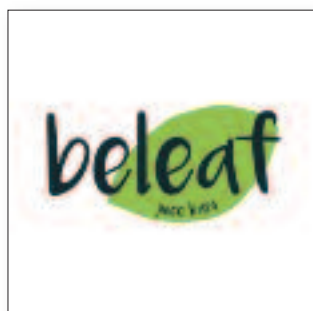
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#NoMorePlasticPaddy

Irish Primary Schools are taking local and effective green action during the run-up to St Patrick's Day 2019 by introducing school policies to end unnecessary single-use plastics.

Classes can watch short videos such as 'Single Use Plastics' on this link: <https://bit.ly/2SfLFyp>

Following class based 'NoMorePlasticPaddy' discussions and creative work such as drawing pictures, making posters or composing poems, schools are encouraged to bring in policies to phase out, or minimise, unnecessary single-use plastics in the school. Upload a photo of your class/school actions on Friday, 15 March to social media using #NoMorePlasticPaddy as part of a national campaign. Let's make this a

unique primary school action for the entire country and join the international movement against single use plastics!

Global Citizenship School asks you to check out the #NoMorePlasticPaddy poster in this month's *InTouch* for more details on how real, local, primary-school-appropriate and effective actions can be taken, and how children, school staffs and wider communities can be inspired to become better neighbours and genuine global citizens of our troubled planet. *InTouch* will publish some of the uploaded photos in a future edition and watch out for updates on the lead up to this day of action on the INTO e-newsletter and social media accounts.



Primary pupils call for climate action



"What do we want? Climate action. When do we want it? Now."

This was the chant of hundreds of primary pupils as they "demonstrated" outside the Dáil on the morning of Wednesday, 13 February. The event was organised by sixth-class students from Donabate/Portrane Educate Together, Co Dublin with support from their teachers. Along with the pupils from other schools in Co. Dublin like Balbriggan ETNS and Our Lady of Consolation in Donnycarney they chanted and made their own individual opinions known in short megaphone speeches to the crowd. They waved their

hand-made banners, with the slogans 'There's no Planet B' and 'Save our Planet'.

Many politicians from Dáil Éireann came out to support the demo. Climate protection campaigner Duncan Stewart also addressed the gathering, congratulating them on their action and concern for the future of the planet. One of the organisers, INTO member, Jenny Stanley from Donabate/Portrane ETNS said that the children were inspired by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and the thousands of other children across Europe who had demonstrated earlier in the month about the lack of action by

governments across the world. She told reporters that "what they really want is for the Government to take climate action seriously and change their policies around climate change".

INTO and the Global Citizenship School attended the event to show genuine support for the actions of the pupils and their teachers in highlighting the serious need for action on sustainable development goal 13. We encourage all schools to see how they can take part in climate protection and join the Global Citizenship School sponsored #NoMorePlasticPaddy action for 15 March.

Child Protection Safeguarding Inspections

On 21 January 2019 Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, wrote to all principals and chairpersons of boards of management advising that Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh TD, had approved the commencement of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections in schools with effect from 1 February 2019. The Inspectorate also issued *A Guide to Child*

Protection and Safeguarding Inspections – 7 January 2019 outlining the 10 checks and over 60 sub-checks.

In response to the Chief Inspector's letter, Sheila Nunan, General Secretary issued a press release calling the new child protection inspection model unnecessarily bureaucratic. The INTO

reiterated its concerns on behalf of principals and teachers in that these proposed inspections by the DES are due to take place in a vacuum of adequate training and supports for school personnel, including the complete absence of any whole-school face-to-face training. The INTO continues to engage with the DES on this matter.

Re-vetting of registered teachers who hold the Central Garda Vetting Unit Letter

In early March the Teaching Council contacted over 4000 teachers whose registration date is July 2019 to invite them to re-apply for a new National Vetting Bureau disclosure via the online system. Teachers who receive a re-vetting notice are advised to complete both stages of the vetting application process within the timeframe given. If a teacher does not complete the vetting process,

they will not be able to renew registration and will lapse from the register which means they cannot receive a state-funded salary. Teachers are advised to wait until they are contacted by the Teaching Council and requested to apply for re-vetting. However, any teacher who holds a GCVU vetting letter and requires a vetting disclosure for the purpose of changing school/employer in the

foreseeable future should apply for a vetting disclosure in the normal manner as per *Circular 0031/2016*. These typically are teachers who intend to sub on career break, job-share in another school etc.

Registered teachers can check their vetting status by logging on to the My Registration section of the Teaching Council website www.teachingcouncil.ie.

Vere Foster medal winners


Pictured is Louise Gillespie; Maeve McCafferty, INTO Official; Ann Lundie and Rev Prof Anne Lodge, Director, The Church of Ireland Centre, DCU; at the presentation of Vere Foster medals to two outstanding CICE legacy BEd graduates.



Vere Foster Medal

The INTO Congress of 1996, held in Belfast decided to organise a suitable memorial as a tribute to the memory of Vere Foster. Captain McCune-Reid, President of the INTO at the time, acted as secretary to the committee which undertook this task. He prepared and published an interesting and informative account of Foster's life and work.

The memorial takes the form of a Vere Foster medal, and is generally awarded by the INTO, to the student obtaining the highest mark in Teaching Practice and/or Curriculum areas of Education.



Sending Glass, Gold Plated, 38mm Diameter


Vere Foster 1819 – 1900

First President of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation

Vere Foster was born in Copenhagen of an Irish-born father. He worked in the UK diplomatic Corps but left to help the victims of the great Famine on his brother's estate in Acker, Co. Louth.

Concerned by reports of the terrible conditions for those using emigrant ships, Foster campaigned in the USA and Britain for improved conditions for passengers. He helped to found and became the first President of the INTO, travelling throughout the country campaigning for the maintenance and improvement of national schools.

Foster is also known for the popular 'Vere Foster National School Writing Books'. He died in Belfast on 21 December 1900.



School libraries survey

University College Dublin, in collaboration with Children's Book Ireland (CBI) and School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI) are conducting a country-wide survey about school libraries.

Given the limited data that currently exists on school libraries, they are looking for help from schools and teachers to build a complete picture of the level of provision of school libraries in Ireland. They want to know the answers to questions such as; how many schools have a school library? What kinds of materials are available? And what would schools like to achieve with the school library? The survey takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete and you can find it at <https://bit.ly/2E5seTX>.

Milk jingle winners

The Moo Crew School Milk Jingle competition, now in its second year, was created to raise awareness of the benefits of the School Milk Scheme.

National schools participating the School Milk Scheme were invited to write a poem, jingle, song or limerick about why they love school milk. The prize for the best jingle was free school milk for the 2019/20 school year for all pupils in the school, a Moo Crew Dairy Day in the school and a sports equipment voucher valued at €1,000. The seven finalist won a sports equipment voucher valued at €500 each.

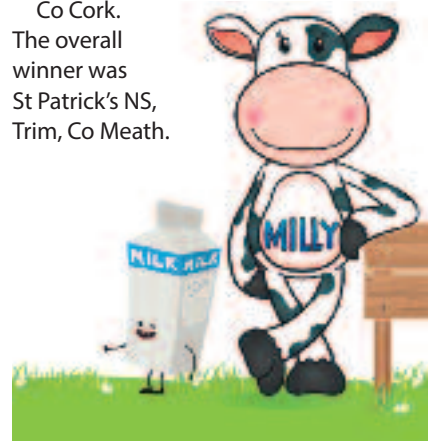
The finalist schools were:

- Tullyallen NS, Drogheda, Co Louth.
- Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Tyrellstown, Baile Átha Cliath 15.
- Portlaw NS, Portlaw, Waterford.
- Bernadette's Senior NS, Clondalkin, Co

Dublin.

- Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Carlow.
- Dublin South City ETNS, Dublin 8.
- St Patrick's National School in Trim, Co Meath.
- Togher National School in Dunmanway, Co Cork.

The overall winner was St Patrick's NS, Trim, Co Meath.



Dolly Parton gifts books to children in Tallaght



Dolly Parton's charity, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) works with local partners to gift books to young children across the world and is now making new books available free to all children aged 0–5 living in Dublin 24.

Launching the project, Dolly Parton said "You can never get enough books into the hands of young children. I know there are children in Ireland with their own dreams – the dream of becoming a doctor, an inventor, or a teacher. Who knows, maybe a writer, or singer. The seeds of these dreams can often be found

in books and the seeds planted in a community can grow across the world."

Parents can register their children at the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) website at <https://bit.ly/2XhILx6>. Once signed up, the child will receive a free high-quality book to keep every month until they are five. It is available to all children in each household and siblings will get different age-appropriate books. If successful, CDI will look to expand the project beyond Dublin 24.

Retirements

Pictures from branch and district functions to honour retiring members



Mallow

Back row left to right: Caitríona McCarthy, Branch Secretary; Mary O'Sullivan, Reena O'Sullivan, Susan O'Keeffe, Pat O'Sullivan, Branch Chairperson; Joe Killeen, INTO President; John Kelly, Hannah Twomey, Anne Dennehy, Sheila Crowley, Margaret Geary.
Front row left to right: Anne Maria Bourke, Mary O'Brien, Mary Magner, CEC Rep; Eileen Bourke, Sheila Collins.

Tipperary Town

Back row left to right: Elaine Hennessy, Dorothy Coughlan, Yvonne Enright, Brendan Horan, CEC Rep; Liz Hyland, Mary Devlin, Pat Enright, and Roisin Power Reilly, Branch Secretary.
Front row left to right: Noreen Higgins, Branch Chairperson; Mary Carr and Margaret Baileys.



Kells

Back row left to right: Liam Thorpe, Pamela Strong, Mary Monnelly and Bríd McGowan. Front row left to right: Maureen Fanning, Ann Collins, Carmel O'Brien and Carmel Browne, CEC Rep.
Missing from photograph: Patricia McCabe, Deirdre O'Boyle and Elizabeth Smith.



Aileach

Back row left to right: Aine McGinley, CEC Rep; Joe Killeen, INTO President; Roisin Walsh, Chairperson; and Kevin Doherty, Secretary. Front row left to right: Pauline Edwards, James Doherty, former treasurer of District 3; and Marie Gill.

Conditions of Employment Section

The Conditions of Employment (CoE) section is led by Deirdre O'Connor, Assistant General Secretary, supported by an experienced and dedicated team in dealing with queries on a wide range of topics including maternity leave, sick leave, panel and staffing, salary, and pensions.

The primary activity in Conditions of Employment is the representation and support of members with their terms and conditions of employment, either negotiated with the DES or through legislation. Advice and assistance is provided to individual members through the INTO Queryline, the INTO website, social media and other INTO communication channels. Conditions of Employment also oversees the operation of the approved financial benefits for members, such as the Salary Protection Scheme and health insurance comparison service.

Two national committees are supported by staff in CoE, the Equality Committee and the Principals & Deputy Principals Committee. Up to six retirement planning seminars are held annually, and participation in other INTO seminars are run and/or supported by staff from CoE. Lastly, all the INTO Global Solidarity work is co-ordinated from within Conditions of Employment.

INTO Queryline

The INTO telephone Queryline had been dealing with an average of between 325 and 375 new-query phone calls per week in addition to email queries. From September 2018, the section implemented a new policy, whereby all emails received to Conditions of Employment are recorded through the query management system. While this has led to an increase in query totals from that date to the end of 2018, this change means that the true level of queries coming to CoE will be captured into the future. That said, in the first eight months of 2018 alone, the Queryline experienced a 12% increase in phone-call queries compared to the same period in 2017, from 9,455 to 10,565. January was the busiest month of 2018, with 1,997 calls received, including 509 queries relating to job sharing and career break, both of which schemes have a 1 February deadline. The Queryline saw a 43% rise in job share queries from January to August 2018 compared with the same period in



Front row (left to right): Eimear Allen, Deirdre O'Connor, John O'Brien and Niamh Cooper.
Back row (left to right): Ashling Lynch, Rachel Dowd, Sheila Murphy, Aoife Mullen and Eileen O'Donnell.

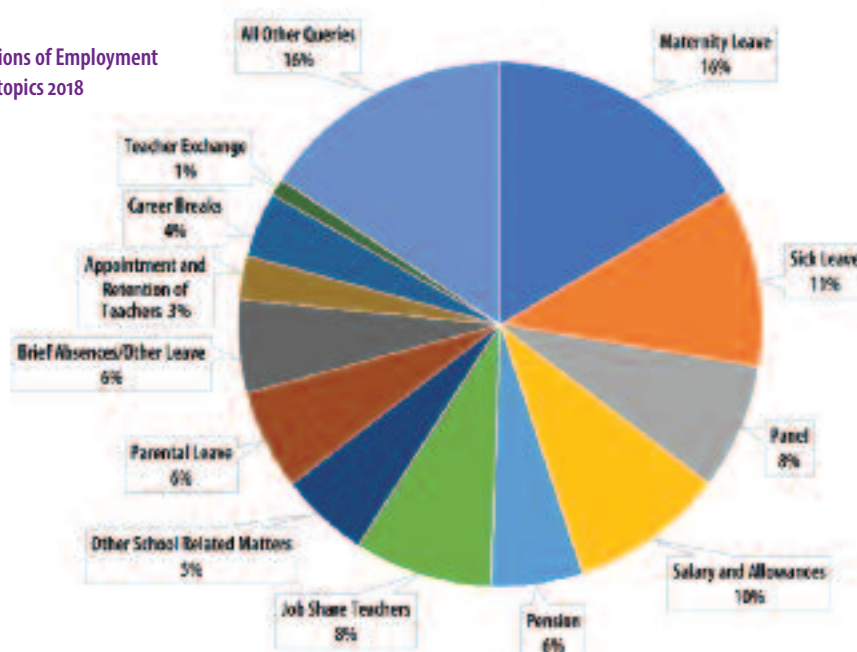
2015 (612 queries in 2015, compared to 875 in 2018), which is mirrored by the increased uptake of job sharing in primary schools. Maternity leave still remains the topic with the largest volume of queries annually, followed closely by sick leave and salary/allowances (see graph).

Commitment to members

The Conditions of Employment team is dedicated to giving the best service possible to all members and will

endeavour to respond to all members' queries as speedily as possible and usually within 24 hours of receiving the query. On occasion, however, and in particular when experiencing a spike in the number of incoming queries, some members may experience a delay in getting an initial response. Please be assured all queries are logged on the Queryline system and every member will receive, at least, three call backs, to ensure every effort is made to make contact.

Conditions of Employment query topics 2018



The Teachers' Musical Society's new show ...

After the success of last year's production of the hysterical and fabulous *The Producers*, the Teachers' Musical Society have decided to go in a completely different direction with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's classic *Evita*. The show opens on Tuesday, 2 April and runs nightly until Saturday, 6 April. Teachers' MS are delighted to be back once again in St Patrick's College where they staged their first show in 2000 and they cannot wait to stage this iconic musical.

Evita charts the young and ambitious Eva Peron's meteoric rise to sainthood. Set in Argentina between 1934-1952, the Tony-winning musical follows Eva Duarte on her journey from poor illegitimate child to ambitious actress to, as wife of military leader-turned-president Juan Peron, the most powerful woman in Latin America, before her death from cancer at age 33. The events in Evita's life are presented in song and commented on by the show's narrator, Che. Well-known numbers from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece include 'Don't Cry for Me Argentina', 'Oh What a Circus', 'Buenos Aires' and 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall'.

The Teachers' Musical Society feel privileged to be staging this show in 2019 – as it would have been Eva Peron's 100th birthday on 3 May.

The cast of the Teachers' Musical Society is made up primarily of primary and secondary teachers and, over time, the group has grown into one of the leading musical societies in Ireland. It has won numerous awards at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera as well as from the Association of Irish Musical Societies (AIMS). TMS is delighted



to have an award-winning production team this year – Pat McElwain, Director; Dermot O'Callaghan, Musical Director; and Serena Salmon, Choreographer – all of whom are very familiar faces to the TMS.

The society is now 19 years in existence and has established itself as one of the leading musical societies in the country. Their most recent production, *The Producers* was very successful and was nominated at AIMS for Best Chorus, Best Comedian and Best Stage Manager – winning each of these categories on the night! The 2017 production of *Sweeney Todd* saw nominations for Best Actor and Actress, Best Musical Director and Best Overall Show with TMS winning in the

Best Actress and Best Musical Director categories. The Teachers' Musical Society has also been nominated and won many other AIMS awards for the productions of *Michael Collins – a Musical Drama*, *All Shook Up* and *42nd Street*.

Evita opens with a preview night on Tuesday, 2 April and runs nightly at 8pm until Saturday, 6 April in DCU St Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Tickets are €17 opening night and €20 all other nights. For tickets log on to www.eventbrite.ie or email teachers.ms@gmail.com

For more information follow us on Facebook: Teachers' Musical Society
Instagram: [teachersmusical](https://www.instagram.com/teachersmusical)
Twitter: [@Teachers_MS](https://twitter.com/Teachers_MS)



Photographer:
Rob Kennedy,
Makeup: Ali
Murphy,
Costumes:
Andrew Reddy,
Poster Design:
Alan Duffy.

Ready, steady... grow! The 'Incredible Edibles'

Agri Aware, the Irish agri-food educational body have this week launched their healthy eating programme Incredible Edibles with the help of the Minister of State for Health Promotion, Catherine Byrne TD.

The project aims to educate and empower children with knowledge of the full farm to fork journey with schools receiving a free kit containing all the must-have tools to start their very own school garden.

The importance of empowering students through food education has never been of more paramount with recent figures from Safe Food indicating that one in four children are obese or overweight.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Byrne said, "The Incredible Edibles programme brings the important subject of healthy eating into the classroom in a practical and enjoyable way, teaching children about food and nutrition and showing them how to grow and enjoy their own fruit and vegetables."

The Incredible Edibles programme builds on this objective and is a great way of nurturing a child's interest in what they



Pictured left to right: Niamh Arthurs, Jeni Meade, Una Sheahan, Alma Quinn, Deirdre O'Shea, Ms Conaty and John Boyle, INTO General Secretary Designate; with second class pupils from St Louise De Marillac Primary School, Ballyfermot, Dublin.

eat and what it means to have a healthy, balanced diet.

Teachers guide their students through five curriculum-linked interactive tasks to complete throughout the academic year. These tasks are designed to connect students with their new gardens and the healthy food that they are producing.

The project now in its eleventh year will see over 1,500 primary schools across Ireland learn to grow, sow and cook a whole host of seasonal Irish fruit, vegetables and herbs.

Registration is now open for the 2019 Incredible Edibles project. Visit www.incredibleedibles.ie to register today!



Love books?

This year, the **AN POST** and **INTO** writing competition for schools focuses on our love of books. It's called **Scéal Eile** and, as the name suggests, it's all about taking a familiar story and putting a new spin on it.

Great Prizes To Be Won!

There's incredible regional and national prizes to be won for principals, teachers and students, including an award ceremony in the iconic GPO and a literary workshop for your class with a well-known Irish writer, so make sure to get your class involved!

Find Out More!

Watch out for information packs landing in your schools straight after Mid-Term Break. The **Scéal Eile** competition opens on Monday February 25th and the closing date for entries is Tuesday 19th March.

Forbairt leadership programme

Forbairt is a programme for a school leadership team, comprising of the principal, deputy principal and one teacher leader*. It is constructed on an action learning model and is designed to support school leaders to develop their own leadership capacity and explore leadership in their own school context.

Between September 2019 and May 2020, the programme will consist of an Introductory session for all three leaders, two residentials (two-day) for the principal and deputy, two professional development days for teacher leaders, two single professional development days for the principal and deputy, two Action Learning Community Meetings for all three leaders, a school visit from a

PDST Advisor (optional) and a final showcase event for all three leaders.

In addition to this, school teams are clustered together regionally. These clusters meet on two occasions in an Action Learning Community model (ALC). In this way, schools are exposed to perspectives and insights into how other schools achieve different solutions towards enhancing learning for pupils. The ALC meeting provides a safe environment to ask questions, seek answers, gain support and develop thinking.

An action learning project is a key component of the Forbairt programme and provides a framework for school leaders to plan for and enhance teaching

and learning in their school.

This programme provides a unique professional development opportunity for the principal, deputy principal and a teacher leader to work together as a senior leadership team.

*Teacher leader need not necessarily be a post holder. Smaller schools without a teacher leader are not precluded from applying for the programme.

Applications can be made through the following url. <https://bit.ly/2SgLyCX>



Mellon Educate Teaching Blitz

The Mellon Educate Teaching Blitz enters its third year and we are looking for enthusiastic teachers to join us in mentoring, modelling and supporting our South African colleagues this July. The aim of the blitz is to help improve the education for some of the world's poorest children. Here, volunteer Denise Dunne shares her experience;

Last summer I spent two weeks volunteering in the township of Khayelitsha, Capetown, South Africa with Mellon Educate. It was an incredible experience and one I'll always cherish. I would definitely recommend it to any teacher.

I volunteered in Sobambisana PS with 1200 children. Class sizes were about 50 children to a class. During the school day I worked with grade three modelling good teaching practices. I taught lessons in all subjects and towards the end of the two weeks we arranged a sports day for all classes.

Our teacher workshops after school focused mainly on teaching literacy, positive behaviour management and teacher wellbeing. These were areas that the teachers themselves felt they needed advice and to improve on.

It's honestly very hard to put into words

what an incredible experience it was. Over the two weeks not only did we teach the children, we played with them, hugged them, laughed with them and we cried for them. These children despite all the hardship in their lives were such a joy to be around. They never complain and boy do they love to sing and dance! I learned so much about life from them and I feel I took away just as much from having met them as they did us!

Read more about Denise's experience on her blog; <https://bit.ly/2Vc16tC>

If you are interested in joining us this year, please see <https://bit.ly/2Sk9lC9>.



Farm safety tips for your school visit

If you are planning a visit to a local farm this year use it as an opportunity to bring the ever important message of farm safety from your classroom to the home.



Left to right: Eamon Delany, Graham Minogue, Head of Agri, Zurich Insurance and Alma Jordan, Founder AgriKids.

Before the visit

Find out exactly what your class already knows about the topic of farm safety:

- What dangers could there be on a farm and how can we keep safe?
- Create a 'farm safety checklist' and encourage the children to create the checklist items.
- If it is an older class, nominate two or more children to be 'safety officers' on the day and work with them to create and sustain safety awareness and practice.

During the visit

- Use worksheets that ask the children to identify certain items on the farm.
- Ask the guide or farmer to talk about the animals on the farm and to

mentions common traits and behaviours that indicate how that animal is feeling – aggressive, passive, scared or inquisitive.

- Talk about zoonoses and discuss the importance of handwashing during the visit and before the children have lunch or eat snacks.

After the visit

- Download the classroom activities on agrikids.ie such as the 'spot the dangers' or 'animal behaviour' worksheets to test what safety tips the children have learnt and can now identify.
- For children living in rural areas, as part of their homework ask them to list three farm safety tips that they will follow when they next visit a farm. Eg.

only go with an adult, keep back from machinery and wearing hi-vis clothing.

As well as the safety aspect you can also talk about:

- what animals will be on the farm;
- why these animals are important on farms;
- what enterprises are typical on a farm, eg. dairy, cereals, vegetables and meat.

Useful sites to visit

www.agrikids.ie
www.agriaware.ie
www.zoonoses.ie

ALMA JORDAN, Founder AgriKids.

AgriKids is a farm safety educational platform for children.

Subject
SPHE

Strand
Myself

Strand Unit
Safety and protection.

School Tour Top Tips

School tour season is almost upon us and we've put together a short guide to making your trip enjoyable for both pupils and staff.

Book early: To avoid disappointment, an early booking is essential. Once you have this completed, you can then focus on other practicalities.

Plenty of notice: Sufficient notice of the tour allows all involved to plan ahead and be ready for the big day.

Permission slips: Each pupil should receive a consent form to be completed and returned to school. This should be retained in-line with your school's data retention policy.

Safety first: As with all activities, safety is paramount. A first aid kit available to hand can take care of any minor accidents.

Class list: Your class list can be a quick way to take roll call, so make

sure you bring it along, but it is also worth including contact numbers and addresses of pupils' parents or guardians.

Pupil to teacher ratio: The number of adults accompanying your class should be decided at a local level, adequate for the age and size of the class and any special educational needs.

Dress wisely: While a sunny day is always preferred, ensure all involved have outfits fit for purpose, for any possible showers that may blow your way.

Packed lunch: Suitable food and drinks are key to ensure that everybody can keep up with the adventures of the day.

Have fun: Although school tours can at times be a little extra work, remember, they are for all to enjoy, both pupils and staff.



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Excitement for the Cornmarket Cumann na mBunscol Award



Many teachers will look forward to attending this year's Cornmarket Cumann na mBunscol awards which will take place on Friday, 8 March in the Sligo Park Hotel.

"The Cornmarket Cumann na mBunscol Awards are an opportunity to showcase the amazing variety and quality of work that teachers across the country do in promoting Gaelic Games", says Bernadette Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Cumann na mBunscol.

Bernadette will have mixed emotions as she retires from Coiste Náisiúnta after five years as Cathaoirleach and a decade in total on National Committee. Being the principal of Holy Family NS in Tubbercurry, she believes that this

year's awards are the best ever in terms of variety and quality of entries. "INTO generously sponsored a category highlighting the contribution INTO members have made to Cumann na mBunscol to mark the INTO 150 celebrations", she says. "the INTO and Cumann na mBunscol have worked harmoniously together for years".

A new award this year is the 'Cur chun chinn na Gaeilge' which is being presented at the ceremony to mark Bliain na Gaeilge in 2018.

The closing date for entries for the 2019 awards was Wednesday, 9 January and the adjudicators worked hard sifting through entries in the various categories.



Shortlisted projects for the Cornmarket Cumann na mBunscol Awards

Pat Trainer hall of Fame Award:

✳ announced on the night.

Public Relations:

✳ Corcaigh
✳ Áth Cliath
✳ Fear Manach
✳ Ard Mhacha
✳ Ciarraí
✳ Port Láirge

County Publication:

✳ An Mhí
✳ Corcaigh
✳ Luimneach

Promotion of Gaelic Games and Culture (schools):

✳ Herbertstown NS, Luimneach
✳ Kilcoole PS, Cill Mhantáin
✳ St Mary's Parish PS, An Lú

Cur chun cinn an Chultúir Ghaelaigh agus na gCluichí Gaelacha:

✳ Gaelscoil Na Cruaiche, Maigh Eo
✳ Gaelscoil na bhFál, Aontroim

The INTO 150th Anniversary:

✳ Kilcoole PS Cill Mhantáin: Fermanagh
✳ Cumann na mBunscol: St Joseph's NS, Ballybrown, Luimneach.

Small School of the Year:

✳ Kilbehenny NS, Luimneach
✳ Roan St Patrick's PS, Tir Eoghain
✳ St Joseph's NS, Tipperary Town, Tiobraid Arann.

Large School of the Year:

✳ Kilcoole PS, Cill Mhantáin
✳ St Teresa's NS, An Longfort
✳ Creevy NS, Dún na nGall.

A dream come true for Orla

Gerry O Meara, the co-ordinator of the INTO GAA Mini Sevens is very well known in both the INTO and Cumann na mBunscol.

Gerry recalls 'I have received many letters over the past few months recalling their great day in Croke Park. They sum up for me what the Mini Sevens means to so many people. I received this lovely letter from a young Limerick girl Órla Ryan, who played in Croke Park on 19 August on All Ireland Final Day.

"To Gerry, Thanks so much for organizing the Mini Sevens in Croke Park on All Ireland Hurling Final Day. It was beyond my wildest dreams to play for Limerick in Croke Park on the day Limerick won the All Ireland in 45 years. I will never forget the amazing day I had on the 19 August. Thanks for looking after me and especially for organizing all the photos and for sending them on to us. Up Limerick!"

JOE LYONS, PRO, Coiste Náisiúnta, Cumann na mBunscol.



Órla Ryan pictured with John Horan, GAA President

== Tips on health, wellness, travel and finance ==

Abu Dhabi

The Middle East has never been so accessible and while you may not be looking to relocate you shouldn't cross the UAE off your holiday destination list. It is the definition of opulence and extravagance and home to some of the world's most expensive hotels and architecture projects.

Abu Dhabi is the capital of the UAE and a calmer, more traditional city in comparison to the frenetic, high life of Dubai. Yes, there are incredible resorts and you don't have to stay there to experience them (afternoon tea in the Jumeriah is a must). Of course there are malls to suit every budget from the exclusive Galleria including brands like Dolce and Gabbana, Jimmy Choo and Michael Kors to more mid-range pocket pleasers like Marina and Yas malls with Pandora, Zara, Bershka, American Eagle and Bath and Body Works. But, it's not all tans and tiaras over there. There is a myriad of adventures waiting to fill your schedule so check out this must do list.

Souks

If you don't fancy shopping in the regular stores why not pay a visit to the souks.

A souk means a marketplace and dhow (ships) used to arrive from India and farther afield with goods to be offloaded and haggled over. For a more authentic feel visit the Souk Al Zaferana in Al Ain (about a 2 hour drive outside the city) which features a section exclusively for women staffed by female shoppers.

Emirates Palace

See how the other half lives at the luxury five star Emirates Palace. This golden hotel took 20k workers three years at a cost of \$3billion to complete. Where else could you get edible gold on desserts and cocktails, see a grand central dome that's 72.6m high and enjoy the calming influence of the Havana Cuban bar (voted one of the best cigar bars in the world) under one roof? The

smart casual dress code makes this a special occasion so don't arrive wearing shorts as you risk being turned away. You can stay here too with rooms starting from about €470. Buttons, am I right?

Off-road tours

One must-do experience is a desert safari. The wide range of activities on one of these off road tours has something for everyone. There are incredible dune and sunset views for the photographer in you. The thrill seeker gets dune driving, dune bashing and optional quad bike hire to exercise their adrenaline muscles. If you are craving a culture fix the Arabic tea served in a traditional desert camp under the stars complete with shisha, BBQ dinner and belly dancing show should satiate you. Plus, there are camels. All from 175dhms or about €42.

Yas Island

Yas Island has so much to offer with stunning, fun-filled beaches and adults-only beach clubs, an extensive mall and Ferrari world (entry to the Ferrari theme park for an adult ticket costs €70/295dhms). There's so much to do for all ages so a day here is well worth the splurge.

Warner Bros World

Even big kids deserve a day at a theme park and Warner Bros World in Abu Dhabi is one of the biggest indoor theme parks in the world. Cool off in the Flintstones river adventure (What's the difference between Dubai and Abu Dhabi? People in Dubai don't like The Flintstones but people in Abu Dhabi do!) or how about The Jetsons Cosmic Orbiter? Find Scooby Doo, Taz, Batman, Superman, The Justice League and more for about €70/295dhms per adult and €55/230dhms for kids.

Grand Mosque

I highly recommend visiting the Sheikh Zayed Mosque during your visit. This



incredibly impressive place of worship, is free to enter and open to visitors from 9am–10pm daily except Friday mornings when it is open just for worshippers. They have abayas (light, full length, dress garments) for women to wear in the changing rooms downstairs and men shouldn't wear shorts. The stunning art, colourful stained glass windows, cool white marble walls and spectacular columns make for a memorable visual feast.

Wadi Adventure

Wadi Adventure, (in Al Ain, situated about 1hr and 40min drive outside of Abu Dhabi) the region's only man-made white water rafting, kayaking and surf facility. Entrance fees cost about €15/65dhms for adults and €10/45dhms, for kids. This gets you entry to the pool and beach areas but add on activities like kayaking, wake boarding are extra. If you are more of a land lubber there is an airpark with an aerial obstacle course, zip lining and wall-climbing activities as well.

Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital

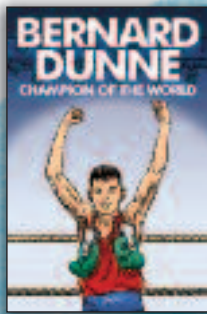
A 45min drive outside Abu Dhabi is the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital. A hospital may not be the first thing on your list when you go on holidays but this place teaches you about the cultural significance of falcons in the area and how these prized birds are cared for. Costs run €45–55 for adults, kids over 10, €16 and for kids 5–9 and under 5s are free.

You can get direct flights from Dublin to Abu Dhabi with Etihad and in about 8 hours find yourself in the sandbox playground, ready to explore.

CIARA MC NALLY teaches in Greystones, Co Wicklow. For more detailed itineraries and information check out her website www.mysuitcasediaries.org.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Shutterstock.com

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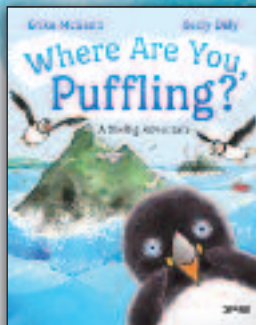
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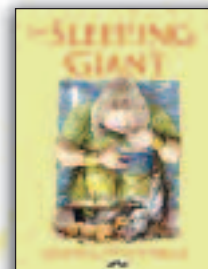
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Background illustration from *Eva and the Perfect Rain* by Tatyana Feeney

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Traditional treats

March is a busy month for us at Foodoppi HQ as we have two big food celebrations Pancake Tuesday and St Patrick's day. We love pancakes and as a nation are very fond of scones so we thought for this month we would share these recipes with you.

Salmon and spinach pancakes

This pancake recipe was given to us by Ray D'Arcy. It is his Dad's famous pancake recipe. We like it because it's light and makes super thin crêpe style pancakes. Pancakes aren't just for dessert! We choose to go against tradition and filled them with smoked salmon and spinach. Great for lunch on the go.

Ingredients

- ※ 1 ½ cups/200g plain flour
- ※ 1 large egg
- ※ 1 ½ cups/375mls whole milk
- ※ ½ cup/125mls water
- ※ Pinch of salt
- ※ 1 tablespoon of sunflower oil

Filling

- ※ 200g smoked salmon
- ※ 50g baby spinach leaves
- ※ 1 lime – juiced
- ※ 6 tablespoons crème fraîche

Method

- 1 To make the pancake mixture, sieve the flour into a bowl and add the egg. Mix together until they are like bread crumbs.

- 2 Add the milk, water, salt and oil and stir together. You should now have a lovely light batter. Leave it stand for half an hour.
- 3 Heat a medium non-stick frying pan over a high heat and then lower heat to medium. Using a piece of kitchen paper wipe the pan with some sunflower oil. Pour a ladleful of the pancake



batter into the pan and swirl to cover the base. Cook for about one min, then flip or turn over with a palette knife or fish slice. Cook for 30 seconds more, remove and place on greaseproof paper.

Repeat until you've used up all the batter, then set aside.

- 4 In a bowl mix together the lime juice and crème fraîche. Cut the smoked salmon into thin strips. Then on each pancake add stripes of smoked salmon, drizzle with crème fraîche dressing and sprinkle spinach leaves on top. Then roll up the pancake. These can be left whole or cut into bite size pieces.

Foodoppi is a creative educational platform which takes an extraordinary approach to food and STEM education that has proven to be an effective way to foster positive relationships with food while exciting children about learning and gaining STEM skills. AISLING LARKIN has a degree in Education from Trinity, spent 10 years working in a DEIS school in inner city Dublin, has a first class MSc in Food Product Design and Culinary Innovation and set up



Ireland's premier children's cookery school at the Cliff at Lyons a few years ago.

LOUISE LENNOX is a top chef and food broadcaster on TV and radio here in Ireland and has a background in nutrition and children's food media production. Aisling and Louise joined forces a few years ago and created Foodoppi.

foodoppi

Irish scones

This is one of the easiest recipes to bake. We love nothing more than treating ourselves to a warm fresh scone straight from the oven. We always make enough to share as the best way to eat scones is the same day they were made. Makes 12.

Ingredients

- ※ 455g self raising flour
- ※ 115g butter – cut into cubes
- ※ 55g caster sugar
- ※ 2 large eggs
- ※ 120mls whole milk

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C.
- 2 Put the flour, sugar and butter into a bowl. Rub together with your finger tips until they resemble breadcrumbs. You can also do this in a food processor which is much faster. Whizz for about 10 seconds.
- 3 Make a well in the middle. Crack an egg and lightly beat it. Pour it into the well and then add in the milk. Use a fork to bring the mix to a soft dough.



- 4 Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and pat down with your hand or roll out with a rolling pin. Then use a round cutter or knife to cut into 12 scones. Dab a little milk on top of each scone and place onto a baking tray.
- 5 Bake in a preheated oven for 20–25 minutes until golden brown. Then remove from the oven and allow to cool on a wire rack. Then eat with butter and jam.

Tips

- ※ There are lots of different ingredients to the basic scone recipe. Try adding in dry fruit, frozen berries or chopped apple.
- ※ You can make the scones savoury by leaving out the sugar and adding in grated cheese, chopped onions, chopped olives, pesto or cooked bacon.

Teaching matters

≡ *Articles and opinions on primary teaching, with tips and ideas for the classroom* ≡

Using maps in the classroom



"I've always been fascinated by maps and cartography. A map tells you where you've been, where you are, and where you're going — in a sense it's three tenses in one." (Film director Peter Greenaway in *Film Comment*, May/June 1990)

Maps are intriguing. Most people have, at some stage or other, spent a lot of time staring at maps. A map can tell you about several features or characteristics at once and can convey information with a few simple images and very few words.

Scoilnet continues to license Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) maps and makes them available free to schools and teachers through the maps.scoilnet.ie website. While the service was originally developed to support the post-primary geography curriculum, more and more primary teachers are now using the OSi maps to engage pupils in understanding both the natural and the human environment of their locality – the sense of place and space as prescribed in the curriculum.

The OSi Map Viewer available through Scoilnet had a re-design last year and the interface, while more modern looking, contains a number of features designed specifically for classroom use:

- A choice of six different maps, including a basic OS map, aerial maps, discovery maps, historical maps from the mid-19th and 20th centuries.
- A draw and measure tool to allow pupils to measure distances or area.

- An elevation profile tool that enables the pupil to view a profile of the elevation height along a route between two or more points.
- A swipe and spotlight widget that allows pupils to compare two maps that are stacked on top of each other.

Developing effective practice

Learning about maps and map work should be active, practical and involve regular map use. Maps can be a resource for most topics across the SESE geography curriculum and can also be used for history while the skills developed will also build numeracy adeptness – but the scope for use across the curriculum is really endless!

Mark Boggins, a teacher at Holy Family NS in Rathcoole, features in a support video created by PDST Technology in Education to show how he uses Scoilnet Maps in his classroom. In the video, the maps activity is one of five different station activities – some paper-based, some technology-based – which all support the development of mapping concepts and geographical investigation skills. The lesson integrates numeracy as well as other curricular areas, like history, English and even religion. His concluding remarks should convince other teachers about the worth of engaging with Scoilnet Maps.

"To me anything in the classroom that can draw their attention immediately is a great tool. Through experience I find the

children like using it and have asked to use it again after using it the first time."

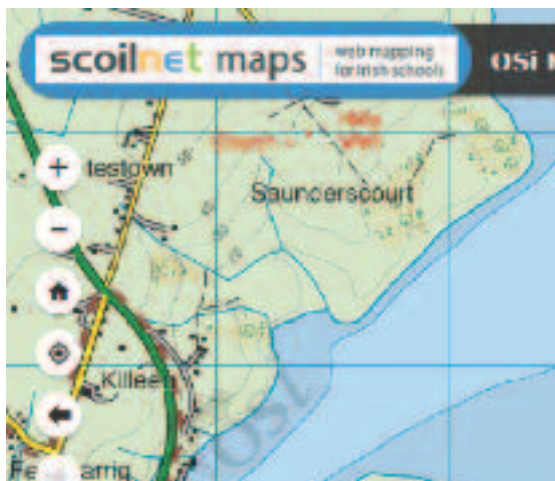
Three suggested starter activities

The maps and tools available on Scoilnet Maps can be effectively used for any class from first/second upwards so the following ideas could be adjusted accordingly:

- Zoom in to your local area (note scale) and use the map switcher to move between the OSi map and the aerial photo. What features can be seen? View the discovery map and see how local features are represented.
- Use the map switcher to compare your locality and how it has changed over time. The Cassini six inch map (1930s), The Historic six inch map (1829-1842) and both are only available when viewed at 1:10,000. How have humans altered the landscape? Use the swipe and spotlight widget at the bottom of the interface for maximum impact.
- Use the draw and measure widget measure the distance from the school to a local landmark. Compare different routes.

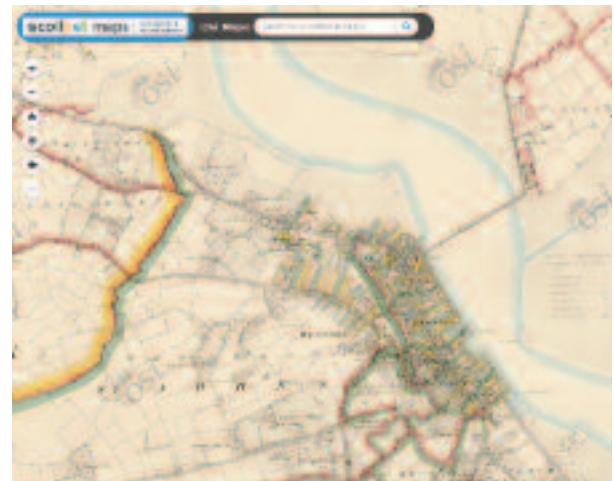
The OSi maps are openly available within the schools broadband network and teachers can access remotely by using a Scoilnet account. A teachers' zone contains lesson plans and worksheets. www.maps.scoilnet.ie

PATRICK COFFEY, PDST Technology in Education



Left: Discovery Map of Wexford town and area. Discovery maps were originally designed for tourist and leisure activities.

Right: Historical map of Wexford town dating from the 1830s.



Enhancing social and communication

A classroom perspective

Introduction

Pupils on the Autism Spectrum (AS) exhibit difficulties in social and communication skills. We, as teachers, have a responsibility to plan and implement effective social and communication interventions to enable these pupils to reach their full potential. However there is no 'one size fits all' approach to enhancing pupils' social and communication skills. Having worked as a special class teacher for six years, I will attempt to document an evidence based method to social and communication interventions which has proved effective in my teaching of pupils on the AS.

During my time as a special class teacher, I implemented Westwood's (2015) five-step approach to social skills programmes. This article will outline each of the individual steps in this model from a practical classroom perspective. The following intervention programme, along with a holistic approach to supporting pupils on the AS, is documented in greater detail in Egan (2018).

Assess to identify present levels of performance

It is important to use a variety of assessment techniques to gain a comprehensive account of pupils' social and communication skill levels. This can be achieved through the implementation of multiple assessment methods across a range of settings and informants. During my time as a special class teacher, I frequently utilised both qualitative (e.g. parent and pupil interviews) and quantitative (e.g. time-interval sampling and social skills checklists) assessment measures. The use of these techniques facilitate the identification of pupils' priority social and communication needs.

Define and target the precise skills to be taught

Multiple Smart, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed and Adjustable (SMARTA) targets need to be devised following the identification of pupils' performance levels in the priority areas of need. It is important that these goals are condensed into manageable weekly objectives for the duration of the intervention programme

Overall Target	Week of Intervention	Mini-Target
Patrick will engage in at least five reciprocal exchanges with a peer based on a single topic on two out of three break times in the week using a visual prompt	Week 1	Patrick will engage in at least three reciprocal exchanges with a peer based on a single topic on one out of three break times in the week using a visual and maximum of three verbal prompts.
	Week 2	Patrick will engage in at least four reciprocal exchanges with a peer based on a single topic on two out of three break times in the week using a visual and maximum of two verbal prompts.
	Week 3	Patrick will engage in at least five reciprocal exchanges with a peer based on a single topic on two out of three break times in the week using a visual and maximum of one verbal prompt.
	Week 4	Patrick will engage in at least five reciprocal exchanges with a peer based on a single topic on two out of three break times in the week using a visual prompt.

Fig 1 Sample breakdown of intervention targets

(see Figure 1) to increase its likelihood of success.

Plan intervention that is intensive and long-term in nature to teach the skill

One of the challenges I faced as a special class teacher was the implementation of interventions over extensive time periods due to classroom demands. However successful social interventions are generally intensive and long-term in nature with an average time frame of twelve weeks and a minimum of three weekly sessions. This is an important factor to consider when devising an intervention plan in order to maximise the opportunity for social success.

Furthermore, it is essential to select appropriate intervention strategies as part of a balanced approach between explicit teaching and opportunities for practice. Direct instruction can be facilitated through the use of individual lessons and strategies including social stories. Practice opportunities can be provided through the implementation of intervention methods such as visual scripts and social skills groups. A sample of these supports is illustrated in Figure 2 however it is important to note that these are only a selection of the many evidence-based strategies available to

develop social and communication skills for pupils on the AS. It is essential that teachers consider the pupil's unique learning profile when selecting appropriate social and communication strategies. This, in turn, enhances their potential to engage in appropriate social and communication behaviours.

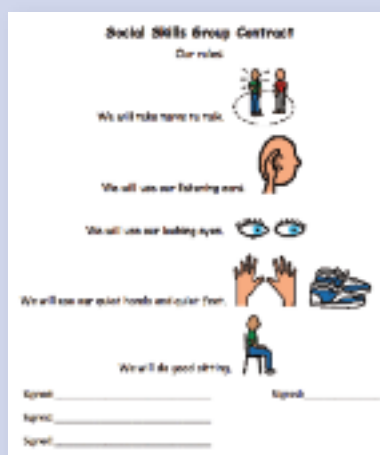
Promote maintenance and generalisation and transfer of new skills into functional daily living

Many social and communication interventions fail to account for generalisation effects. Pupils on the AS can find it very difficult to transfer learning across contexts. As a result it is imperative that we, as teachers, formulate a generalisation plan, from the outset of the intervention to its completion to promote the demonstration of target behaviour across a variety of settings. This can be achieved through the participation of relevant school personnel (special education teachers, mainstream teachers, inclusion support assistants) and classmates. In addition the involvement of parents, setting of homework and teaching of skills across natural settings further maximise generalisation effects.

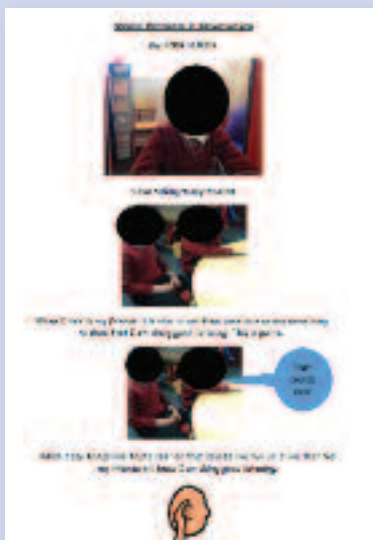
Furthermore, teachers need to plan for

skills of pupils on the autism spectrum

The use of **social skills groups** not only provides explicit teaching of social and communication skills but also offers pupils the opportunity to practice learned skills in a naturalistic setting amongst peers. Teachers need to equip pupils with the appropriate skills and necessary supports to engage in social interactions with their peers. This can be achieved through the pre-teaching of content during individual sessions before practicing target skills as part of social skills groups.



Social stories are compact, personalised stories that help pupils to read, interpret and respond to social scenarios. It is essential that these stories are individualised to the pupil and their unique learning profile. In the past, I have created stories in both print and digital format. Digital Social Stories in particular readily facilitate extensive pupil involvement at certain



stages/throughout the entire process. This may include involvement of the pupil in taking photographs of their environment, typing of stories and adding the pupil's audio to stories.

Visual scripts are textual or pictorial cues which support pupils on the AS during conversations. Scripts can range from a single word, picture or phrase, to a collection of phrases. As a result, they can be easily tailored to each pupil's unique learning profile to maximise their learning potential. Visual Scripts not only prepare pupils for social interactions but also offer support to pupils throughout social exchanges.

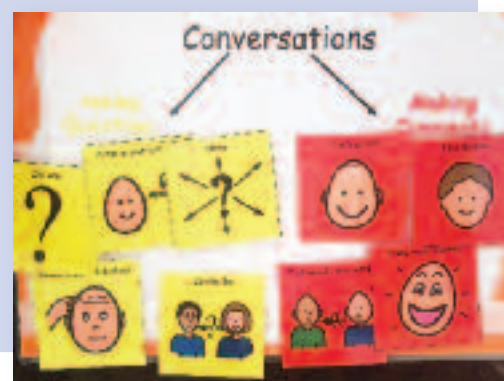


Fig 2 Sample social and communication intervention strategies

the fading of intervention supports and prompts to ensure successful generalisation. This requires intense teacher observation in order to adequately meet and adapt to pupils' evolving needs. Prompts need to be gradually reduced from visual to verbal methods based upon successful demonstration of target behaviour throughout the intervention programme. It is important that this process is individualised and adapted to the pupil's individual needs. Figure 3 outlines a sample prompt fading procedure which I have implemented in the classroom.

Monitor progress of such maintenance and generalisation

Based on my experience as a special class teacher, I have found improvements made during interventions may diminish upon their completion. As a result it is important to plan for the assessment of long-term gains in order to gather an account of the intervention's success and its long-term impact on pupils' social and communication skills. This information can be collected through assessment measures, identical to those employed in step one of this approach, to allow sufficient comparisons to be made between pre-and post-intervention social and communication skill levels.

Conclusion

This article outlines an evidence based approach to social and communication interventions for pupils on the AS which I found effective as a special class teacher.

There is no universal approach to supporting pupils' social and communication skills. Consequently it is essential that we, as teachers, develop and implement adequate interventions based on pupils' individual learning profiles thus enabling them to reach their unique potential.

References

- Egan, M., 2018. *Effective Teaching Strategies to Promote Successful Learning*.
In Ring, E., Daly, P. and Wall, E. (Eds.). *Autism from the Inside Out: A Handbook for Parents, Early Pupilhood, Primary, Post-Primary and Special School Settings*. Oxford: Peter Lang.
Westwood, P., 2015. *Commonsense Methods for Pupils with Special Educational Needs*. 7th ed. London: Routledge.

Ms Christina O'Keeffe is a Special Class teacher in Scoil an Athar Tadhg, Carrignavar, Co Cork and a PhD research scholar in the field of Autism at the School of Inclusive and Special Education, IoE, DCU.
Dr Margaret Egan is a lecturer in Inclusive and Special Education in MIC.

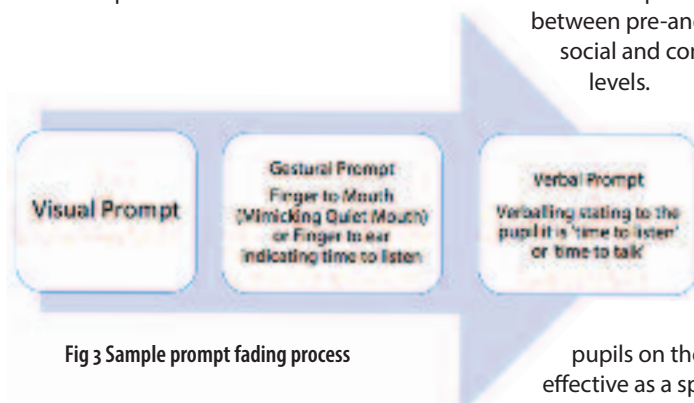


Fig 3 Sample prompt fading process

Integrating art and mindfulness

Most primary teachers are familiar with juggling an overloaded curriculum. The addition of mindfulness is enough to cause extra stress. So, all the better if mindfulness can be integrated (really integrated) with another subject ... such as art. A new online course called Integrating Art and Mindfulness (I AM) does just that. The course includes 60 mindfulness/art lesson plans. Try out these two with your class and feel the stress melt away.

The overarching learning outcome for these lesson plans is that the children learn how to calm themselves, and the value of doing so.

Children's zendalas

Strand: paint and colour

Lesson: zendala – festivals

Materials needed: piece of paper for each child; circular plates, paper plates, or photocopies of a circle; pencil/ markers; paints.

Method: Each child gets a piece of paper. They draw around the circular plate, or use the paper plate (or use the photocopy of a circle). As a class/group or individual they decide on their symbols for the various festivals. What will represent e.g: Hallowe'en, Christmas, Easter, Diwali the festival of light, Ramadan etc? E.g. Hallowe'en could be represented by witches' hats, pumpkins, apples etc. Christmas could be trees, stars, presents, Santa etc. The children draw their symbols either beside their circle or on another piece of paper. They divide their circle into four (or five or six sections if they have more categories of symbols). Divide the circle with a squiggle or s shape (not straight lines you don't want to end up with a pizza!). The children draw their symbols onto each section of the circle, and then paint them. Alternatively, they



could paint the symbols straight away, without drawing first. Play meditative music while the children are creating their zendala. They might also think of an affirmation such as I AM CALM while creating their art.

Children's abstract clay images

Strand: clay

Lesson: breath work and creating abstract clay shapes

Materials needed: clay, playdough or plasticine.

Method: Each child should get a handful of clay. Make sure they are sitting comfortably with as much peace and quiet as possible. Ask the children if they have a negative/bad thought. It might be something that happened that morning, in the yard etc. They don't have to tell you, just recall it. If they don't have any

negative thoughts, that's fine (that's great in fact!). Guide them to breathe in through their nose, push out their tummy. They should hold their breath for a count of three, then breathe out through their mouth and feel their tummy go back to its normal position. If they do have a negative thought they can breathe it in, then release it by breathing out. Now it's gone. They continue with the breath work for about ten breaths. Now they're ready to mould their clay into any shape they feel inclined to make. It can be a purely abstract shape. Show them some abstract clay images if you feel they're unsure of how to start (insert 'abstract clay shapes' into a search engine and you'll find images). Let the children just get used to the feel of the clay first. There's no right or wrong. Let them respond naturally; they can create any shape (or shapes) that feels right for them. They can close their eyes if they wish. You might like to play some meditative or classical music while they create. Ask the children about their shape and how they felt when creating it. When the clay is dry, the children could paint their shape. You could take a photo of each creation and display them or each child could insert the photo into an art journal.



Children's zendalas and abstract clay image

DEIRDRE WHELAN, The I AM online course can be booked at the Education Centre, Tralee.

Under The Hawthorn Tree

Under The Hawthorn Tree is an internationally acclaimed children's novel, tenderly written by award-winning author Marita Conlon-McKenna. It has been Ireland's top-selling children's book and a classic for young readers since its first publication in 1990. Helen Hallissey shares some drama ideas based on the novel.

Summary

Ireland in the 1840s is ravaged by famine caused by blight that destroyed the potato crop. Eily, Peggy and Michael are three children separated from their parents. They must fend for themselves. In dread of starving and being sent to the workhouse, the three siblings embark across inhospitable terrain to find their grand-aunts. The children face many challenges and show remarkable endurance, loyalty and courage. In the end, they reach their destination and find their grand-aunts.

March Workshops

The Association for Drama in Education Ireland (ADEI) will host two workshops on *Under The Hawthorn Tree* in March. The first is on Monday, 25 March at Cork Education Support Centre www.cesc.ie. The second will take place in Marino Institute of Education on Saturday, 20 March. For bookings or further information please contact: dramaadei@gmail.com. Workshops will be facilitated by Helen Hallissey (ADEI), Elaine Clotworthy (Marino Institute of Education & ADEI) and Fionn Woodhouse (Dept of Theatre, UCC).

The Workshops

Participants will engage in a series of 10 drama activities based on the novel. Four of these 10 moments include:

At The Bog (read pages 16 – 20)

Students take on a role e.g. Eily, Peggy, Michael or one of the following people enjoying their day at the bog: the footers, the cutters, the stackers, the tea women or children running about playing games with the turf. Include Moses the Donkey. Brief a few to ignore and others to respond to what happens next: the mother of Eily, Michael and Peggy comes calling to say that Brigid has



Workshop
participants will
engage in a series of
10 drama activities
based on the novel

taken a turn for the worst ...

Send Mary Kate to the Workhouse?

Students find references to Mary Kate in the first few chapters. Teacher or student in role as Mary Kate sits on the classroom floor, absorbed in organising her 'potions', oblivious to students (seated in a circle around her) who are in role as concerned neighbours and friends of Peggy's parents. Some are sympathetic, others unsympathetic towards Mary Kate. They

respectfully probe her intentions e.g. did she provoke the three children into their perilous journey? Then, someone calls for her incarceration in the workhouse, sparking a dispute.

The Crowds on the Road

The whole class creates a tableau of crowds on the road. Pairs or threes prepare and share an improvisation as if stepping out of the tableau, to bring 'alive' their scene.

Include dialogue that reveals where they are going to and where they have come from. Some might be on their way to the workhouse: others to the soup kitchen; others to join men breaking stones on the road; others might have just been evicted and are unsure of where they are going. In a subsequent lesson, same pairs and threes create a still image of their family one year later.

'Let there be no trouble. These goods are sold and paid for.' (p. 103)

These words are spoken by one of six soldiers, guarding grain on a cart at the harbour in Ballycarbery. This crucial scene (read chapter 10) captures much of the tragic ironies of Irish-grown grain being sent abroad during the Famine. Mark this telling moment by creating a performance piece.

1. Students collectively devise a reader's theatre script that can be read at assembly or to another class (fourth to sixth).
2. Students use this reader's theatre script as the basis for an enactment to an invited audience, outdoors and/or indoors. Incorporate props, basic costumes, slow motion and instrumental music such as *The Fields of Athenry*.

HELEN HALLISSEY, The Association for Drama in Education Ireland (ADEI)

Subject
Drama

Strand
Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding.

Strand Unit
Exploring and understanding making drama.

World Book Day with a

Stories are powerful. We use them all the time in teaching; not only for English but also to integrate with other subject areas. A well-chosen book can teach many things at the same time. A key area of the SPHE curriculum is the strand 'Myself and My Family' and a

recurring objective within this is to recognise that not all families are the same. Outlined below are a selection of books that will meet objectives in the language curriculum but also act as positive representation of LGBT+ characters in a gentle and age-appropriate way.

Junior and senior infants

King and King

This beautiful fairy tale tells the story of a Queen who wants her son to marry so he can become King and she can retire. None of the princesses he meets catch his eye, that is until Princess Madeleine arrives with her brother Prince Lee. It is love at first sight and the two princes get married in a very special wedding and become known as King and King.

With beautiful collage-style illustrations, this story captures attention immediately and classes really enjoy the unexpected ending. It can be a useful tool, not only for positive LGBT+ representation, but also as a stimulus for discussion about the stereotypes that children may see in books and films. The



Kings' story continues in *King and King and Family*.

Written and illustrated by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland. Penguin Random House, 2003. ISBN 9781582460611. 32pp. Cost: €16.79.

Red: A Crayon's Story

Poor Red can't do anything that he is meant to. He can't draw fire engines or strawberries or red traffic lights. One day, he meets a new friend who asks him to draw a blue ocean. He's not sure about it but agrees to try. Success! He goes on to draw bluebells, blue jeans and a blue whale. With that, he realises he was blue

all along and embarks upon his pièce de résistance – a huge blue sky.

This story can act as a metaphor for all children being true to themselves but especially lends itself to introducing issues about gender in a simple and child-friendly way. It's an excellent stimulus for rich and engaging drama lessons and the clever illustrations will help improve visual literacy.



Written and illustrated by Michael Hall. Harper Collins Publishers, 2015. ISBN 9780062252098. 40pp. Cost: €17.99.

1st and 2nd class

The Great Big Book of Families

Families come in all shapes and sizes and this book takes a look at all the different kinds. The tone is set early on as the book begins: 'Once upon a time most families in books looked like this – One daddy, one mummy, one little boy, one little girl, one dog and one cat. But in real life, families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In this book are a lot of families living in

different ways. Perhaps there's one that looks like yours?'

The book offers a realistic depiction of family life and even includes gentle references to negative family experiences like homelessness, unemployment and not being able to afford a holiday. The book is a beautiful starting point for any lesson on family diversity. The book is versatile and could be read through in one sitting or dissected by delving deeper into one of the double page spreads in detail. A must for all classrooms in the junior end of the school!



Written by Mary Hoffman and illustrated by Ros Asquith. Penguin Random House, 2011. ISBN 9781847805874. 40pp. Cost: €13.99.

From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea

In the magical time between night and day, Miu Lan is born. However, they're not just

any child, but one who can change into any shape they can imagine. The only problem is they can't decide what to be: A bird or a fish? A flower or a shooting star? A boy or a girl? Regardless, they find comfort in the loving arms of their mother.

The rhythm of the lyrical text guides the children through a powerful story of finding your place in a new environment as Miu Lan struggles to make friends with their new schoolmates. The book is a beautiful allegory about accepting difference in others and in yourself. Aside from the obvious links to SPHE and gender identity, it could also act as a stimulus for an imaginative Visual Art lesson wherein the children portray different forms that Miu Lan could take or a drama lesson on the playground interactions portrayed in the book.



Written by Kai Cheng Thom and illustrated by Kai Yun Ching and Wai-Yant Li. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017. ISBN 9781551527093. 40pp. Cost: €16.99.

difference

To celebrate World Book Day on 7 March, the INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group share their recommendations for LGBT+ inclusive books

WORLD BOOK DAY

7 MARCH 2019

3rd and 4th class

The Popularity Papers

The Popularity Papers is a seven book (to date) series charting the adventures of two best friends, Lydia and Julie as they face the ups and downs of school, family and growing up. The story is drawn in journal format with the two girls writing and recording their experiences from their own perspectives.

The book is a wonderful addition to any library as it is visually striking, humorous and incorporates positive representation of same-sex headed families, without this being the focus of the story. Book four touches on the issues one of her fathers has with his own family not truly accepting him for who he is.

Written and illustrated by Amy Ignatow. Cost: €9.79.

10,000 Dresses

Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses: dresses made of crystals and rainbows, dresses made of flowers, dresses made of windows... Unfortunately, when Bailey's awake, no one wants to hear about these beautiful dreams. Quite the contrary: "You're a BOY!" – Mother and Father tell Bailey. "You shouldn't be thinking about dresses at all." Then Bailey meets Laurel, an older girl who is touched and inspired by Bailey's

imagination and courage. In friendship, the two of them begin making dresses together. And Bailey's dreams come true!

Written by Marcus Ewert

and illustrated by Rex Ray. Seven Stories Press, 2008. ISBN 9781583228500. 32pp. Cost: €18.19.

5th and 6th class

The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher

Meet the Fletchers! A family of four boys, two dads and one neighbour who just might ruin everything.

Each of the Fletcher

brothers are finding their plans for success veering off in unexpected and sometimes disastrous directions. At home, their miserable new neighbour complains about everything. The boys learn through hard and often hilarious lessons that sometimes what you least expect is what you come to care

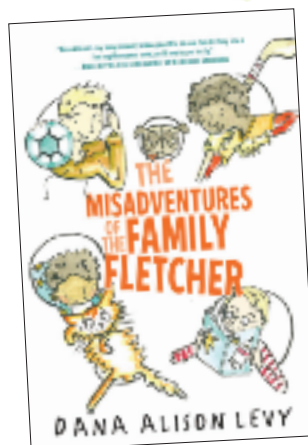
about the most.

A really well-written and gripping book about a family – who just happens to have two dads. The story of the Fletchers continues in *The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island*. Dana Alison Levy has also written a story around a family with two mothers called *This Would Make A Good Story Someday*.

Written and illustrated by Dana Alison Levy. Penguin Random House, 2015. ISBN 9780385376525. 288p. Cost: €15.99.

Felix Yz

This book is Felix's secret blog, a chronicle of the days leading up to a risky procedure to undo the effects of a disastrous science experiment. It charts his times with family, run-ins with the school bully and anxiety about his crush. While the crux of the story is on Felix's journey, the book also acts as positive representation of LGBT+ characters with his mother



entering a relationship with another woman towards the end of the story and his Grandy preferring to use alternative gender pronouns. These however are incidental parts of the book, the

real story is the goings-on in Felix's life as he faces the prospect of the procedure.

Written and illustrated by Lisa Bunker. Penguin Random House, 2018. ISBN 9780425288504. 288pp. Cost: €8.99.



International
Women's
Day

Celebrating Lady Nelson

Glasnevin's link to the Grand National

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March and the English Grand National will take place in Aintree on 6 April. This month's article connects these two events and also explores their links to Glasnevin Cemetery.

International Women's Day brings the work and achievements of women to the fore and draws attention to ongoing issues surrounding the rights and role of women globally. The event has its origins in the labour movement in America; in 1908 15,000 women took to the streets of New York City and marched for improved labour conditions and voting rights. The first actual Women's Day took place in several countries in Europe in 1911. It has been celebrated on 8 March since 1913, and during the First World War was used as a vehicle to campaign against the war and to promote women's suffrage. In 1975 the United Nations marked this event and two years later asked member states to declare 8 March as the UN day for women's rights and global peace.

Several of Ireland's leading suffragettes, labour activists, social campaigners and female politicians are laid to rest within

the walls of Glasnevin Cemetery; women such as Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, Rosie Hackett, Delia Larkin, plus many others. They sought to improve women's rights, the living conditions of families and to broaden the role of women in society. There are, of course, countless other women buried within the cemetery who also took steps to broaden the traditional role of women.

In 1915, the English Grand National was won by a horse named Ally Sloper. The thoroughbred was the first English Grand National winner to be owned by a woman and the woman in question was Lady Margaret Nelson from Westmeath.

A description of the race at Aintree in 1915, taken from the back of a series of cards included in John Player cigarette packets, provides a vivid sense of the chase as it developed. 'Ally Sloper, only six years old, blundered badly at the Canal fence first time round, but Anthony (the jockey, Mr. Jack Anthony, would go on to win the Grand National at Aintree a total of three times) got him over the next fence, and from that point the horse never made a mistake'. The starting price

on the day was 100 to 8 and Ally Sloper finished the race two lengths ahead.

According to a contemporary of the Nelsons, Lady Nelson donated her prize money from the Grand National to the Red Cross and stated that, 'it was not only a pleasure to give it but also her duty'. The excitement of the race must have provided momentary relief for many from the ongoing tumult of the First World War.

To date no female jockey has won the Aintree Grand National – we will have to wait to see what happens in April ...

Lady Margaret Nelson died of pneumonia on 6 April 1932, aged 75, and was buried in the family plot at Glasnevin Cemetery. This year's Grand National will take place on her 87th anniversary. To date no female jockey has won the Aintree Grand National – we will have to wait to see what happens in April ...

MICHELLE O'CONNOR, Education Officer and Teacher Liaison at Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Finglas Road, Dublin 11.

To find out how a tour can be tailored to include such interesting narratives as the one above – please contact the Education Department at Glasnevin Cemetery Museum. at glasnevincemetery.ie, tel: 01 8826550, email: education@glasnevintrust.ie. We also run 'Women's Tours' for schools throughout the year.



Michael Morpurgo

Tá Michael Morpurgo ar dhuine de na scríbhneoirí is ansa le daoine óga. Is feidir dhá leabhar dá chuid atá aistrithe go Gaeilge a íoslódáil saor in aisce ar shuíomh <https://bit.ly/2GHd8Hp>



Toro! Toro!

Tá saol sona suaimhneach ag Antonio, buachaill óg atá ina chónaí ar fheirm a thuismitheoirí in Andalucia na Spáinne. Tagann deireadh leis an saol sin nuair a thuigeann sé go bhfuil a bhullán, darb ainm Paco, le cur chuig fáinne na dtarbh. Cad is féidir le hAntonio a dhéanamh? Tá plean cróga aige, Paco a shaoradh, ach beidh misneach as cuimse de dhíth air lena phlean a chur i gcrích – mar 1936 atá ann agus tá Cogadh Cathartha ag titim amach ar fud mhachairí na Spáinne...

An Cheist Faoi Mozart

Nuair a chuirtear Lesley, tuairisceoir óg, chun na Veinise le hagallamh a chur ar veidhleadóir iomráiteach, deirtear léi gur féidir ceist ar bith a chur ar Paolo Levi faoina shaol, ach nach féidir léi ar ór ná ar airgead ceist Mozart a chur ag am ar bith. Tuigeann Paolo féin, áfach, go gcaithfidh

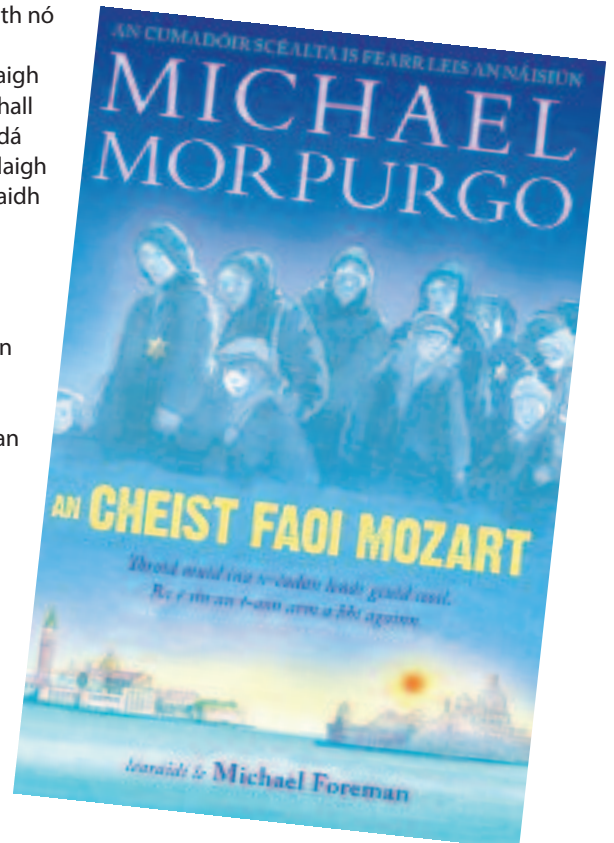
sé an fhírinne a nochtadh luath nó mall. Leanann an scéal a thuismitheoirí mar phríosúnaigh cogaidh Ghiúdacha agus iachall orthu ceol Mozart a sheinm dá naimhde a fhad is a bhí Giúdaigh eile á marú. Cathain a thiocfaidh uair na cinniúna?

Úsáid sa Rang

- Féach ar chlúdach an leabhair agus scríobh síos an chéad rud a ritheann leat faoin teideal agus faoin bpictiúr. An meallann siad an léitheoir? Conas?
- Pléigh an blurba atá ar chúl an leabhair.
- Déan tuar maidir le cad a tharlóidh sa chéad chuid den scéal.
- Tá laochra i ngach leabhar. Liostaigh na dea-tréithe atá ag na laochra sa scéal seo.
- Smaoinigh ar roinnt seanfhocal, ansin cinn

ar na seanfhocail a thabharfadh comhairle do charachtar ar bith sa scéal.

- Samhlaigh gur iriseoir thú agus go bhfuil tú chun agallamh a chur ar charachtar ón scéal. Scríobh liosta ceisteanna a chuirfidh tú ar an gcarachtar nuair a bhuailfidh tú leo.
- Scríobh alt nuachta faoi eachtra a tharla sa scéal. Smaoinigh ar cheannteideal tarraingteach a mheallfaidh léitheoirí.
- Roghnaigh míreanna ón scéal agus déan iad a léiriú mar dhráma nó mar sheiftiú.
- Scríobh dialann an phríomhcharachtair roimh príomhimeachtaí an scéil, lena linn agus ina ndiaidh
- Scríobh litir chuig léiritheoir scannán ag déanamh cur síos ar an scéal, ar an suíomh, ar na carachtair, ar an bplota agus ar na cúiseanna gur doigh leat gur chóir scannán a dhéanamh den scéal.



- Cuireann léaráidí cumhachtacha Michael Foreman go mór leis na scéalta. Roghnaigh léaráid ar bith agus bain úsáid as aidiachtaí chun cur síos a dhéanamh air.
- Bí i do bhleachttaire, faigh eolas faoin scríbhneoir Michael Morpurgo agus roinn an t-eolas sin leis an rang. An bhfuil leabhair eile de chuid an údair léite ag na páistí?
- Scríobh léirmheas ar an leabhar.
- Úsáid an ríomhaire chun breis eolais a fháil faoin Dara Cogadh Domhanda nó faoi Chogadh Cathartha na Spáinne.
- Tarraing léarscáil agus taispeáin na háiteanna atá luaite sa scéal ar an léarscáil
- Cruthaigh Cárta Aitheantais do charachtar ón scéal.

MÁIRE NIC AN RÍ, Oifigeach Bunscoile, COGG.

Reviews

Autism in a turtle shell!



Tony is an adorable four year old turtle living with autism. He is blessed with empathetic and patient parents who are always consistent and prepared with strategies that help Tony cope better in challenging social situations.

There are nine books in this cleverly written series that seamlessly weave visual day plans first, then schedules, routines, rewards etc into each story. A sense of familiarity is sprinkled throughout each book – rhyming couplets, endearing illustrations and of course the happy endings culminating with an Obama-esque type slogan, “Yes he can!”

Tony’s sensory issues and anxieties are tenderly described by insightful author and experienced ASD tutor, Valerie Sheehan, and accurately portrayed by illustrator Susan Meaney. While mostly a gentle little turtle, agitated Tony can shout, flap his hands about, throw things and be very fussy (Mum understands how Tony’s mind works; issues with food is one of his quirks!).

These books could be read as a bedtime story for families familiar with ASD for four year olds and older. Equally they would make an invaluable educational tool for teachers to explore the challenges faced by children living with autism in daily life – school, playground, getting a haircut and trying new food etc. and what interventions to use to alleviate these difficulties. I think every staffroom should have them, even just to browse and to remind us all that what we take for granted can be quite daunting in the world of ASD.

Published by Tony the Turtle Books.
ISBN: 978-1-78280-229-7, 978-1-78280-227-3, 978-1-78280-228-0, 978-1-78808-122-1, 978-1-78280-445-1, 978-1-78280-444-4, 978-1-78808-124-5, 978-1-78280-443-7, 978-1-78808-032-3. Cost €39.95 for a set of three books, €69.95 for a set of six books and €94.95 for a set of nine books from www.tonytheturtle.com. Prices include postage and packaging.

Reviewed by MARGO O'DOWD, Killarney, Co Kerry.

Shamrock shakes and chocolate cakes!

From author Seamus Ó Conaill comes this adventurous, humorous tale. Beautifully illustrated by Daniele Archimede, it tells the story of Spuds the leprechaun, his pot of gold, wife, a mouse and two goldcrest birds, Bonnie and Tyler. Together they try to solve the mystery of Spuds’ missing pot of gold.

A message is repeated numerous times throughout the book, ‘Things aren’t always what they seem. Treasure doesn’t always gleam’. All the anger and sadness Spuds endures throughout the story, is resolved through teamwork and patience. This book would help children connect to

the story as it shows that issues can be resolved with teamwork and that being irrationally sad or angry will never help. This book is suitable for children aged three to eight years old.

Gill Books. ISBN: 978-0-7171-8377-7.
Cost: €8.99.

Reviewed by CALUM AGNEW, Duleek, Co Meath.



Just Trade, Just Connections: A Teaching Resource about Africa

Just Trade, Just Connections: A Teaching Resource about Africa is a teaching resource about Africa suitable for the senior classroom. It teaches children about the



wider world and develops in them a sense of global citizenship.

This resource is made up of four units which include structured lesson plans with cross curricular links, and background information for the teacher. It includes a variety of different teaching methodologies such as talk and discussion, small group work and research based inquiry. Active learning is at the core of this resource.

Just Connections challenges the idea of stereotypes and provides for active discussions in the classroom. It encourages both children and teachers to go beyond the surface and delve deeper into their own belief systems. I would recommend this resource to any fifth or sixth class teacher.

Just Trade, Just Connections: A Teaching Resource about Africa is a collaboration between Marino Institute of Education and Proudly Made in Africa. The pack can be downloaded from www.mie.ie/en/Research/.

Reviewed by TERRI O'DONOVAN, Clonee, Co Meath.

Finishing Touches

|| Resources for teachers, noticeboard of upcoming events and the Comhar Linn Crossword ||

Noticeboard



Teachers' Retreat

The Association of Catholic Teachers is organising a retreat from 5 – 7 April 2019 in Co Tipperary. Talks will include: Teaching the Grow in Love programme, the Vocation of the teacher and the Challenges of being a Catholic teacher today. All primary teachers welcome! More information at: www.actireland.ie



Science Day for teachers

The 2019 annual conference of the Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) will have a full day of talks and hands-on sessions for primary teachers on Saturday, 13 April 2019 at St Patrick's College/DCU Drumcondra, for those who wish to develop the teaching of science in their school or choose science as a topic for School Self Evaluation. Sessions on 'Working like Scientists', 'LEGO in science education', and 'Creativity and integrating Art with Science' and more. For more information visit www.istaconference.com/primary-science



Irish Primary PE Association

The Irish Primary PE Association conference will take place on Saturday, 9 March 2019 in The Watershed, Kilkenny. Details of registration are available on www.irishprimarype.com. It promises to be a great day of CPD in PE for primary teachers!



Volunteer with CARI

Do you live in the Dublin area and have a few hours to offer?

CARI are recruiting volunteers for Child and Family Accompaniment in the Rotunda Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU).

Full training will be provided.

Contact Grace Jordan with any queries by phoning (01) 8308529 or emailing volunteer@cari.ie.

Open night Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at 6.30 pm in the Pillar Room, Rotunda Hospital.

All are welcome!



School Library Survey

University College Dublin, in collaboration with Children's Book Ireland (CBI) and School Library Association in the Republic of Ireland (SLARI) are doing a survey on school libraries. You can participate at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolLibrariesIreland



Volunteer Abroad

Interested in volunteering abroad for 2-3 months or longer? VIDES might be the answer for you.

VIDES Ireland is part of an International Volunteering Organisation of the Salesian Sisters which promotes voluntary service abroad, working with young people and women on Salesian Missions in Africa and other areas worldwide.

Volunteers' work may involve – assisting with classes, aiding literacy, youth engagement, managing clubs, refurbishment and building etc.

VIDES provides training prior to departure.

Volunteers are required to cover only the cost of their travel and personal expenses. VIDES provides accommodation. Enquiries to videsireland@gmail.com



Kindling the Flame

"Kindling The Flame: 150 Years of the INTO": chronicles and marks the life of the INTO since its formal beginnings in 1868. It is a major contribution to the INTO 150 celebrations.

Reviews have described the book, written by Niamh Puirseil as "accessible and fluent", "a fascinating history" and "a marvellous read".

There are a limited number of books to purchase from INTO Head Office, the cost is €19.99. Contact Georgina Glackin at 01 8047745.



Carysfort 1979

Calling all Carysfort graduates of 1979. Reunion planned for 19 October 2019, Tullamore Court Hotel. Expressions of interest to Carysfort79@gmail.com

Two pages with Comhar Linn prizewinners, Crossword, resources for the classroom ... from training courses to helpful hints and useful links

WINNERS OF DECEMBER DRAW 2018

CAR – TOYOTA YARIS HYBRID

Anne-Marie Lalor,
St. Raphael's N.S., Dominican Convent,
Kylemore Road, Dublin 10

CASH €2,000.00

Angela Mulrooney
Foxford, Co. Mayo
Jerry Coakley
Ballyheeda N.S., Ballinhassig, Co. Cork.

CASH €1,000.00

Fiachra Sheridan
Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan,
Muirtheimhne Mór, Dún Dealgan,
Co. Lú.
Michelle Ryan
St. Patrick's GNS, Cambridge Road,
Dublin 4.

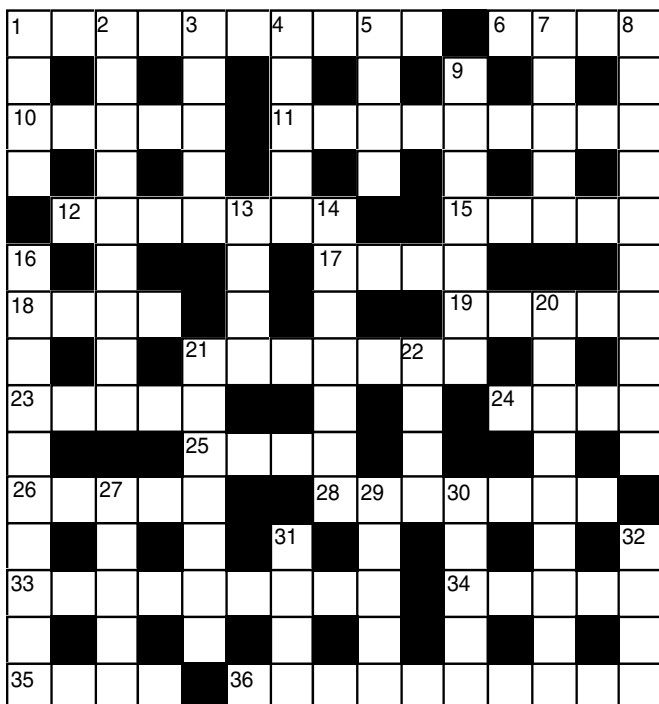
Winner details withheld by consent



The December 2018 car winner Anne-Marie Lalor, St. Raphael's NS.

Comhar Linn Crossword no196

A draw for 2 x €100 will be made from all correct entries. Simply complete the crossword and send it to 'InTouch Crossword', INTO, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, before Friday 29th March 2019. Photocopied crosswords are not accepted.



NAME:

ADDRESS:

To read the Crossword Competition Terms & Conditions and INTO's Data Privacy Notice please visit www.into.ie/ROI/Benefits/Competitions

ACROSS

1. How Mag imparts with such expediency! (10)
6. Send on the ball – not with honours (4)
- 10 & 19a. Completely stop having a strange pendant out (3,2,3,2)
11. Gee, warmth can produce this cereal product (5,4)
12. Get a communist address from Mr A (in code) (7)
15. It provides support for one's workmates (5)
17. Must you take hours to start writing a legend? (4)
- 18 & 33a. What's passed through the generations regarding the care of the mouth? (4,9)
19. See 10 across.
21. Began with actor Edward (7)
23. Release one's relative when she loses the head (5)
24. Bird of prey controlled by string? (4)
25. Narrate, Rossini hero (4)
26. Tests that the hatchet is returned with the manuscript (5)
28. May they be sued for as the beastly female gets older? (7)
33. See 18 across.
34. Our do might smell! (5)
35. A chap takes a character to find a female (4)
36. Betsy and Perry reconfigured the clergyman's residence (10)

DOWN

1. Alexander, the poetic pontiff (4)
2. One takes to Saturn a confused space traveller (9)
3. House of Roman construction (5)
4. Hauled along to get married (5)
5. Appear to find a diocese grand (4)
7. Kipling wolf seen in the lakelands (5)
8. "... and add the halfpence to the pence ...". What's that? (3,2,5)
9. Stowed away an outhouse under the street (7)
13. Lie next to a broken tuba (4)
14. Red male providing a green stone (7)
16. Upset the male nun, Tom – how massive is that? (10)
20. Make sure the message is received that one will take the car back to the house (5,4)
21. Mathematical groups feel poorly when you embark (4,3)
22. Is it cheese, or is that just made up? (4)
27. Honour earned by one part of the hospital? (5)
- 29 & 32d. It's gas, energy is needed to rewrite a Bronte classic (5,4)
30. Getting some tarragon, you'll find, is a pain! (5)
31. Jetty that's ripe for reconstruction (4)
32. See 29 down

Gordius – In Touch Crossword No. 195 Jan/Feb 2019 Solution

Across 1. Jack Horner 6. Wind 10. Noise 11. Donatello 12. Messier 15. Torah 18. Road 19. Log on 21. Infancy 23. Skein 24. Oval 26. Rumba 28. Smoking 33. Better off 34. Roomy 35. Spot 36. Binary star
Down 1. Jane Eyre 2. Crime wave 3. Heeds 4. Ridge 5. Erne 7. Idler 8. Door handle 9. Stately home 13. Ivan 4. Relaxes 16. Proscribes 20. Giving out 21. Inhaler 22. Coco 27. Metro 29. Mafia 30. Kerry 31. Hopi 32. Dyer

Gordius – InTouch No. 195 winners will be announced in the next InTouch issue.

Each month Children's Books Ireland recommend a book of the month for primary pupils



CBI recommended read – March

Granuaile: The Pirate Queen

Written by John Burke and illustrated by Fatti Burke.
Gill Books, 2018. ISBN 9780717183500. 32pp. Cost: €12.99.

This is the first book of the Little Library collection, introducing readers to notable and fascinating figures of Irish history. Gráinne O'Malley, or Granuaile (meaning 'Bald Gráinne'), was the daring, unconventional daughter of a sea captain (Eoghan O'Malley) who became the fierce pirate queen of Mayo. Five hundred years ago, Gráinne bravely fought and defended her castles from her family's many enemies.



John and Fatti Burke, the award-winning creators of *Irelandopedia* and *Foclóiríopedia*, bring the story of this formidable and rebellious woman to young readers in this wonderfully informative and beautifully illustrated book. We learn of all Granuaile's adventures, including how she prevented the death of her father at the hands of a vicious pirate, bravely defended her husband's lands and rescued the drowning Hugh de Lacy.

A timeline of Granuaile's life and a 'Did you Know?' section are included, which tell readers of the Pirate Queen's continuing fame and presence in Ireland making it a great addition to any classroom shelf. Look out for the next in the series *Brian Boru: Warrior King*. Non-fiction, (Ages 5–7).


CBI is the national children's books organisation of Ireland.
For further information and more reviews,
visit www.childrensbooksireland.ie

InTouch competitions and draws


From time to time, the INTO runs competitions and draws for members via InTouch, our e-newsletter, website or social media. Only essential data required for the running of the competition is requested from members. The data collected is deleted once winners have been selected.

The full name and county of prize winners is published by the INTO. By entering the competition, it is assumed consent is given by members for publication of these details.


For more information on T&Cs for competitions visit the Benefits section of the INTO website.



portal for Irish education
lárnuíomh undeachais na hÉireann




Star site




Top 10

The most clicked resources at the start of this month.

- 1 THE WEBWISE PRIMARY PROGRAMME**
www.webwise.ie/teachers/webwiseprimaryprogramme/
Programme for primary school teachers who wish to introduce internet safety into SPHE.
- 2 AN T-EARRACH**
www.scoilnet.ie/search/resource/entity/show/Lre/643/
Leabhar labhartha as Gaeilge do Ranganna Naíonáin – Rang 2.
- 3 CHINESE NEW YEAR WORKSHEET**
www.primaryresources.co.uk/re/pdfs/chinesenewyear.pdf
Includes three worksheets with varying difficulty.
- 4 MYSELFIE AND THE WIDER WORLD**
www.webwise.ie/teachers/my-selfie/
SPHE resource developed to engage 5th and 6th class.
- 5 SPREAG AN GHAEILGE LE SPRAOI**
www.scoilnet.ie/index.php?id=1224
A collection of resources to teach Irish through fun games and activities.
- 6 VALENTINE'S DAY**
www.scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/events/valentines/
A collection of over 60 resources to help teach under the theme Valentine's Day.
- 7 MATHS IS FUN – FRACTIONS**
www.mathsisfun.com/fractions-menu.html
Introduces fractions in an easy to follow way.
- 8 ÉADAÍ – CÁRTAÍ TAISPEÁNTAIS**
www.scoilnet.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/Labhairt-eadaí.pdf
Cártaí foclóra a bhaineann le héadaí. Is féidir iad seo phriontáil chun taispeántas a dhéanamh..
- 9 ANCIENT EGYPT THEMEPAGE**
www.scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/history/ancient-egypt/
Scoilnet themepage with activities, games and reading material on this ancient civilisation.
- 10 BIA – SCOILNET THEMEPAGE**
www.scoilnet.ie/go-to-primary/theme-pages/irish/bia/
Choose from various topics within theme of 'Bia'.



SCOIL MOCHUA, CELBRIDGE, CO KILDARE
www.scoilmochua.com
Scoil Mochua's website is well designed, easy to navigate and is kept up to date. It reflects the inclusive and friendly spirit of the school while showcasing the hard work of pupils, teachers and parents.



ONES TO WATCH
YOUR PLAN YOUR PLANET
<https://yourplanyourplanet.sustainability.google>
Learn simple tips from Google and the California Academy of Sciences to leave the earth in better shape.

FICHEALL
www.ficheall.ie
Ficheall is a teacher-led organisation which aims to promote the playing of chess in Irish primary schools using a 3-stage approach: participate, represent and compete.

TASTE ATLAS
www.tasteatlas.com
Discover local ingredients, traditional dishes and authentic restaurants with Taste Atlas. Use the map to zoom in on a country or location and find out about the food from that area.