



Merry  
Christmas



# School e-Newsletter



Dear Parents / Guardians,

We have had a very unique first term in Bunscoil McAuley Rice this year. We were delighted to embrace the new normality that the school reopening brought and we are now well used to all the new routines that help us to stay safe. We have remained safe due to your support and the great work that has been done by our Board of Management, staff, parents and students. I would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support this year.

The work that goes into keeping our school building and grounds looking so well is evident to everyone who visits our school. We owe this to our caretaking and cleaning staff. We owe them a special thank you this year for implementing our enhanced cleaning regimes so well. They can take great pride in Bunscoil McAuley Rice.

We are excited to see our new school extension under construction and we are really looking forward to having additional classrooms, learning support rooms, a new school library and ICT room very soon.

We are also delighted to see the formation of our new Peace and Justice Group. Our Peace and Justice Group have been very busy raising awareness in our school about Temple Street Children's Hospital, The Good Shepherd Centre in Kilkenny, The Society of St. Vincent De Paul and the fight against single use plastics.

Bunscoil McAuley Rice is very proud to have received our second Discover Primary Science and Maths Badge of Excellence award from The Science Foundation of Ireland. We look forward to developing our Information Technology infrastructure further in the New Year.

On behalf of the Board of Management, staff and Parents' Association I wish you all the joy of the season and many blessings in the New Year.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!

John Moloney,  
Principal

School Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/McAuleyRice>



BUNSCOIL MCAULEY RICE, CALLAN, CO. KILKENNY





## Peace & Justice Group



We are delighted to announce our new Peace and Justice Group this year. We have been working hard so far this year. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, we supported the Good Shepherd Centre in Kilkenny by raising a huge amount of donations. Soon we will celebrate a 'Christmas Jumper Day' on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. This fundraiser will be for The Society of St Vincent de Paul. In the weeks and months ahead, it is our vision to become a School of Sanctuary. Part of this included our recent work creating welcome booklets for our Syrian children. Along with this, all the children in our school are having great fun learning Arabic in their classrooms.



*Welcome booklets in Arabic / English*



*Donations for the Homeless*

## STEM Badge of Excellence Award

We are delighted to have finally received our Discover Primary Science and Maths Badge of Excellence from The Science Foundation of Ireland recently. The Badge of Excellence for STEM Awareness is a newly introduced pilot programme which acknowledges schools that have already achieved a Plaque of STEM and have also demonstrated excellence in their efforts to raise awareness of and excitement of STEM in their school communities. Bunscoil McAuley Rice has achieved all the criteria for the Badge of Excellence through engagement with STEM in:

Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and STEM Showcase.

Congratulations to all of our teachers, pupils and parents who worked so hard to promote this initiative over the course of the previous school year and well done to Mr. O' Dwyer for coordinating the project.



*Mr. O' Dwyer with Senior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils displaying their rockets and bridges*





# 'Tis the Season!



*Have a look at what we have been getting up to...*

## Ms. Grace's Junior Infants

Ms. Grace's class have been enjoying getting into the Christmas spirit this past month. The children have been busy in art where they painted these lovely Winter penguins in Antarctica.



## Ms. Kennedy's Junior Infants

Ms. Kennedy's Junior Infants have been learning about the Corona Virus Germ and what it looks like. The children used playdoh and crayons to make their very own versions of the virus.



## Mr O'Dwyer's Senior Infants

Mr. O'Dwyer's Senior Infants are on target to complete their first marathon by the February Mid-Term. The children have already ran 10km out of 42km. They will all receive certificates and medals on completion.



## Ms. Ryan's Senior Infants

Rudolph has been found working hard with Ms. Ryan's children this month. He has been busy preparing for Christmas with the children but will be making his way back to the North Pole very soon!



## Ms. Mooney's 1st Class

Tiny penguins have been waddling around Ms. Mooney's class this month. The children have made some lovely hats and scarfs to keep them warm during the cold weather we have been experiencing lately.



## Ms. Meade's 1st Class

Ms. Meade's class have been enjoying writing letters and drawing pictures for the residents in Strathmore Lodge Nursing Home. The class were thrilled to receive a thank you parcel from the residents complementing them on their thoughtful gesture.





# Tis the Season!



*Have a look at what we have been getting up to...*

### Ms. McGrath's 2nd Class

Lots of Santas have been bopping around Ms. McGrath's classroom this week. The children decorated their room with these dancing Santas which they created in art recently.



### Ms. Lyons' 2nd Class

Ms. Lyons' 2<sup>nd</sup> Class have been getting very excited for the Christmas Holidays. They have been getting creative in art where they made their very own 3-D Christmas Trees.



### Ms. Murphy's 3rd class

Ms. Murphy's class were very busy during Science Week and worked with a real scientist via Zoom to carry out some fun experiments which the class really enjoyed.



### Ms. O'Shea's 3rd Class

Ms. O'Shea's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class took part in a live Zoom class recently with 'Dig it Kids'. In this class, the children made Anglo Norman shields and learned all about Heraldry which they found very enjoyable and interesting.



### Mr. Walsh's 4th Class

Mr. Walsh's students are really getting into the Christmas spirit this week. They have been enjoying getting creative with some Christmas art painting Christmas trees.



### Ms. Campion's 4th Class

Ms. Campion's class have been busy preparing for Christmas. They have enjoyed the build up over the last few weeks and are looking forward to Santa arriving. Their 'Christmas Trees in the Window' paintings, have them dreaming of a white Christmas!





# *Tis the Season!*



*Have a look at what we have been getting up to...*

## Ms. Tyrrell's 5th Class

With Christmas just around the corner, Ms. Tyrrell's class created these Winter Snowglobes. The class gathered up jars and small toys at home. In school they stuck their toys to the lids, added water, glycerin, confetti and glitter to the jars, closed the lids and watched the sparkling magic take place!



## Mr. McGrath's 5th Class

Mr. McGrath's class created these wonderful art paintings called 'Winter Skies' whereby the class used pastels and paint to design a wonderful snowy night in the city.



## Ms. O Sullivan's 6th Class

Nollaig Shona from Ms. O 'Sullivan's Rang a Sé. We have been busy training for our 5km run before we get our holidays. We have embraced the Christmas season with our decor and are creating beautiful pieces of Christmas art. We were delighted to support our Peace & Justice group in collecting toiletries for the homeless. We have promised that we will help out even more at home on the lead up to Christmas so we are waiting our 'To Do' lists. Wishing all our family and friends a very Happy Christmas!



## Mr. Fogarty's 6th Class

Mr. Fogarty's 6th Class have been out training 3 times a week for the last 8 weeks as they prepare to take on a 5km challenge before the Christmas Holidays. The huge effort put in by the pupils is very clear to see as they are all capable of running faster, farther and for a longer time than they could at the start of the programme. Well done to all!

