



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

SMOTHtalk

CHRISTMAS 2023

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the Christmas edition of SMOTH Talk. Here you will read the experiences the children have had in the first term, in their own words. It has been a busy and exciting first term and our pupils have had many different experiences and opportunities. To get a sense of some of what has been going on please click on the following link which will take you to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOnTheHillPS/> .

As we move through the Advent season and look forward to the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it is an important time to prepare for his coming. Our school community has strong bonds and we work hard to ensure everyone in our community is looked after. I would like to thank you all for supporting our fundraising for St. Vincent De Paul, the money raised will help all those who need it in our local community. On behalf of pupils, staff and governors, I would like to wish everyone in our school community a Happy and Holy Christmas.

P1 Go to the Pantomime—Hansel and Gretel



Primary One children loved their visit to the Lyric Theatre, to watch Hansel and Gretel. The costumes, settings and characters were fabulous and the children enjoyed dancing and singing along with the cast! This was our first trip in Primary One and it was a fantastic experience for the children. It was a great day out and a well-deserved treat for all our children who have had a very successful

first term. We are looking forward to next year's trip already!

Our Trip To Edmund Rice

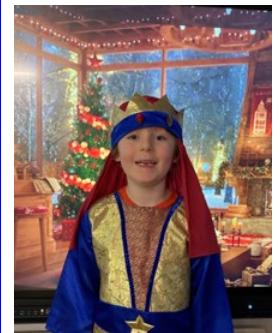
On Tuesday 5th December, Primary 6 and Primary 7 attended Edmund Rice College to see the performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. We got buses to the school and when we arrived were greeted by the principal, Mr. Berne.

Next, we took our seats and waited for the play to start. The students in Edmund Rice had left a treat bag for each child on our chairs. The students from St. Mary's On The Hill were delighted and grateful.

When it started, the main character of the play was Dorothy with her dog, Toto. We were really surprised that Toto was a real dog. There was a tin man, a scarecrow and a lion. They had an enemy that was a witch of the East and the witch of the West who was really nice. Our favourite part of the play was when Dorothy met her friends the tin man, scarecrow and lion. They built a good friendship. We really enjoyed our trip to Edmund Rice College!

By Eli McFarlane and Jenna Bodkin P7MOB

Our Christmas Play



Our Christmas Play was called The Sleepy Shepherd. I was a King and Fintan was a narrator.

I had to sing and do the actions. I brought the gift which was frankincense to baby Jesus. I liked the part with the sheep because they did the 'Floss dance' at the end.

There was a band, and they played the musical instruments. At the very end we sang We Wish you a Merry Christmas. Everybody liked it clapped. I loved it more than anything.

Darragh Coyle P2PMI

ECO COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 2023

Our Eco council have had a great start to the school year. We had an Eco-council election in the P4-7 classes and our new eco councillors are:

- P4 : Rosa Mc Mullan & Frankie Magill
- P5 : Ella Prendergast & Eilidh Morgan
- P6 : Dillon Conlon, Mya Mc Kay & Daniel Kornacki
- P7 : Madison Russell & Eva Rankin

Our returning members are, Julia Borkowski, Lennon Ross, Ella Hale, Enda Welsh, Grace Mc Quillan, Cara Dunlop, Ellis Cheadle, Hannah Caddell and Lucy Erwin. At our first meeting we elected our new chairperson, Cara Dunlop and vice chairperson, Eva Rankin. We look forward to a busy year ahead. Our three topics for the second year are: **Biodiversity, Outdoor Learning and Waste.**

Our first activity was the Halloween costume sale. We emailed parents and asked for donations of used Halloween costumes that are no longer needed as the don't like/don't want/ don't fit, and parents were very generous. The eco councillors collected them. Once the Eco council had enough Halloween costumes, they designed posters, sorted the costumes in piles (size order) and then set up the sale. Everyone brought in money and bought the costumes they loved, and we raised over two hundred pounds!



Our next activity was a Christmas jumper sale it was basically the same as the Halloween costume sale. Although we didn't get as many jumpers as the Halloween costumes, we still raised one hundred and twenty-two pounds! From our two sales together, we raised an amazing £360! This will be used for soil, seeds and pots for our new poly tunnels and garden. We look forward to all the classes having an opportunity to plant seeds during the year.

For our last fundraising activity for 2023, we are selling reindeer food. The reindeer food is made from porridge oats and biodegradable glitter and has a nice little poem about the reindeer on Christmas Eve. We will sell it for £1 and the money will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal to help those in need at Christmas time. **Grace Mc Quillan (Eco Councillor)**

Hansel and Gretel at the Lyric!

Primary 2 had a brilliant time going to see Hansel and Gretel at The Lyric Theatre this week, along with the Primary 1 and 3 classes. The children thoroughly enjoyed the highly anticipated pantomime trip after a very busy month practising and performing their own Christmas Show. The children all had rave reviews after the show. Avianna said, "I really like the pantomime. My favourite part was when Monty turned into a mouse." Likewise, Aidan said his favourite character was the mouse as well because his name was Monty, just like his teddy bear at home! Jack said he thought the pantomime was very good. He couldn't decide between Monty and Hansel for his favourite character, as they were both just as great as each other. He said he really enjoyed getting watch the pantomime with all his friends.



What I like about Rain

The splish splash of it
The pitter patter of it
The gloomy dark of it
The plip plop of it
The splashy puddles of it
That's what I like about rain!

By Ruby Kirk-Begley P4AW

What I like about Snow

The crinchy crunch of it
The slow fall of it
The sparkly glitter of it
The snowman that you build of it
The great fun that you have with it
The great big fall of it
That's what I like about snow! **By Caspar Knox P4AW**

What I like about Thunder

The big boom of it
The light and bright of it
The bash and crash of it
The rumbling roar of it
That's what I like about thunder and lightning!

What I like about Sunshine

The happy, bright days of it
The radioactive rays of it
The garden brights of it
The lovely lights of it
That's what I like about sunshine!

By Olivia Simpson P4AW

What I like about Thunder & Lightning

The big, dark clous of it
The terrifying bolt of it
The jumping jolt of it
The frightening flash of it
The bright light of it
That's what I like about thunder and lightning!

What I like about the sun

The warm, scorching heat of it
The bright, yellow shine of it
The holidays that I take with it
The relaxing, sunbathing feel of it
I love the sun!

By Conlin Doherty P3SR

What I like about Snow

The soft, fluffly feel of it
The light crunchy crisp of it
The watery, icy touch of it
I like making snowmen in it I love the deep, cold snow! **By**

What I like about Thunder & Lightning

The scary, smashing sound of it
The big, black, blitzy boom of it
The flaming, yellow destructiveness of it
I like the sound of Thunder!

By Aodhan Nellis P3SR

Glengormley Firefighters

P5 were lucky enough to have the firefighters from Glengormley fire station, at the bottom of our road, come out and tell us about fire safety. We learned to stop, drop and roll. We also learned the importance of shutting the doors in your



house at night and turning off plugs. It is important not to

charge devices on the bed, avoid double adapters and check fire alarms regularly.

We feel less afraid because we know that firefighters can get to our homes very quickly after we ring them on 999. We are happy that we know how to stay safe. Thank you,



In our Primary 5 class, we carried out a traffic survey. We counted the colours of cars in the car park and the cars passing our school. We collected the information using tally marks. We gathered the data and represented it in a Bar Graph. We found that the most popular colour car is white and the least popular colour was yellow. We enjoyed using tally marks and Bar graphs in this maths lesson. We would be very happy to do it again.

By Erin Corry, Caolan Mc Laughlin

SPORT CHANGES LIVES

On Tuesday the 28th November Primary 7s went to Jordanstown University for the Sport Changes Life festival. We took part in different activities such as athletics, African drumming and basketball.

We enjoyed working on ice-breaker and feedback activities after we were split into groups. We took part in the activities with Whitehouse Primary School and were challenged to find out more about them and to get to know each other.

Next we did athletics where we had to pick a country as our team. We chose Portugal, France, Australia And India. In these teams we took part in different events like sprints, long jump and relay races.

After that we did some African drumming. We were told to pick a drum, then the man taught us a tune that we had to respond to. Next we learnt another tune, he memorised it by saying, why me, why why me. Then we put them both together.

Lastly, basketball. First we learnt how to dribble then we played a game called hot seat which involved taking shots and being in the 'hot seat' if you missed. Then we played 'can't cross the red sea'. When we left we got a selection box.

Overall, it was a great day and a great way to end our 8 weeks of coaching!

By Joseph Campbell and Tomás Magee P7KC



On Wednesday 6th December, we attended a Camogie tournament in Brook Leisure Centre. We played brilliantly, demonstrating skill and determination and won all four of our matches. This got us through to the final in Corrigan Park.

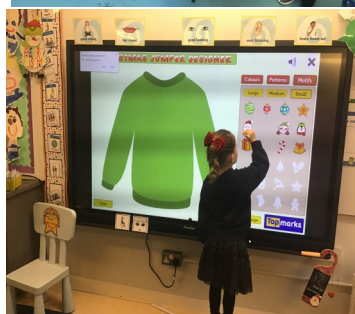
My home is ...

My home is as creamy as a chocolate milkshake,
My home is as cosy as snuggling my dog,
My home is as exciting as reading Harry Potter books,
My home is as delicious as breaded chicken,
My home is as comfy as getting wrapped up in my blanket,
My home is as warm as Italy,
My home is as fun as sitting in my daddy's music room,
My home is as lovely as listening to music,
My home is as thrilling as the first day of school,
My home is for the McDermotts!

by Eimear McDermott P4RT



P1KR having lots of fun learning through their Christmas play!



The Slezak House

My house is as cosy as a soft brown bear
Playing with my teddies is as fun as waking up on Christmas Day
My bedroom is as exciting as jumping on an Airtastic trampoline
Going on holiday with my family is as adventurous as going to the jungle
Watching the sunset from my bedroom is as beautiful as a shooting star
Fireworks are as loud as a lion's roar
The Slezak house is as crazy as the traffic on a Monday morning

By Lily Slezak P4AW

My House

My house is as tall as a giraffe
Playing on my trampoline is as fun as going to soft play
My bedroom is as cosy as snuggling my teddies
Going on holiday with my family is as fun as having a party
The McCoy family house is as loud as a lion's roar

By Mya McCoy P4AW