

# BCNS NEWS



**Brannoxtown Community National School**

**February Newsletter 2020**

**Dear Parents,**

**We are readers and we are writers. This issue celebrates our love of reading and writing and children's development as competent and confident communicators. Here we share some wonderful, everyday moments in children's literacy development at our school.**

**With every best wish for the mid-term break,  
Sarah, Dawn and Anne Marie**



**Weather Forecast in  
the Junior Room!**

**Our school has prioritised the Writing Workshop—dedicated time for writing each day. Children learn the conventions of print including how text is organised, grammar, punctuation, the range of genres/styles of text, and what makes a good story!**

Organising your  
Folder

4 sections

- ① Drafts
- ② Writing Ideas
- ③ Mini-Lessons
- ④ Published

**Children in Middle and Senior Classes each have a writing folder with these four sections.**

**We asked children to tell us what they most like about our school. Their feedback tells us they are flourishing as readers, writers and communicators:**

**I love to read stories at school! (Age 4)**

**I love to play outside and in the role-play area and the sand area in the classroom. We even made snow for our Big Book Penguin story! (Age 6)**

**We made a great recipe book with lots of ideas for healthy eating and then we sold it [to raise funds for our new climbing frame] ... and people bought it... and loved it! (Age 8)**

**I love our mobile library and our class novels and I'm really excited about our Bookfair! (Age 10)**

**I love that we're doing Writer's Workshop so we can develop our writing like real authors. (Age 12)**



**Juniors and Seniors:  
Reading Buddies!**

In Múinteoir Dawn's class, children are reading many different types of text – in books, posters, signs, labels, menus... and all around their classroom! They are also exploring **one special Big Book per week**. Over the course of the week, children's learning with their big book includes:

- free writing (child is writing)
- shared writing (the children create a story and the teacher is the scribe)
- letter recognition and sight vocabulary phonological awareness (recognising different sounds letters make)
- retelling and sequencing (using the 5w: who, what why, where when)



**We are authors!  
Junior Room Post Office**

Children in the Junior Room are developing an understanding of the **conventions of print**, e.g., where to find the **title** and the **author's name**, how stories are expressed in writing, with text from **left to right**, using **words and spaces and symbols** to organise the text, etc.



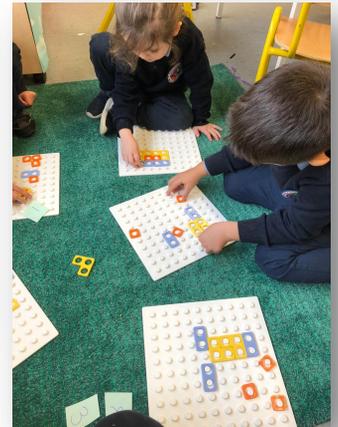
**We are authors!  
Junior Room Writing Station**



**Science based on our  
Big Book, After the Storm**



**Art based on our Big Book, The  
Emperor's Egg**



**Maths puzzles based on our  
Big Book, Monkey Puzzle!**

Our focus is on supporting children to develop a love of reading by engaging with many different high quality books.



**Getting ready based on our Big Book,  
The Tiger who Came to Tea?**

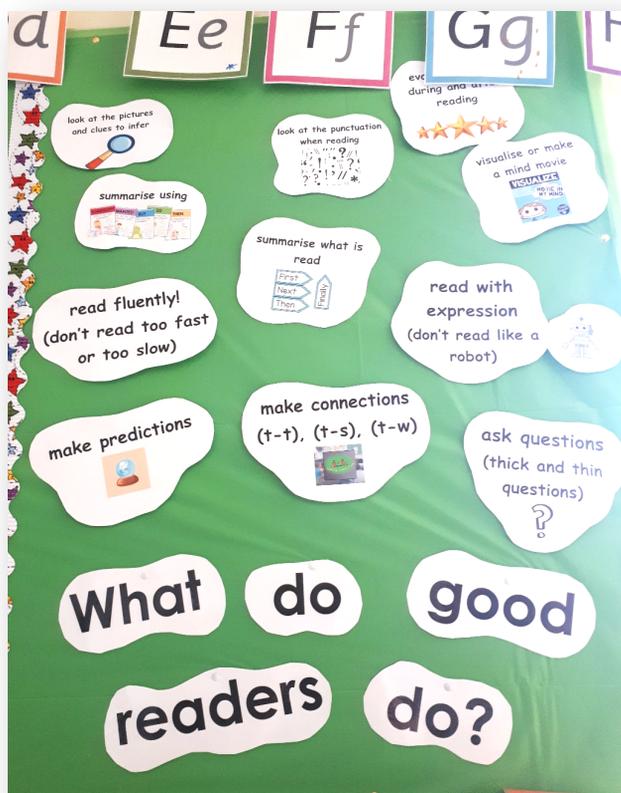
When reading with your child (**shared reading**), have a chat about the book: what may happen next, what they think of the story so far, what kinds of words are used, what words they most like...

In Múinteoir Anne Marie's class, we have been learning about things that good readers and writers do. Every time we learn something new, we add it to the **Good Readers and Writers Chart** in the classroom.

## We are readers!

Good readers make connections!

There are three types of connections. We like **text to text connections** best. Good readers also **visualise** when they read. This means that you make a movie in your mind to help you understand. We talked about **inferring** in January. We had to look at the pictures and the words in picture books to put the clues together. We read some Anthony Browne picture books and really enjoyed them.



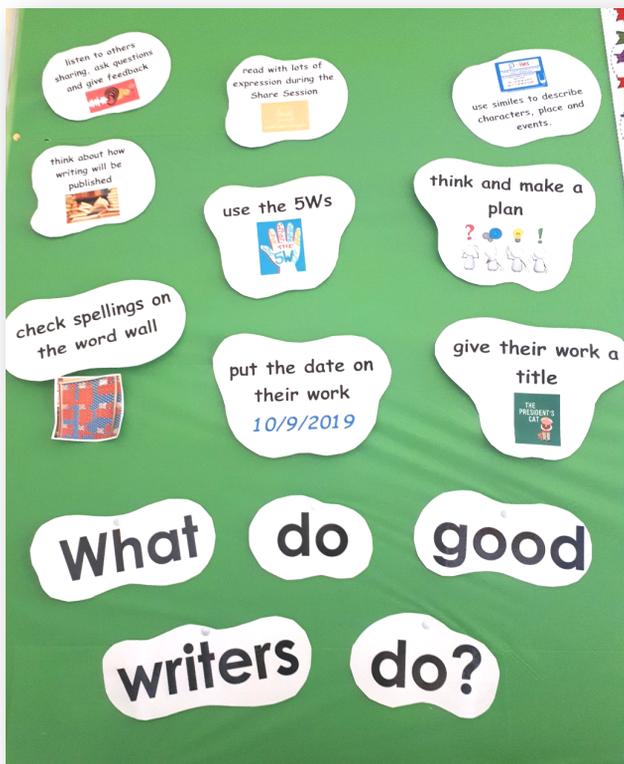
## We are writers!

In writing, we have been using the **5Ws** (who, what, when, where and why) when **planning stories**. We make sure to put the date on our work and use the word wall to check spellings.

We loved writing **poetry** in January. We published **diamante poems**, **limericks**, **acrostic poems** and **list poems**.

This month, we are writing stories. We have been learning to use similes to describe characters or settings this week. Here are our best similes:

- As loud as thunder
- As hard as a boulder
- Sleep like a hibernating bear
- As strong as Captain Marvel!



At the end of Writing Workshop every day, we have a Share Session on the Author's Chair. We enjoy listening to each other's writing.

## Football

An Acrostic Poem, by George

Football!  
 Oops... scored own goal!  
 On the side-line  
 Ten, nine, let's go!  
 Basketball? Hell, nah!  
 And don't forget to track back, boys!  
 Losers and winners  
 Look! Ryan Giggs watching me... 'gotta go!

## Star

A Limerick, by Zaharia

There once was a wonderful star  
 Who thought she would go very far.  
 Until she fell down  
 And looked like a clown  
 She knew she should travel by car!



## Billie Eilish

A Stair Poem, by Melissa

Billie Eilish!

America

Energetic  
 Low-mood  
 Calm

Singer

## Sky

A Limerick, by Aoife

There once was a small girl  
 called Sky  
 Who always just wanted to fly!  
 When she flew through a cloud  
 She shouted quite loud  
 And yet, she is lost in the sky!

## Free Rein

A Limerick, by Sarah

Our favourite girl Zoe liked riding her horse.  
 She never fell off trotting round the course.  
 But then one day  
 Her horse ran away  
 So she joined the Jedi and now has the force!

## Now TV

A Stair Poem, by Daniel

The future of TV!

Where-  
 ever  
 When-ever

On-demand  
 Cartooney  
 Limitless

NOW TV

Is it time for Writing Workshop? This question from children and the BIG cheer when the time comes... is one of the greatest signs that Writing Workshop is truly engaging children at BCNS.

We hope you'll visit us to see more of children's work and to share our love of literacy, for our

Bookfair open sessions:

- 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 1-3:30pm.



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