



# Ardfinnan N.S.



## Nollaig 2024 Nuacht Scoil Náisiúnta Ard Fhionáin

### Ardfinnan NS: Under 11s

#### Retain County Title

It was the 15<sup>th</sup> of November the day we had waited for with weeks. We had been training since the start of September for the chance of this day happening. When we arrived, we went straight to the dressing room and got kitted out. We had a team talk with Mr Prendergast on the training pitch and headed over to the main pitch. All the panel of 22 headed to the dugout for one final drink and some final words of encouragement.

Charlie was our Captain, and he headed over for the toss. We got off to a bad start as soon after the ball been thrown in Nenagh went on to score a goal. We didn't drop our heads but waited for our chance. Oisín won a ball and passed it to Charlie who kicked it into James who scored a cracker of a goal. Our backs of Dean, Tadhg and Eoghan were battling hard in the back line and were doing great work at keeping Nenagh at bay. However, Nenagh eventually broke through and scored a goal.

We went on to win a penalty but unfortunately, we missed it. Oisín scored straight after our miss. It was a while until another score came as both teams worked hard and had near misses. Eventually, it was the impressive James Hyland who slotted home our second goal. Both Ethan and Tommy also worked hard.

At half time Mr. Prendergast told

us we were playing well but to keep working hard. At the start of the second half Tommy Ryan went on to score a great point. Donnacha on as a sub at half time scored another point. Our hardworking Captain Charlie scored another point soon after. Nenagh were also slotting over points at this stage and the game became a real battle. Nevertheless, Charlie gave us some breathing space by scoring another goal and Oisín sealed the victory with his last point.

When the ref blew the whistle, we went crazy. It was a great day county champions for the second year running. We celebrated again in the dressing room and sang all the way home in the bus. When we returned to the school the whole school was out and they gave us a guard of honour. Charlie called out everyone that was part of our winning panel and everyone cheered. It was a super day!

### A Word from our Principal

The holiday season is here, bringing with it the magic of Christmas, kindness, and joy. As we prepare to celebrate together, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support our amazing staff, pupils and parents bring to our school each day. We have had a very busy couple of weeks here in school filled with Christmas Shows, decorations, charitable collections and all the festivities and fun that go with it.

Christmas is a time to cherish those we hold dear, to spread kindness wherever we go, and to reflect on the blessings of the past year. I hope your holidays are filled with laughter, warm moments, and the comfort of being with loved ones.

May the joy of this season fill your hearts and homes, and may the New Year bring health, happiness, and new opportunities to shine.

Ms. Quinlivan





**Ms Mee's Superb Sixth Class** got caught by Christmas and are full of the spirit of Christmas cheer. They have spent term one learning to be more flexible with Eithne and gymnastics as well as with Brenda in yoga class, fantastic hurling and football skills with Nigel and Barry and splashing in the local swimming pool. It has been a sporty start to the year. They are a creative, dramatic, artistic bunch of children eager to help out in the community with mass on Fridays and the odd cup of tea too. We wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and we look forward to reparing for our Confirmation when we get back in 2025.

The **Peace Proms** workshop took place in SETU Waterford on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class really enjoyed their practice. Since September they were very busy practicing their songs. The Peace Proms concert will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> and will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.

**Mrs Purcell's Senior Infant** boys and girls have been really busy over the past few weeks preparing for our performance of 'Whoops – A – Daisy' and wow! we put on an amazing show. We have really enjoyed making all our Christmas arts and crafts. Dylan – 'My favourite art lesson was making the snowman'. We had great fun with Eithne and learned lots of new gymnastic skills. Kerrie 'I learned how to do a tumble'. Oscar 'I learned how to do a bear crawl'. We have also went on lots of trails and walks looking for signs of winter, 3D shapes in the environment, well being time and we love our weekly visits to the playground, even in the frosty weather!!!! We would like to thank all the people who help us in our classroom, including Sandra, Ms. Geoghegan and Peggy. We hope all our friends and family have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and enjoy their well deserved break. Merry Christmas to All xx

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed so generously to all our fundraising events this year and thank you to the **Parents' Association** who continue to support our school with fun events and traditions like the Christmas Tree decorations and recent coffee morning.

**Ms Keating's Fantastic First Class** have been very busy since returning from our Halloween break. We welcomed our new teacher, Ms. Keating, and have been very helpful and kind to her as she was settling in. We took part in 'Science Week' and watched an amazing webinar about how the week was being celebrated all over Ireland. We even conducted our own experiment called 'Tornado in a Bottle'. We completed our 6 week gymnastics programme with Eithne Morrissey. A big thank you to Eithne – we learned so much. The highlight was our individual performances to showcase all we had learned. November was a busy month in our learning as we explored different types of homes that people live in as well as owl species that can be found in Ireland. We completed some fantastic artwork on both of these topics. December has been a very busy month preparing for our Christmas show and showing off our artistic skills. We worked very hard each night to learn our lines and our songs. A big thank you to all Mammy's and Daddy's for helping us with our preparations!! We can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for the Fantastic First Class.

**Mrs. Long's Junior and Senior Infant** classroom has been a hive of activity since term 1 began. The Junior and Senior Infants constantly amaze their teacher with their incredible talents and have been working so hard all term. Our classroom elf Elfie returned to school a few weeks ago and we just know he has great news for Santa when he returns to the North Pole. This term we have enjoyed gymnastics with Eithne and we continue to enjoy athletics weekly. Senior Infants are working incredibly hard on their free writing and Junior Infants are enjoying blending activities at the magic door. The children are looking forward to the Christmas holidays where they will take a well deserved rest. We wish you and all

**Mr Canning's Second Class** finished our Gymnastics lessons with Eithne a few weeks ago, that were being held up in the Hall. We had to complete a routine that consisted of 10 Gymnastic moves. We have been attending mass every Friday and we are well on our journey to making our First Holy Communion in May next year We are busy in class with our Christmas art activities and we really enjoyed performing our Christmas show 'The landlord's cats' back up in the Hall.

**What do Santa's helpers learn in school? - The Elf-abet!!!**







### **Mrs Moloney's Junior Infants**

We have really enjoyed the first term in school. We have made lots of new friends and adjusted to our new routines very well! We love our hot lunches everyday! Yum!

In October we planted an oak tree for National Tree Day. Mr Leahy helped us. We look forward to watching the tree grow as we go through primary school.

We enjoyed learning new things. Inky the mouse has been helping us learn new sounds each week. We love opening our magic door to see our new sounds! Inky and our elf 'Jingles' have been up to mischief in our classroom moving our letters around to make new words each morning!

For science week we made elephant toothpaste! The magic ingredients made the toothpaste grow big enough for an elephant's mouth!

During this term we enjoyed doing gymnastics with Eithne and athletics with Barry! We have great friends in Mrs Long's class too and we meet them every day! We really enjoyed our Christmas concert! "I liked the costumes" –Michael "The singing was the best" –Frankie "I loved the dancing" –Aoife

We love seeing our school dog Teddy! We brought him for a walk on the green and he was a very good boy! Teddy gives the best cuddles!



*What do you get if you cross a vampire and a snowman?*

*- Frostbite!!!  
(Pádraig-2nd)*

*Why do snowmen not fight?*

*Because they are so chilled!!*

*(Kayla-2nd)*

**Ms Griffin's Class** :Our favourite time of year. It was extra special to be back on stage for our Christmas shows! We loved the preparation and of course the performance. We are a busy group with lots happening in school and after school! We have lots of different interests and hobbies and love sharing our stories and experiences. Some activities include Taekwondo, Beavers, Swimming, Trampolining, Drama, Arabic lessons, Soccer, Musical instruments! After working so hard this term we had a fabulous visit to Santa in the Grotto in Cahir and to Cahir House Hotel for a bite to eat. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas.

**Mr Moroney's Class** have had a busy few months! One of the highlights of the term was our recent visit to Santa in Cahir with breakfast in Cahir house! We also loved the trip to the musical 'Oliver' in Clonmel. It has been an active term and we are really enjoying Smart Moves with Mr Slattery every week and yoga on Mondays, as well as football and hurling with Nigel and Barry. We also enjoyed swimming and drumming this term. We have very talented singers and actors in our class and enjoyed our Christmas shows in the hall. We have also been practicing for Peace Proms and had a great day at the rehearsal in Waterford. At the moment, we are looking forward to Christmas and a well-deserved rest. We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!



**Ms Cullen's 4th Class** have had an exciting, enjoyable, and memorable first term, filled with many happy memories. We have learned so many new things and had wonderful opportunities to work with others. From gymnastics, football, hurling, and drumming lessons, the children developed new skills while having great fun. A highlight of the term has been connecting with our new pen pals in Co. Wexford. Another special moment this term was celebrating Teddy's first birthday. The children put a lot of thought and effort into making it a memorable occasion, showing amazing kindness and creativity. As we look ahead, we are very excited about taking part in the Peace Proms in January and all the adventures the rest of the school year has in store for us!



### Mr Prendergast's 4th & 5th

What a busy first term we have had. In our room we have 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> class which means there are loads of activities going on every day. We have had great fun at both hurling and football sessions with Barry and Nigel. Gymnastics was also exciting with Eithne, we can now do handstands! We have a very musical class and lots of people are going for lessons with Sarah and Una. We are involved in Peace Proms this year so we have been practising loads and have spent one day in the WIT arena in Waterford practising with all the other schools.

Once a month we have our tea morning where 5<sup>th</sup> class go to Mr Leahy's room and Miss Cullen's 4<sup>th</sup> class come to our room. We have great fun chatting and eating healthy biscuits.

Everybody dressed up for the Friday before Halloween. Some of the costumes in our class barely fitted in the door. It was great fun.

Besides all these activities, we have a lot of work done in class with all the different subjects. Every Friday we complete the art lesson and this week we have decorated our class with hanging snowflakes. Hope everyone enjoys the Christmas holidays and we will see everybody in the New Year for another busy term.

**Sports Notes:** Well done to the boys and girls who participated in football competitions and blitzes this term and to those who competed in the Cross Country races hosted by Clonmel AC. 3rd and 4th enjoyed futsal coaching from the FAI. All pupils enjoyed gymnastics with Eithne this term and thanks to Barry and Nigel for coaching the senior classes in football and hurling. Next term we will participate FAI 5s and in a Tag Rugby Blitz amongst other exciting activities. Swimming will also continue next term.

**Mrs Wall's 3rd Class** have had a fantastic first term. We really enjoyed our swimming block where everyone made excellent progress. We have one more class to look forward to in the New Year!

We have been improving our football & hurling skills under the leadership of Nigel & Barry. Everyone has really improved their ball handling skills, and we look forward to lots more GAA action in the New Year. We enjoyed a fabulous block of gymnastics with our coach Eithne. Everyone had a lovely opportunity to show off what they had learned during the end of block showcase. The musical talent in Third class is clearly evident during our tin whistle classes. We have mastered our notes and a few songs too. Some children have started music lessons with Úna & Sarah which they are thoroughly enjoying.

Our Christmas play 'Prickly Hay' allowed all of the children the opportunity to shine on stage. All the boys & girls worked so hard learning their lines & songs and their hard work paid off with the excellent performances they gave both to the rest of the school & their parents. Well done everyone! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Mrs Wall, Peggy & all the boys & girls in Third Class.

### Merry Christmas from Mr Leahy's 5<sup>th</sup> Class.

Our Christmas show, Straw and Order was a court case between the cows and donkeys over a stable. Everyone was laughing left, right and centre, it was lots of fun.

This year 5th Class were involved in both U11 and U13 football competitions. We did football and hurling coaching with Barry and Nigel. We also took part in Cross Country Athletics and did gymnastics lessons with Eithne. 5th Class boys and girls represented the school well. Well done everyone!

In December Ms. Quinlivan and Ms. Mee told us we will be playing in a soccer league. There were six teams. Every team played each other before the quarter finals. The top two teams went straight to the semifinals. The final was played on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December and Team 6 won. The score 2:1 to Team 6.

By John, Fionn and Niall.



**Christmas Shoebox Appeal:** Spreading Christmas cheer...6th class pupils help load the Team Hope Christmas Shoeboxes. Well done to all the boys and girls in Ardfinnan NS for filling shoeboxes for children less fortunate. Your generosity is much appreciated.

