

The Hub Newsletter

Christmas Edition, 2021

A Special Christmas Greeting from Us to You...

It is that time of the year again and as we fast approach the Christmas Holidays, we would like to extend a warm thanks to you, our parents, for your ongoing support over the last few months. From all of the team here in The Hub, we wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoy this festive edition of our class newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

Merry Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

The students really enjoyed putting the Christmas tree up in The Hub and everyone got involved in decorating it. Luke Bermingham had the honour of putting the star on top this year! Well done to everyone on doing such a brilliant job and making the classroom feel like our very own Christmas grotto!





Rockin' around the Christmas tree, having Christmas in The Hub



Merry Christmas from Luke and Martha!



AJ, Luke and Bobby - the three wise men admiring their handy work! Great job guys!



Christmas Jumper Day Fun!



Anne Marie and Gonda getting into the festive spirit!



Our very own Snowwoman (or Ms. Bulfin)



"Chilling" out!

A Time To Give Back...

Our Annual Christmas Jumper Day took place on Friday, the 10th of December, with all proceeds going to St. Vincent de Paul. The students enjoyed lots of surprises on the day, including a visit from a Smiley Snowman, a Christmas Cracker and an Ecstatic Elf! Well done to everyone for making such a huge effort to dress up and spread some festive cheer!





Giddy Up!

In other exciting news, our students and staff had a wonderful day out at Liskennett Farm in Co. Limerick recently (and just in the nick of time, before storm Barra hit the county). Once the students were suited and booted, they took off on a one-hour equestrian trail around the grounds of the farm and made lots of four-legged friends along the way!

The students were very well looked after by the fantastic team at Liskennett Farm and they picked up lots of tips and tricks on the day. They were trained on horse safety and equipment, learned how to remove the horse's saddle and reins, and even got the opportunity to groom their horses and treat them to some tasty looking carrots!

After soaking up all that the farm has to offer and taking some time out for a well-earned rest and a spot of lunch, we made a quick pit-stop at Mungret Park where the students enjoyed some fresh air and an array of Autism Friendly amenities.

On behalf of everyone in The Hub, we would like to thank first year student and SVP representative Alex, for his kindness and generosity in putting forward the great idea that some of the funds raised by this year's school Christmas Jumper Day be donated to Liskennett Farm. Thank you Alex, and thank you to everyone who made this day possible.

It was a day to remember for our students in The Hub and they hope to return to Liskennett Farm in the new year, to take the next step in their equestrian training.



*Luke and Ms. Gooney
enjoying the trail*



*"Anyone hungry?"
Ava treating Gus to a
well-earned snack!*



*Big smile underneath
AJ's mask!*



Penny for your thoughts?

I sat down with the students to see what they thought of the day and here is what they had to say!

What did you do at Liskennett Farm?

AJ: When we got there we got ready for horse-riding. We put on our hats and then got on the horsey and had a chill walk with the horse for about 15 minutes. I brought my Go-pro with me and recorded the whole thing! Lucky I was allowed to bring it on the horse with me.

Ava: I rode a horse called Gus, who was just the best horse. I really miss my horse. We went to a park after the farm and I almost hurt myself for running too fast but it was great fun!

Bobby: I played the piano and jumped on the trampoline and went horse-riding.

What was your favourite part of the day?

Luke B: When I was relaxing on the bus and the horse-riding because riding is fun.

Bobby: My favourite was playing the piano in the sensory room because I love when people listen to me play.

Ava: My favourite thing about the day was riding my horse. We really clicked, I was so calm the minute I sat on Gus. Gus and me talked the whole way up and back.

AJ: The bus because I was talking and laughing with my friends about some character who had a tragic backstory and I entertained everyone on the journey home.

Tell me about your horse!

Ava: The name of my horse was Gus. My horse was so similar to me. Gus was so calm the minute I started riding him. I gave Gus a carrot and he did not bite me.

AJ: Misty was the name of my horse. Misty was so chill and that is what I like about her the most.

Bobby: My horse Lucas was very calm and he kept going all the time. He was a kind horse and he was brown.

Luke B: My horse was called May and she was a great horse. She was riding me all around the farm.

Luke G: My horse was Indie. She was white and black and I liked her because she was very calm and relaxed.

Oisín: The horse's name was Apollo. It was a brown and black horse.

Would you like to go back to Liskennett Farm again?

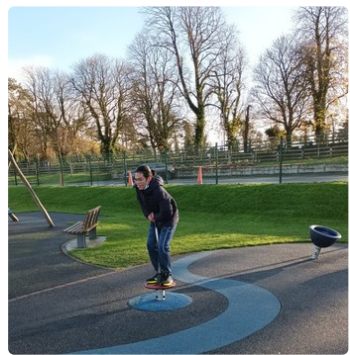
Bobby: Yes please! I really like it there.

Luke G: Yep and next time, we could spend more time playing because I liked the trampoline and the swings.

Luke B: Yes, to do more horse riding because I like horse riding a lot.

AJ: Yes please, because it is fun as hell!

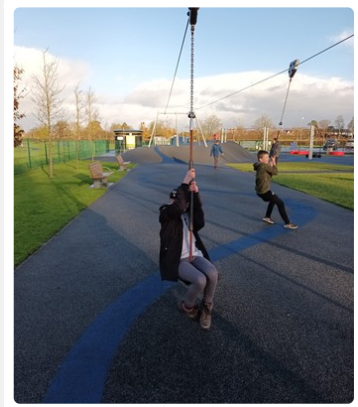
Ava: Yes, because I enjoyed riding my horse and I really hope I can go back and meet Gus again. He was the best!



*Bouncing into the New
Year like...*



Having a blast!



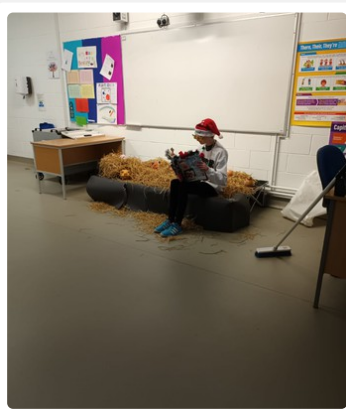
*It's not a race Ava,
slow down!*



Lights...Camera...Action!!

Our students have been putting their acting skills to the test, in preparation for their upcoming production, which will be a modern take on the classic "Return of the Prodigal Son". Although there will not be a live performance of the play, due to current Covid restrictions, we will be filming their performance and hope to share this with you in the new year!

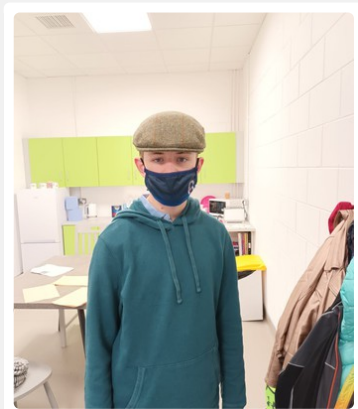
Here is a snapshot of what they have been up to...



There once was a wonderful narrator named Ava...



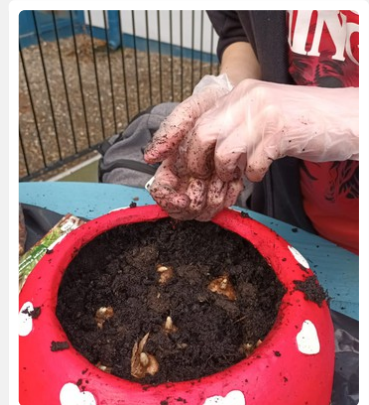
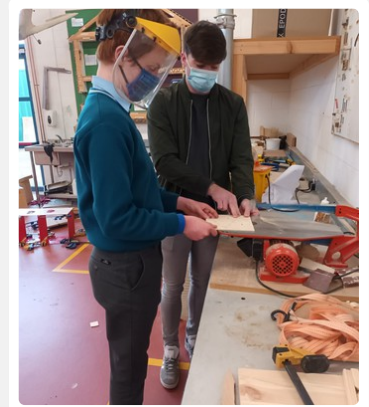
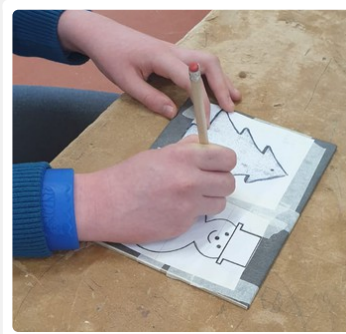
Take Three! Aaaaand action!



Getting into character!

Getting Creative...

The students have been exceptionally busy since the October mid-term, balancing their class work and extra-curricular activities. Bobby has been working on creating some wonderful Christmas ornaments in Woodwork classes with Mr. Chaplin, while Ava and Oisín have been assisting Martha in developing our class garden. To date, they have planted Miniature Daffodils, Crocus', Winter Berry plants and Violas. They are looking forward to seeing them grow throughout the year and there will be updates to come!



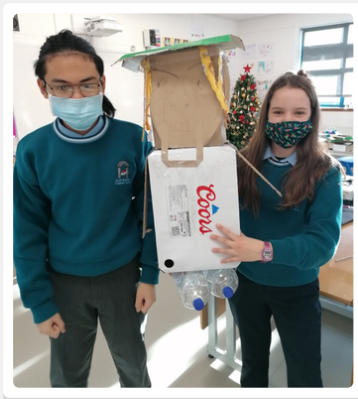
Celebrating Us!

As part of 'Celebrate Us' week in the school, our students enjoyed a special performance by the school choir and ceilí band, featuring our very own Bobby Keane. Bobby has shown great commitment, attending weekly trad group practices with Ms. Killeen and Ms. Hill. He really enjoyed performing in the group on the day - most definitely a star in the making!



Recycling Robots!

We had some guests in The Hub earlier this week to help with an exciting project involving unwanted recycled materials. Thank you to Iga, Sophie and Olive, who helped to make robots out of some materials such as plastic bottles, cereal boxes and egg cartons. All students worked in teams to create some really unique characters!



Christmas Door Decorating!



Thank you Liskennett!

We took a stroll down to the local post box this week to post some very important letters. The students thought it would be a good idea to write a letter each to the team at Liskennett Farm, thanking them for a wonderful day out!



A Final Note...

Just a reminder that the school will close on Wednesday, the 22nd of December for the Christmas Holidays and students will return to school on Thursday, the 6th of January.

