



curious
minds

Discover STEM

Curious Minds Award 2024/25

Log of Evidence Gold Award

Scoil na mBuachaillí,
Clonakilty



Step 1: Science

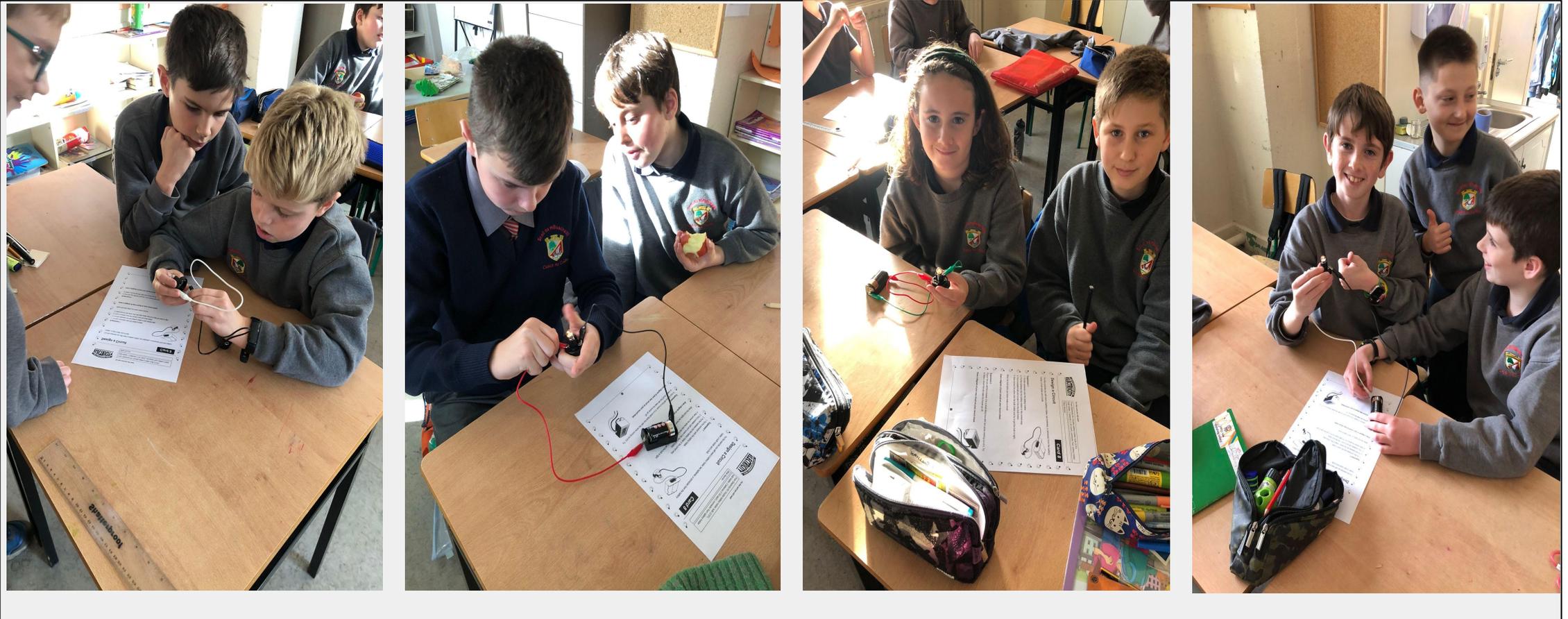


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Step 1: Science

Energy and Forces



4th / 5th class exploring electric currents. Designing a circuit.



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Step 1: Science

Materials



Rainbow Skittles. Senior Infants / First Class explore how diffusion of materials work by pouring water on a circle of skittles. Look at the rainbows they created.





Our School Garden.

6th class



For the pupils of Scoil na mBuachaillí our garden represents times of learning, playing and growing. It teaches us patience and the importance of the natural world. It shows us about the life cycle of many plants, animals and birds. The Courtyard Garden is situated in a courtyard between classrooms. All classes can garden here. We have planted spuds and onions. Our rhubarb which comes back every year is doing very well. We have broad beans planted also. They are in flower now so we think the flowers will turn into beans! We also saved seeds from our sunflowers and marigolds from last year and we planted them again this year. They are growing again so that is a success! Sustainable gardening. We have lettuce and radishes growing in the planter we created from old drain pipes. Rang 7 also planted beautiful strawberry plants in this planter. We are keeping an eye on them to see when they produce strawberries. Our glasshouse is also situated in this garden. There are all sorts of vegetables and flowers growing here – the seedlings are almost ready to be planted out.

We also have new raised beds near the new extension to our school. These beds have been planted with Bee Friendly plants and they are all in full bloom now. This is the start of our Biodiversity Garden. We will be extending it soon! Harry in 5th class brought in a composter to us and we filled it with compostable waste from the garden. Thanks Harry! We also built our own leaf composter. So hopefully next year we will have our own compost which we can use.

Our School Garden



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Step 1: Science

Environmental Awareness and Care



Our School Garden



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Step 1: Science

Environmental Awareness and Care



Rang 6 and Rang 1 went litter picking around our school and in the local community.



Litter Picking in our Local community.



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Step 1: Science Trip to Clonakilty Agricultural College



All classes in the school visited Teagasc Clonakilty Agricultural College in March. This was an immersive trip that ignited curiosity and excitement about agriculture and farming. The boys were given a full tour of the farm and all areas of farming life were explained in detail.



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Step 1: Science

Trip to UCC



Based in UCC, APC's programmes for primary schools are designed to enthuse students about science through Inquiry Based Science Education and by providing opportunities for hands-on laboratory experience.

Our 6th class had a wonderful day at the "Food is Funky" workshop on Friday December 6th.



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Step 1: Science

SEAI Workshop



SEAI Workshop in our school. 3rd – 5th class attended.



Step 2: Technology



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Step 2: Technology

Global Classroom



On Friday January 31st, Green-Schools officially launched the **Global Classroom Project** and we are honoured to be the school that launched the event. Congratulations to our Green School Co-ordinator Ms Niamh Mac Auley, our Green Schools Committee and 6th class.

This international linking project began in late 2020 when Green-Schools joined forces with our colleagues and friends in [Eco-Schools Kenya](#) and [Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education](#) .

The initial aim was to co-creatE five workshops on five Global Goals: Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, and Goal 15: Life on Land. Each school in Ireland and Kenya participating in the project was required to take action on their assigned global goal, creating an environment of interconnected learning and a greater understanding of the things the students have in common and things that may be different.

The project has now expanded to include 5 countries and we have added more engagements throughout the year, which includes Global Goals week.

Please click on the link below to see the video which 6th class filmed and edited to launch Global Classroom Project 2024 -2025

<https://snbclonakilty.com/news/official-global-classrooms-launch-31012025/?p=5&>

Here is a link to the video created by 6th class to launch Global Classroom around the World. The video is published on our school website.



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Step 5: STEM Show and Tell



Marine Week – 6th class created a powerpoint and presented it to classes for Marine week. Our Power point is added to the application form.



Making

Podcasts

We invested in a podcaster here in Scoil na mBuachaillí. Here are some of the podcasts that 6th class produced this year. We have great fun writing and recording these podcasts. We hope you enjoy them. Click on the speaker icons below to hear the podcasts. We have

- Finbarr and Cian – Basketball podcast
- Kian and Evan – Zoos in Ireland podcast
- Liam and Ewan – Gaming Podcast
- Niall and Matthew – Farming Podcast
- Samu and Oscar – Weather Podcast
- Ben and Conor – Gaming Podcast

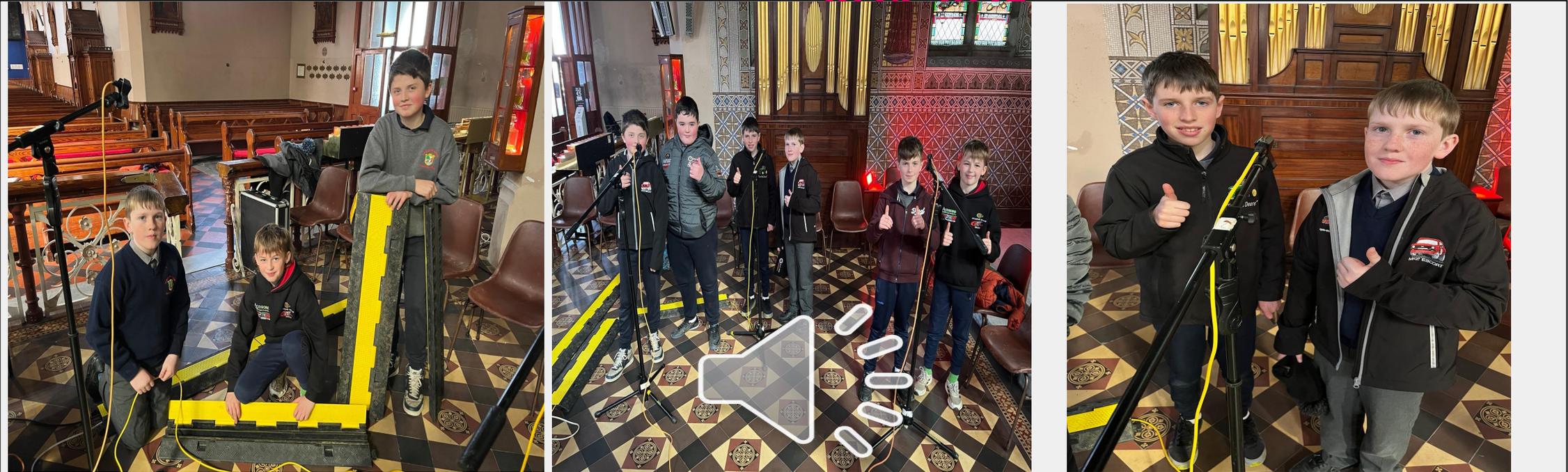


Step 3: Engineering



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2024 2025



Sound Crew. Click on the link above to hear our podcast on the Sound Crew.

The sound crew was an initiative of our retired principal Mr. Harrington. It consists of boys from 3rd – 6th class who are interested in Sound Engineering. We have invested in sound desks, microphones, leads, amps etc. The boys have been trained by Mr. Harrington and sound engineer John Fitzgerald and the sound crew organise the sound for the local church and all events in the school. Our biggest event to date was the Christmas Carol Service in Emmet Square in the heart of the town.

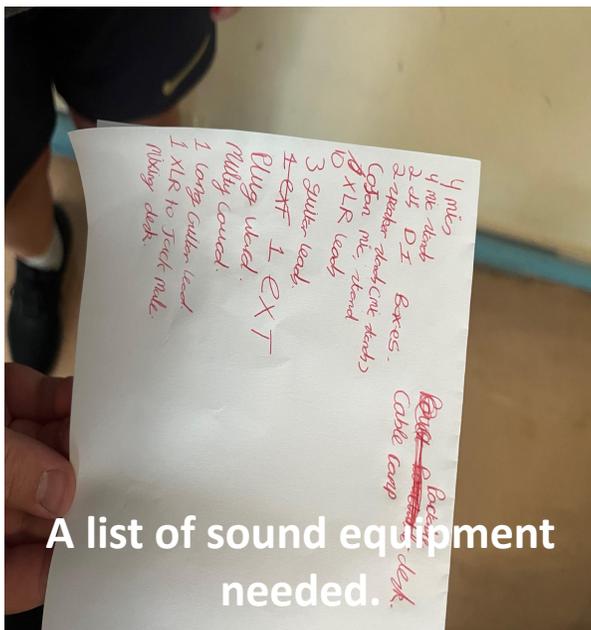




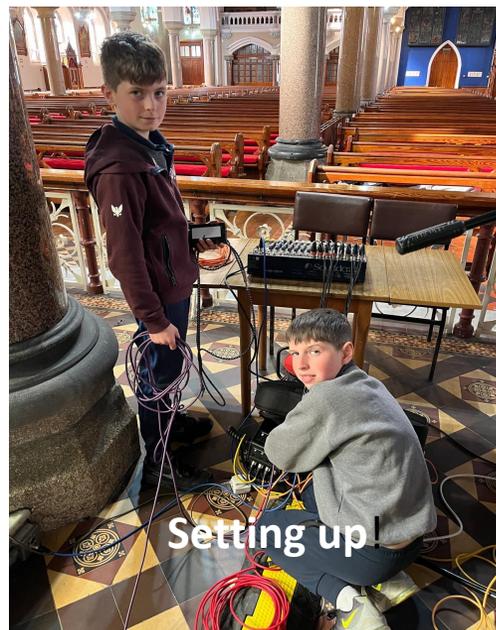
Training with John Fitzgerald



Carrying the sound equipment to the church



A list of sound equipment needed.



Setting up!



One of our many sound desks.

14th November 2024 Our Leaf Composter

In recent weeks we have been busy gathering all the Autumn leaves. However we had no where to put them. As a project for Science week Ms. Fitzmaurice suggested designing and building a leaf composter. So we got a committed together from lots of different classed and working with Finbarr, our caretaker, we designed and built a leaf composter. It was great fun and we learned how to measure the area, use a sledge hammer and we even got to use a staple gun!

Good fun, good for the environment and good for all the little bugs and insects who will help break down our leaves. Thank you Finbarr. We loved working with you.



Pupils from different classes set up a '**Leaf Composter Committee**' and with the help of staff and caretaker Finbarr, designed and built a leaf composter for the school. We then gathered all the leaves around the school and put them into the composter.



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Step 3: Engineering

Designing and building a leaf composter

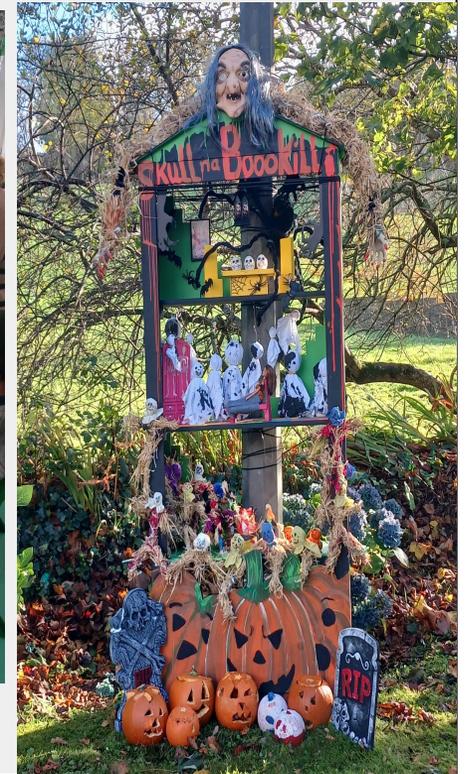


Photos of us building our leaf composter. November 2024



Step 3: Engineering Designing and building a scarecrow for the Leap Scarecrow Festival

In November Rang 7 along with Junior/ Senior Infants designed and built a scarecrow for the Leap Scarecrow Festival. The Scarecrow was called 'Skull na Boookill'.



The scarecrow was then brought to a near by village 'Leap' where it was on display over the Halloween as part of the Leap Scarecrow Festival. As a school we love to reach out to local communities and take part in these events. Very spooky!!





Step 4: Maths

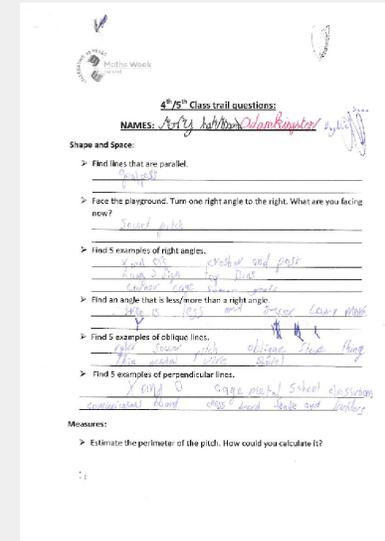
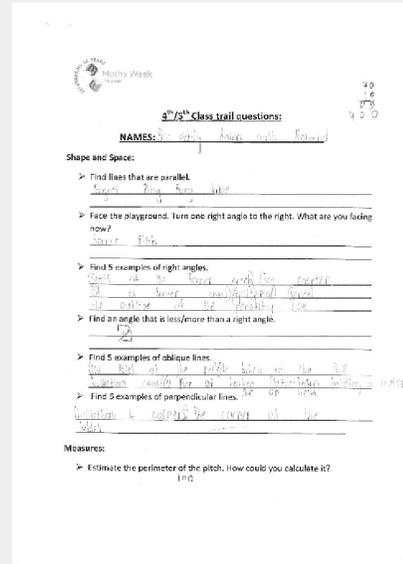


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Maths Trail – 4th/5th class

This week we did a maths trail! We were split into groups of 2 and 3. We were learning about length, width and angles. We found parallel, oblique and perpendicular lines. We used metre sticks to find the length and width of different areas. We also found acute, obtuse and right angles. We used protractors and chalk to draw angles on the ground. We also found the area and the perimeter of our soccer pitch and our basketball court. We all enjoyed and had fun during this maths trail!

Written by the pupils in 4th/5th class



Maths Trail in 4th/5th class. Completed maths trails are added as PDF's to the application form.



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Step 4: Maths

Scoil na mBuachaillí Maths Week 2025



Maths Week – 3rd class engaged in Maths activities and games for Maths Week.



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Step 4: Maths

Maths Stations Rang 1



Maths Week. Maths Stations in Rang 1



Step 5: Show and Tell



Step 5: STEM Show and Tell

Tree Day – The Hawthorn Tree

Padraig Hurley, Kian O'Donovan, Ben Deasy

For Tree day we made a powerpoint on the Hawthorn tree. Ms. Fitzmaurice showed us how to make a powerpoint and we chose the Hawthorn tree as it was the tree for this years Tree Day. We loved making the powerpoint and we learned a lot about Powerpoint and the Hawthorn Tree.

Once we had it finished we then presented the powerpoint to all the classes in the school. We had a quiz at the end which all the classes loved.

Here is a link to our powerpoint which is on our school website.

<https://www.snbclonakilty.com/news/curious-minds/>



Tree Day – Rang 6 - Powerpoint on the Hawthorn Tree



Step 5: STEM Show and Tell

Science Blast – Rang 3/4

From: **Ciara Byrne** <scienceadmin@rds.ie>

Date: Mon, 10 Mar 2025 at 14:32

Subject: ESB Science Blast 2025 - Your investigation

Marie

I am delighted to see that you are joining us at ESB Science Blast 2025.

I can confirm that your investigation, **What is electricity?**, has been accepted for your venue and date of choice: **Tuesday 20th May 2025, UL Limerick.**

I'll be back in touch with information about taking part once next Friday's deadline for submissions passes, but in the meantime, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Ciara

**Science Blast – Rang 3/ 4 are taking part in Science Blast.
Confirmation their project is accepted.**



Step 5: STEM Show and Tell

Science Blast – Rang 3

Dear Marie,

I am delighted to see that you are joining us at ESB Science Blast 2025.

I can confirm that your investigation, **Can we create a sustainable garden in our school?** has been accepted for your venue and date of choice: **Tuesday 20th May 2025, UL Limerick.**

I'll be back in touch with information about taking part once next Friday's deadline for submissions passes, but in the meantime, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,
Ciara



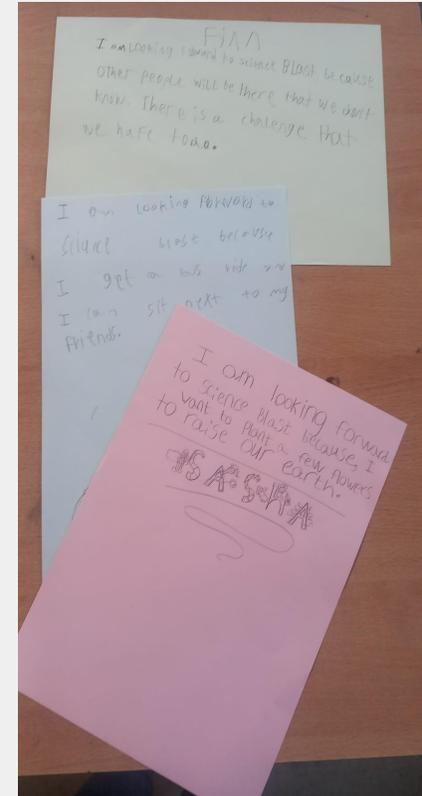
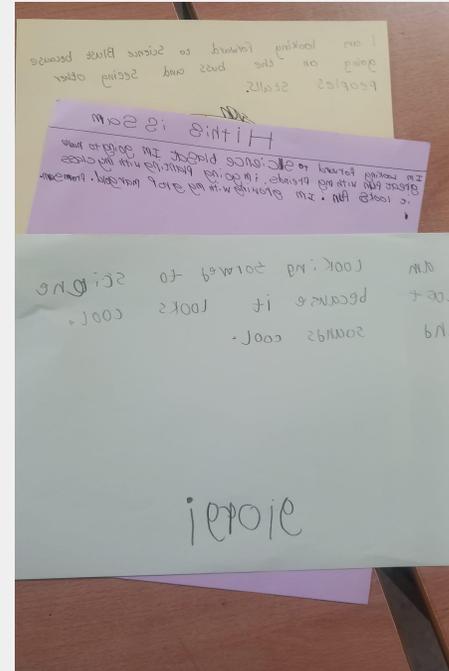
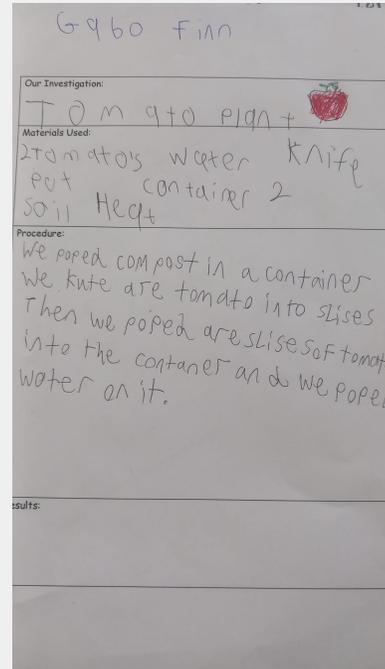
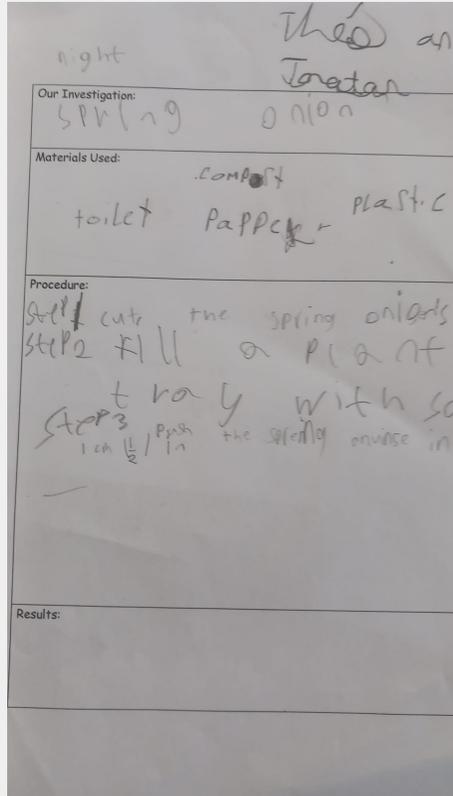
**Science Blast – Rang 3 are taking part in Science Blast.
Confirmation their project has been accepted.**



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Step 5: STEM Show and Tell

Science Blast – Rang 3



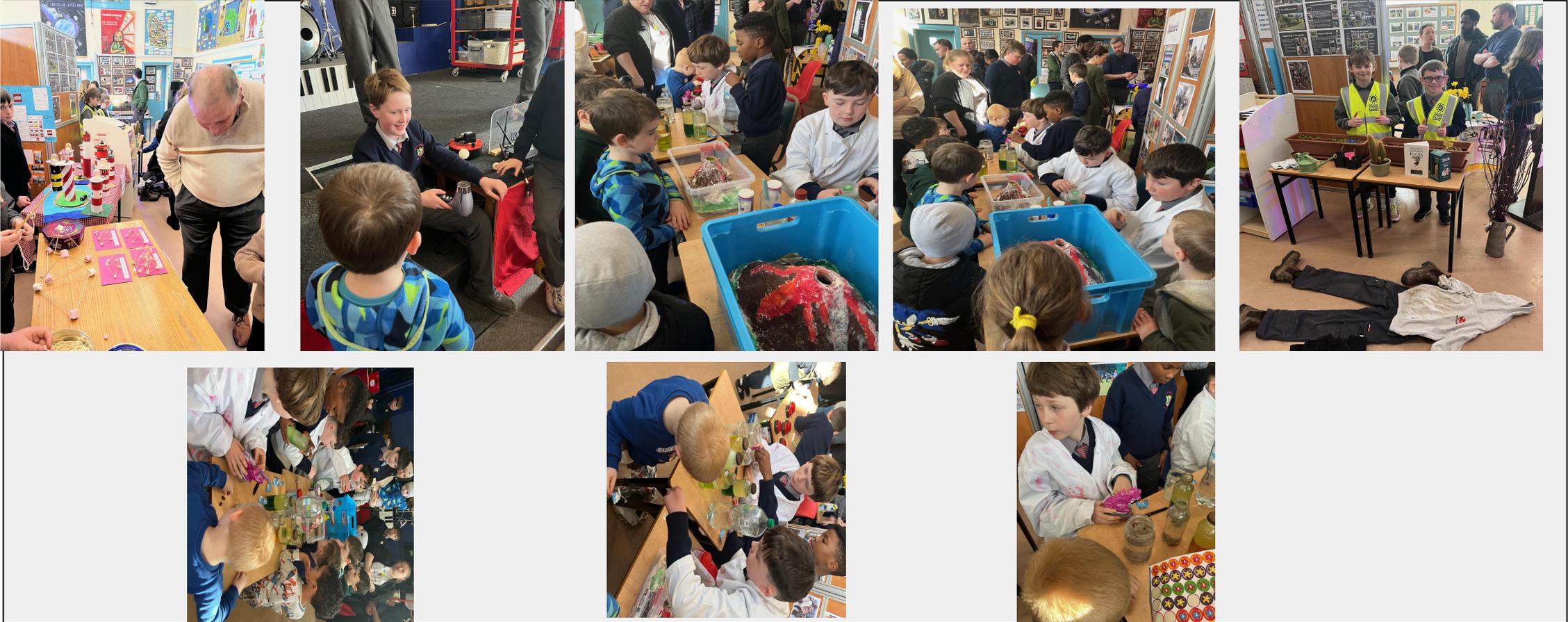
Science Blast – Rang 3 are taking part in Science Blast.



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Step 5: STEM Show and Tell

Open Day for Parents February 2025



Open Day. In February we had an open day for parents. Pupils in all classes held a science exhibition in the hall. Parents and pupils visited the exhibition. The exhibition was full of all the science activities that take place in our school and lots of science experiments. It was a great success.

