



3rd, 4th ,5thclasses are celebrating Xmas from Eastern Europe this year. The older children have been taught **Silent Night** in Polish by a Mum and she has told them some amazing information about the different ways in which Xmas is celebrated in Poland. From First class up , they have been finding out about Russia and 3rd,4th and 5th were shocked to

discover that after the Russian Revolution of 1917 Xmas was no longer celebrated on the 25th of December! Two children presented an assembly with the music of **Tchaikovsky** (the Nutcracker Suite) and the assembled children were suitably impressed when they heard that by the time he was 10 years of age he could play better than his teacher! These older classes have also been learning the names of the countries that comprise Eastern Europe.

Principal's Thoughts

We would like to thank the whole school community for their contribution to our first term of 2010/2011. This time 2 years ago we only had 45 children to organise, so you can imagine with an additional hundred children this year and 14 staff members our school is becoming a little hive of industry! All the goodwill from you, the parents, has assisted us greatly through this term. We would like to thank you in particular for your patience and understanding during the SNOW days and for helping us get back to normality as soon as possible Our Caretaker, Ben, has also helped ease the problems we encountered during this time. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT ON THE PREMISES TO SELECT THE WINNING TICKET FOR THE XMAS RAFFLE! Congrats to Zephan & Bryn Mooney Jones, whose Mummy won the cake!



Greystones December 2010 Educate Together N.S.



S november!!!!: The children were delighted of course when school had to remain closed for the last 2 days of November and the 1st, 2nd & 3rd of December. Most schools in Greystones closed for the week. The school's driveway and roads leading to it were hazardous. Teachers living in Rathfarnham and Roundwood couldn't make it in—although on the milder of the days, Tuesday 30th, we all made it to school for a **Planning Day**—this proved to be very productive as we drew up plans for a Critical Incident Policy, an ICT Policy, Handwriting Schemes and made some adjustments to the RSE Policy, as well. Other management decisions were teased out e.g. the use of PAT beginner level as a phonics scheme in the school AND THEN, GUESS WHAT, MORE SNOW****21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Dec.

School Bus

This has been a hugely welcome addition to our developing school. The children (currently about 40 of them), who avail of it, absolutely love it and parents find it a great incentive to get them to get ready quickly in the mornings!!! There is a charge for children inside of 3.2km.range . The children all wear their belts and, according to the driver, are perfectly behaved at all times. They certainly line up in a very orderly fashion at the school wall in the mornings! Well done all!!!



Drop Down

Big thank you to everyone for allowing the bus enough space in the morning to swing in and park and manoeuvre back out again. Much appreciated!

LOST PROPERTY You will usually find your lost items on the coat stand at the top of the stairs. Ask if not there. We send uncollected items to Charity shops.

Christmas Baby !

Welcome to Faolan McCarthy's (Senior Infants) new baby brother Calum born on Tuesday December 14th

Junior Infants Vaccinations to take place at the school on January 14th—Pls return Consent Forms.

Junior infants have had a really enjoyable first term. They have done wonderful Christmas art work which unfortunately, you won't be able to enjoy until the New Year. We can sing so many songs together now....watch out X Factor! Your little one will be able to give a top class performance at any party! They have all worked really hard this term and are in need of a well deserved break. I hope you all have a great 2011 Naomi.

Geraldine's Senior Infants would like to send a very big thank you to Katarzyna for the lovely Polish Christmas traditions, particularly a beautiful version of Silent Night in Polish. It will be sung at the end of the Baboushka plays.

Emmett's Senior Infants have been hard at work this term across all areas, particularly reading, where the children have begun the first of our Sunny Street books. I would like to thank Angelina and Aoife for all their help so far with every child's progress. We have learned a number of Irish songs which I'm sure you have heard being rattled off at home at some stage. We had lots of fun with a great presentation about bugs from Knocksink Nature Reserve. They also brought along some stuffed hedgehogs and squirrels. Senior Infants tried out different experiments, like testing materials that soak up water, making clay boats to see if we can get them to float and growing our own snowdrops! We have enjoyed creating lovely art displays this term including paper weaving using garden pictures I'm sure our hard work and fun will continue again in the new year. We look forward to starting again in 2011. Emmett and his Senior. Infants

'The Healthy Eating Committee' will be holding a healthy eating week in school from the 17th till the 21st of January with lots of fun activities and information for the students.



Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings

Due to bad weather, these had to be re-scheduled, but fortunately they have all been completed and the teachers would like to thank their parents for the wonderful affirming feedback they received from them.

First class did lots of projects this term along with learning to write in **cur-sive**. We studied hamsters and owls, and the Park Rangers from Ticknock forest were very impressed with the children's knowledge of owls when they came to talk to our class about birds. Our art projects included learning about tone and shading before creating winter scenes, using only shades of black and white. We also created Superhero collages using the primary colours, and we learned about the artists Picasso and Matisse. We researched Russian traditions at Christmas and learned lots about Grandfather Frost and Baboushka. We also had lots of fun practising the Baboushka play with Catherine's and Conor's classes.

Conor's class has been up to lots of exciting activities this term. Nearly as soon as the New Year started we were down to Shoreline Greystones for our 8 week swimming programme. In November the class did a short project on volcanoes which ended with us erupting our volcanoes in the safety of the school yard! Recent weeks has seen the class, along with half of Aoife's 1st class, take on the Russian Christmas tale of Baboushka. We have been regularly rehearsing in the Wicklow room and the class has been busy learning lines at home. We look forward to showing off the finished product to all the parents before the holidays! Conor's class send Happy Winter Holidays to everyone!

PA COMMITTEE It's hard to believe that 2010 has come and gone, but for the PA Committee it has been a busy one. One of our challenges has been that due to unforeseen circumstances, the number of parent representatives on the committee is down on last year and we'd like to make a renewed appeal to parents to think about getting involved. Remember we are all just parents like you, so no special skills required other than to help out with the projects we have on our plate.

So if you think you can spare one Tuesday night a month and can participate in some of the events, why not get in touch either via Aideen or any of the existing PA group members (check out PA website for **details**).

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!