Scoil Eoin Phóil Times

Christmas Edition 2016



**\*\* Please remember School re-opens Monday, 9th Jan ’17.**

**The Christmas Story**

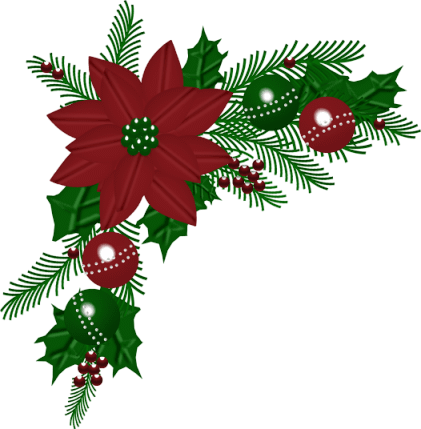
Once upon a time,  
A long, long time ago.  
Begins the story of a baby,  
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,  
And Mary was His mom,  
This babe was very special  
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,  
And they began to sing.  
To the shepherds in the fields below,  
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,  
To light the magi's way,  
To the baby in the manger  
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,  
Rejoiced and praised His birth.  
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,  
Is our Saviour here on earth!



**Christmas Prayer**

*Thank you, God for the wonderful gift of your son, Jesus, as we celebrate His birthday. Help us to remember Him as we give and receive gifts, taking time to pray for each person and for those who have nothing, Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with you and with your love, peace and joy.*

*Amen*







Happy Hanukkah



Hanukkah is the annual Jewish festival of light. The holiday lasts eight days. The key ceremony of Hanukkah is lighting a menorah candlestick each night. In 165 B.C. the Greek Army were attacking the Jewish people. Some Jews were trapped in an important Jewish Temple. They only had enough

oil left for one day. Yet somehow the oil

miraculously lasted for eight days until the battle was over. These days, people celebrate Hanukkah by eating foods fried in oil, such as potato pancakes and doughnuts. Children play with spinning tops called “dreidels”. Children get chocolate coins

called “gelt” too. This year Hanukkah starts on Saturday 24th December and ends on

Sunday January 1st 2017. The date of Hanukkah moves each year like the date of Easter. Last year we celebrated from Dec 6th to the 14th during school term. This is a picture of Our School Hanukkah Party from 2016. Sadly we bid farewell to a lot of our Israeli friends who have returned to Israel. (Mayaan, Elay, David, Daniela, Kfir, Barak, Hila and Guy) We wish them a Happy Hanukkah and lot of success for the future.

**Mrs King / Mrs Kyne**



Christmas

The best part of Christmas is friends and family,

We put up our lovely Christmas tree.

Christmas time is here,

It’s time for jolly cheer.

Santa says “Hohoho”

As off in a sleigh he will go.

It’s my favourite time of the year,

As Santa and his reindeer are here.

Christmas crackers are pulled all day,

Santa’s reindeer pull the sleigh.

Now there’s a snowman in the yard,

And all send Christmas cards.

By Jake Morris,

3rd class





Here in Room 6 we have been very excited preparing for the festive season. Our Nativity Play is called 'Christmas with the Aliens' and we have enjoyed learning the songs and performing it for others. We have worked together to create our very own Christmas Poem. We explored some rhyming words and then created our own poem with 3 verses. Here it is:

**Getting Ready for Christmas**

|  |
| --- |
| **We love Christmas time**  **Eating chocolate but no slime!**  **Putting up the Christmas tree**  **I hope the star is just for me!** |
| **Wrapping presents with a bow**  **Hoping that it will snow**  **Hearing the jolly Christmas bells**  **With the good news the angel tells.** |
| **Seeing all the Christmas sights**  **And all the colourful Christmas lights.**  **I hope you like the yummy mince pies**  **And that no children have told any lies!** |

There are lots of exciting things in store for 1st Class in 2017 but for now we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

1st class, Ms O’Shea

Now it’s time to leave this city,

It was nice and it’s so pretty

And we can feel the warning signs running around our minds

We are ready to leave this island

But first we need to get our **spaceship flying.**

We can feel the warning signs running around our minds.

So here we go

We’re trying our best but it just won’t go. Our bodies are young but our ship is very old.

So what do you say

There’s no room in the inn there is just no way

We’re the half the world away, we’re half the world away

​So here we go

We’re trying our best but the progress is  slow. Our bodies are young but our ship is very old.

So what do you say

There’s no room in the inn there is just no way

We’re the half the world away, we’re half the world away​

We're half the world away, We've been lost we've been found but we're not going down!



My name is Dylan. I live in Leixlip. I like to play cars. Christmas is fun. Every year we put up a tree and pull crackers. I wrote my letter to Santa and asked for Scooby Doo lego sets and text-a-parrot. I hope Santa will give me my presents. He is very kind.

My Christmas wish is for everyone to be kind and happy. Happy Christmas everyone. I typed this all by myself!

By Dylan O’Connor,

Senior Infants



In Ms. O Keeffe’s Fifth Class, we have been studying World War 1 in History. As part of our study of this topic, we have been writing diary entries from the soldiers in the trenches during the four years of terrible warfare. Here are some samples of our work:

16th October 1914

Dear Diary,

I was dragged into war by my father. My father was a British soldier and he wants me to become a soldier just like him, but the truth is I don’t want to because I am afraid of dying! Today we were fighting against the Germans. They have won all of their previous battles, while we have lost most of ours. We stayed in our trenches for most of the battle. My best friend Finn, who was also dragged into war, is our best sniper. Today at 11a.m., our commander shouted, “over the top!” I jumped up as fast as I could and hurled a grenade at the German trenches. The Germans reacted quickly and began shooting at us from all directions. I luckily made it back to our trench safely and so did Finn. What about my father? I peeked out over the top of the trench and saw lots of dead bodies spread across the ground. No sign of my father. Suddenly I heard a scream and there lay my father. I was so delighted to see him. But then, the smile was wiped off my face quickly because I heard a loud bang. My father dropped to the ground. I slouched down in my trench. Later that day, Finn was sniping when he was shot. I am all alone now. I will write again tomorrow.

By Darragh Carter, 5th Class, Miss O’ Keeffe

**3rd class visit Leixlip library**

On Thursday 10th November 2016, we went to Leixlip library to learn all about electricity as part of Science Week. The presenter, Aoife, told us lots of interesting information about electricity.

We learned about famous inventers; Michael Faraday, Gionvanni and Nolta. Aoife showed us different experiments to explain about electricity and some of us volunteered to help! Our science workshop finished with a quiz which was great fun.

3rd class, Mrs Malin



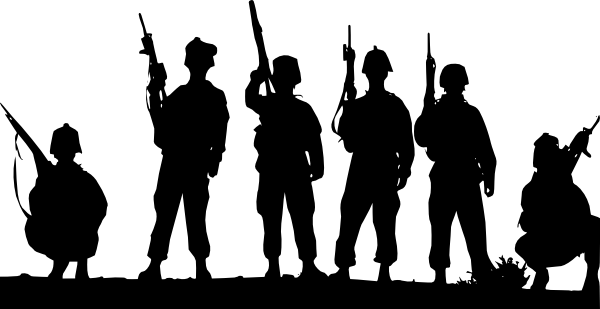
**SPIKEBALL**

Ms.O’Keeffe and Mrs.Malin would like to thank all the 5th and 6th class pupils who tried out for the school team. The standard was very high and we hope you all continue practising. Four teams will be entered into the Kildare Championships which will take place in a few weeks’ time. Best of luck!



15th June 1918

Dear Diary,

Today was the same as many other days in the trenches. I woke up at 2a.m. to begin my shift. Shooting usually starts in the half light. I am fighting in the front line and so all I do is eat, sleep and shoot. For every meal, we eat either tinned stew or corned beef. It is disgusting here and half of us soldiers have lice. I am on shift now and the commander has just told us he wants us to go “over the top”. I automatically grab my bayonet and fasten it onto my rifle. We try to save as many bullets as we can. I jumped out of the trench and into no man’s land. I ran as far as I dared to and threw a grenade as far as I could. It is around 11p.m. now and it is my turn to go out into “no man’s land” to fix the barbed wire. I leave the trench and next thing I see that someone has let off a flare into the sky. I drop to the ground quickly and lie still. I am safe. They didn’t see me. I creep back to the trench. I will write again when I can.

Martin O’ Connell

By Kate Harrington,

5th Class, Ms O’ Keeffe

**3rd class news**

It has been a busy term for 3rd class and we have all been working very hard.

Here are some of the interesting activities that we have been doing:

* In Science we learned about solids, liquids and gases.
* Our favourite history topic is The Stone Age and we did some really impressive cave paintings based on this topic.
* We read the novel ‘Rover Saves Christmas’ by Roddy Doyle. There are some very funny parts in the story and we would recommend it as a great read!
* As part of Golden Time, we watched a film in our pyjamas and enjoyed a hot chocolate!
* We wrote our own snowmen poems based on the rhythm of the ‘Frosty the Snowman’ song. Take a look at an example of one on our website. 
* Mrs.Malin has set us many challenges in Mathletics. Mathletics is an online maths programme and its aim is to help us become more confident at maths topics. Liam and Paul have been ranked in the top 100 students in Europe. Amazing boys!
* Yoga was something new and interesting for us in PE. It helped us to focus on our breathing and balance.
* We have been doing The Nativity in Irish. It has been challenging to learn our lines. Some of the words are difficult to remember but we have worked so hard to master them.
* In art, we made Christmas baubles using papier mache. They look beautiful and festive hanging in the corridor.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas!

From 3rd class and Mrs.Malin.



***Limericks***

There was a young man from Clare,

His name was usually Luke Kehir,

He was such a cool man,

He had his own van,

And in it he could drive anywhere.

**By Luke Kehir, 5th class**

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Yoga

This year, the children in 3rd, 4th and 5th class had the chance to do Yoga. Our teacher was a lovely woman named Rose. We did yoga for 3 weeks. It was so much fun. On the first week when we met Rose, we did a Harry Potter themed class. On the second week, we learned different poses such as a snake pose and the famous downward dog pose. On the third week we did a new pose, it was called a bridge. It is when you and your partner hold hands while sitting down and put both your legs together. I had great fun.

Lucy O’Connor, 5th class.

Rang a hAon.

Ms Morrissey’s class.

We had a busy term in rang a haon! We have been busy preparing for our Christmas concert. It is called *Shine your lights*. We have also been busy decorating our classroom with Christmas art. We especially liked designing our Christmas jumpers. We have been working hard. We are getting quicker at our mental maths. We are also working hard on our tables and we try our best to beat our top score every Friday. We have been learning lots of new words in Irish. We can name all the clothes that we wear, some of the foods we eat and some of the things we see at Christmas time! We also know some Christmas songs as gaeilge. We have enjoyed learning about the Christmas story in our Grow in Love. The highlight of this term has been practising for our Christmas play and working well together.

**Junior Infant Newsletter**

As term one in Scoil Eoin Phóil comes to a close what a journey our Junior Infants have made. We have learned 18 of our Jolly Phonics sounds and can now blend and read lots of new words! Go ahead and test us !!! We are so proud of ourselves and love to read. We can write words on our whiteboards and love writing notes and letters , especially to Santa. In Aistear we have learned about building and the different types of houses. We have constructed houses out of blocks, lego and junk art. We made Playdough tools, walls, builders hats and practiced our letters. We became builders on a building site. This month we were elves in Santa’s workshop. We had to read letters from some boys and girls and fill their Santa’s box. We made toys and used patterns to make our very own wrapping paper. Using Playdough we made Christmas dinner, decorations for our tree, presents and a snowman. We can’t wait for Aistear in term two. In Maths we have started to learn the numbers 1,2 and 3 along with exploring pattern and comparing and ordering. We have been extremely busy preparing for our Christmas Play “ Born in a Barn”! We can’t wait for our Mammies and Daddies to see us. We know all our songs and actions and have been practising our lines at home. We learned so much Irish in term one and love to show off. We know our colours, food, toys, actions and lots of words about Christmas. We can’t wait to show you all the lovely art we have done on our open day. On the 8th December, we made our first big trip from the school to the church. Everyone was amazed at how grown up we were and how well behaved we were in the church. Our teachers are very proud of us. We will miss our friends over the Christmas holidays and can’t wait to see everyone again in January and hear all the exciting news.

Slán go fóill. Nollaig Shona daoibh.

Ms Phillips & Mrs Black



***Limericks***

Santa had a very long list

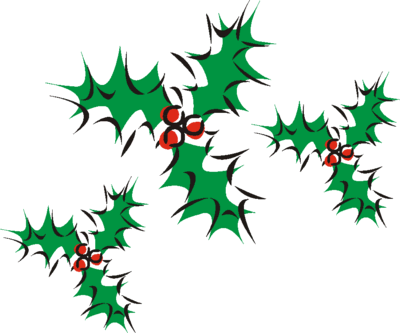
That once got lost in the mist,

It landed in snow,

He had to fly down low,

So now he has it tied to his wrist.

**Abbie Campbell, 5th class**



**Hanukkah**

Hanukkah is a Jewish Celebration. It lasts for 8 days. There are 8 candles on the “Menorah” or candlestick (candelabra). In Israel we get a holiday on the first day from school but we have to go to school for the other 7 days. This is because we only light the candles at 8pm each night. One candle on the 1st night, two candles on the 2nd night, and so on until the 8th night of Hanukkah when we light all 8 candles. We eat doughnuts and we drink grape juice. We get chocolate coins called “gelt”. We play with “dreidels”, a game with a spinning top. This year my brother Netanel and I will celebrate Hanukkah in Ireland . Hanukkah falls on the same date as the Christmas holidays so we are off school.

By Loren Sadykov, 4th Class.



***Limericks***

I waited by the chimney,

As excited as could be,

But when Santa came down,

He gave me a frown

And told me I’d been naughty.

**Cillian McPadden, 5th class**

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**My book review**

**Book title:** The Photograph

**Author:** Mike Poulton

**What was the book about?:**

William had to do a history project about the olden days but he didn’t want to. Then his sister found a photograph and then he changed his mind. Something strange happens.

**Who were the main characters?:**

William and his big sister Julie were the main characters.

**What was your favourite part of the story? Why did you like it?:**

My favourite part of the story was when Mrs Patel showed William the old photograph and William was in it.

**Score:**10 out of 10

**By:***Liam Dalton*

Senior Infants

We have been having a wonderful time getting ready for Christmas in Senior Infants.   
In preparation, we have been learning all about the story of Christmas and how we celebrate it. We made beautiful stockings that we hope to hang up in our homes and we also made wonderful snowflake decorations. We also wrote letters to Santa in Aistear reminding him that we have been very, very good children. We hope he gets them!   
  
This half term our class worked so hard to remember all of the songs and our lines for our Nativity play. We really enjoyed performing for our friends and families. Mrs Reynolds is very proud of us.   
  
Happy Christmas everyone!  
  
Senior Infants

Mrs Reynolds





**4th Class School Tour: The Concert Hall**

Our trip to the concert hall took place on Tuesday, the 13th of December. It was a Christmas concert and children from all over Ireland filled the concert hall. We heard classical music from the movie Harry Potter and from the composer Tchaikovsky. It was great to see in person the 4 families of the orchestra; the strings, percussion, brass and woodwind. My favourite song that was played was Jingle Bells. My favourite moment in the concert was when everyone did a samba dance. Thank you to Mr. Mulcahy and Ms. Lohan for taking us on a great tour!

Alisha Brilly 4th class

Mr. Mulcahy

**4th Class School Tour: Archaeology Museum**

On 13th December our class went to the Archaeology Museum in Dublin. The Archaeology Museum is right beside Leinster House. There was a protest outside the Dáil about racism in Burma. In the Archaeology Museum we saw cauldrons that were over 2500 years old. We also saw lots of jewellery that was carved by Egyptians. They were extremely beautiful. I think it would have taken the Egyptians a very long time to make the jewellery so beautifully by hand. We also saw long stone swords that were very sharp. After that, we had lunch at St. Stephens Green. We fed the ducks. Then lots of cheeky pigeons flew down to steal a bit of bread. I would like to thank Mr. Mulcahy and Ms. Lohan for escorting us on our trip.

Joe Evans 4th class

Mr. Mulcahy

**History: John F. Kennedy 4th class**

1. JFK was born in Boston in 1917.

2. The F in Kennedy stands for Fitzgerald.

3. His family was originally from Wexford and left Ireland because of the Famine.

4. He fought in the navy in World War 2 and received a medal of bravery.

5. He went to Harvard University and studied English and History.

6. He met former Irish President Eamon De Valera on his visit to Ireland.

7. He led America during the Cuban Missile Crisis against Russia.

8. JFK was the 35th President of the U.S. from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963.

9. John F. Kennedy was the youngest person ever to become president and was the 1st Catholic American president.

10. He was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas Texas.

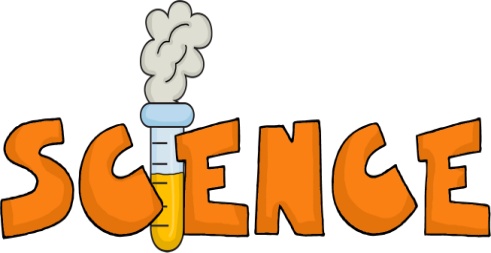
Carraig Stewart Kearns 4th class

Mr. Mulcahy

**4th Class School Tour: Archaeology Museum**

On the 13th of December, Mr Mulcahy's fourth class luckily got to have an early school tour. Part of our tour was a visit to the Dublin Archaeological Museum , which is right beside Leinster House. Inside there were lots of interesting artefacts. One was a body, it was amazing how they found all the tiny little bones like fingers and toes and put them in the right place. Another cool artefact we saw was a dress which was found in a bog. It was brown with a white top under it and the bog had kept it undamaged for many years. The most fascinating artefacts I saw were the torcs that were pure gold from the Celtic era. I would love to try one but they looked very sharp for your neck and anyway, they are too precious to touch. That day we also had our lunch in St Stephen's Green,. We fed the ducks but soon lots of seagulls and pigeons came swooping in trying to get the bread too! We all had fun and are hoping to have more great trips like this. Thank you Mr Mulcahy and Ms Lohan for all your hard work bringing us on such a great tour.

Aoife Lyons 4th class Mr. Mulcahy



**4th class Shoe Box Appeal**

The Inner City Helping Homeless charity called upon organisations across the country to take part in the city’s biggest shoe box appeal for Christmas. We covered shoeboxes in wrapping paper and filled twelve boxes with helpful items such as hats, gloves, scarves, toothpaste, treats and soap. The total number of shoe boxes donated in 2016 is 15,000 making it the highest number ever! My mom collected the boxes from Scoil Eoin Phóil and my Dad dropped them into the collection point in Dublin. We hope they bring happiness to 12 children less fortunate than us this Christmas.

Alison O’Connor

4th class ,Mr. Mulcahy



**Science**

**Our trip to the library.**

We attended the Bright Sparks event in the library in Leixlip. The event was called the Hair Raising Story of Electricity. The scientist who was teaching us was called Aoife. Here are some of the things we learned:

There are two types of electricity, static and current.

There were two scientists called Volta and

Galvani who discovered electricity.

Electricity is everywhere – for example in cars, houses and TV remote controls.

We learned how to make batteries using only salt water, a copper coin and some tin foil.

We took part in lots of science experiments including rubbing a balloon on our hair to create static electricity.

We also rubbed a polystyrene plate on our hair and it stuck to the wall.

Aoife also taught us about magnets and that if the same poles of two magnets are placed near each other they will push away but if the two poles are opposite they will pull together.

We had a great day at the library and learned

lots of fun facts about electricity.

3rd class

Ms Casey



***Boys Gaelic League   
Lunchtime 2016***

This Autumn we had the boys’ Gaelic

Lunchtime league. There were six teams and they were split up evenly with 4th,5th and 6th class pupils from the three Green Lane schools.

There was a total of 86 players who took

part in this league. The six captains of the

teams were James Foster-Armagh,

Daragh Enright-Mayo, Harry Doyle-Cork,

Sean Jeffrey-Dublin, Robert Jackson-Kerry and Sean McManus-Tyrone. There were a few close matches but in the end Mayo and Kerry played in the final. It was a very tense and exciting final, but Mayo won in the end.

Unfortunately Mayo’s luck ran out in the

All-Ireland final. Up the Dubs

**By Daragh Enright, 6th Class**

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**My Visit to see the Irish Rugby Team at Carton House and at the Aviva Stadium.**

**By Tara Larkin 5th class**

On November 7th, the Irish Rugby team beat the All Blacks/ New Zealand Team in Chicago for the first time ever. The score was Ireland 40: New Zealand 29.It is very hard to beat the All Blacks. In 111 years we had never beaten them. It was an exciting match.

On Thursday, 10th November, I went with my Mam and Dad to visit the Irish Rugby Team at Carton House. We brought two other children with us. My friends’ names are Beth and Owen. The team trains at Carton House in Maynooth all the time.

We waited until the team was finished training. Then they came over to us. First over was Joe Smith. He spoke to me for a while. I thought he was English at first but I found out from my Dad that he is from New Zealand. Then one by one the rest of the team said "Hello" to me, and I just said "Hello" back. I was a little bit shy speaking to them. My Dad got his Irish rugby jersey and a ball signed by the team. After the visit, we got McDonald`s on the way home. We all had a great time and an exciting visit to Carton House.

On Saturday November 12th, I went to see the Ireland vs. Canada rugby match in the Aviva Stadium. We sat in the wheelchair section and had the best seats. Ireland won well. My daddy was cheering and I got chips as it was very cold. It was the best day ever. We went home very happy.

The score in the Ireland vs. Canada match was 52 points to 21 points. On November 26th, Ireland beat Australia27 points to 24 points! When Ireland played New Zealand again in Dublin, the score was All Blacks 21 Ireland 9. Poor Ireland! But at least we won three out of the four matches.

Come on Ireland!

Christmas Fair: Hugh Success!

Our Christmas Fair, organised by our P.T.A, was a fantastic success. Held on Sunday 4th December, it attracted huge crowds. There were great bargains to be had from bric-a-brac to cakes to jewellery etc etc. The P.T.A committee is still totalling the takings but they exceed €15,000 which is a truly magnificent result. We will give you the final total at a later date.

We would like to thank the P.T.A for the work they put into organising the fair, the businesses and parents of Leixlip and surrounding areas for their donations and finally a huge thank you to you, the parents and children, for supporting the Fair in every way.

Below is a list of the winners in the various draws / raffles.

**2016 CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**MONSTER RAFFLE PRIZES**

1. Tipperary Crystal Chandelier, worth €1000 – **Tom Byrne : S.E.P**
2. HP Laptop, worth €700 – **Natan Banka : S.E.P**
3. HP Tablet, worth €500 – **Pauline Rigby : S.B**
4. CassidyTravel Voucher, worth €400 – **Jack McGonigle : S.M**
5. Fully Decorated 8ft Christmas Tree,worth €300 - **Caoimhe Foran : S. B**
6. GNS 8 Week Membership, worth €200 – **David Kelly : S.M**
7. Carroll’s Hamper,worth €200 – **Madison Langan : S.M**
8. 6 Month Single Membership to the Amenities Centre, worth €190 – **Emma Leahy :S.B**
9. GAA Club & Shop Voucher, worth €150 – **Bridie Conneely : S.E.P**
10. Sterling Silver Pendant,Neil Conway Jewellers,worth €150 – **Siobhan Lawlor : S.M**
11. Hoover Candy Vacuum Cleaner, worth €120 – **Kila Dunne : S.M**
12. The Church Venue, Jervis Street, Dinner for Two, worth €100 – **John & Valerie Malone : S.E.P**
13. Guinness Storehouse Tour Tickets for 5 people, worth €100 – **Mgt McCormack: S.B**
14. Eurospar Barnhall Hamper, worth €80 – **Brendan O’Sullivan :S.B**
15. Base Family Pass, worth €77 – **Sean Lewis : S.B**
16. Elle No. 5 Products, worth €70 – **Wilhelmina Ryan : S.B**
17. Pat’s Hair Salon Voucher (wash/cut/blow-dry), worth €55 – **Amy McCarthy : S.B**
18. Medniks Hair Salon Voucher (wash/cut/blow-dry), worth €50 – **Atlantis Gounden : S.E.P**
19. Castle Bookshop Voucher, worth €50 – **Ciaran Langley : S.B**
20. Avenue, Early Bird Dinner for Two, worth €48 – **David O’Reilly : S.E.P**

SELLER’S PRIZE: This draw included the names of all those who returned their ticket stubs and money, regardless of whether they sold winning tickets or not.

This year’s prize was an **ArchosTABLET** !!! – **Winner: Richard Lavrov : S.E.P**

* **Guess the Weight of the Cake**

Mia Byrne – Scoil Eoin Phóil

* **Guess The Name of the Teddy**

Evelyn Walsh – Scoil Eoin Phóil

(Snowflake was his name)

* **How many Sweets in the Jar?**

Joseph Clarke - Scoil Bhríde

(953 was the answer)

* **50 / 50 Raffle**

Winner: Marlene Flores – Scoil Eoin Phóil

She received € 443.00



