



St Vincent's



December 2018 Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk

It is a busy time in school as the Christmas celebrations are truly underway. The season of Christmas is a wonderful time to reflect on the term gone by and to give thanks for all our blessings.

There are many people who contribute positively to the school community. I wish to express deep gratitude to the staff, the Multi-Disciplinary team, parents and the Board of Management. Many thanks to the bus drivers and escorts for supporting the children during the transition to and from school. It has been a busy and productive term and your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Throughout this term, there has been a lot of work carried out in the key focus areas- Language, Maths, Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Social Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE). The focus has been on enabling communication and also independence. In the junior school, the pupils are focusing on language and independence skills. A lot of the teaching and learning has been through play and the Aistear framework supports this also. In the senior school, many pupils are working through the Junior Cycle 2 programme and the school leavers programme also.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Please take time to rest and we are all looking forward to seeing the children back to school in January.

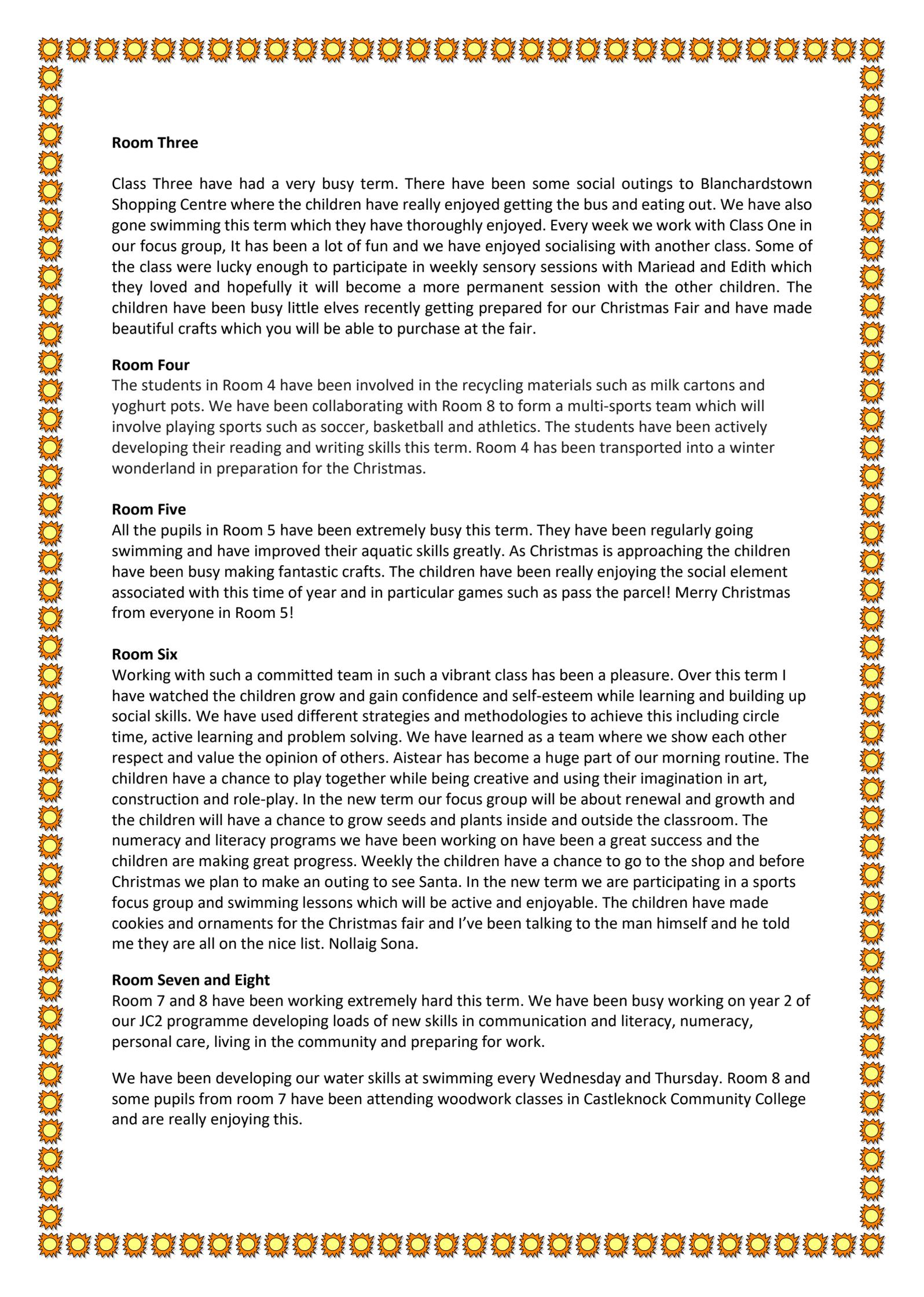
Cathy Cawley.

Room One

The students in Room 1 have had a good start to the school year. They have settled in with new staff and new peers. The students in Room 1 have had a great time experiencing many new sensory activities and hosting a sensory Focus Group on Thursday afternoons. The students enjoyed exploring fragrant rice, pasta (cooked and uncooked), smelling boxes (sweet and savoury scents) and Halloween themed sensory bags. The students have enjoyed PE and made great strides in participation during balance beam, tunnels, ball games, and parachute. Recently the students have been working hard on their Christmas Fair project and Christmas art. They have decorated the class windows with holiday sun catchers and the notice board with a lovely winter scene.

Room Two

In September, after the children settled into Room 2 they got very busy getting to know their new classmates and surroundings. During the month of October, the children were busy learning through play based around our monthly theme. By November, weekly assemblies highlighted the great efforts of the children. December finds us busy with Christmas activities, learning songs, making decorations and sharing happiness & joy.



Room Three

Class Three have had a very busy term. There have been some social outings to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre where the children have really enjoyed getting the bus and eating out. We have also gone swimming this term which they have thoroughly enjoyed. Every week we work with Class One in our focus group, It has been a lot of fun and we have enjoyed socialising with another class. Some of the class were lucky enough to participate in weekly sensory sessions with Mariead and Edith which they loved and hopefully it will become a more permanent session with the other children. The children have been busy little elves recently getting prepared for our Christmas Fair and have made beautiful crafts which you will be able to purchase at the fair.

Room Four

The students in Room 4 have been involved in the recycling materials such as milk cartons and yoghurt pots. We have been collaborating with Room 8 to form a multi-sports team which will involve playing sports such as soccer, basketball and athletics. The students have been actively developing their reading and writing skills this term. Room 4 has been transported into a winter wonderland in preparation for the Christmas.

Room Five

All the pupils in Room 5 have been extremely busy this term. They have been regularly going swimming and have improved their aquatic skills greatly. As Christmas is approaching the children have been busy making fantastic crafts. The children have been really enjoying the social element associated with this time of year and in particular games such as pass the parcel! Merry Christmas from everyone in Room 5!

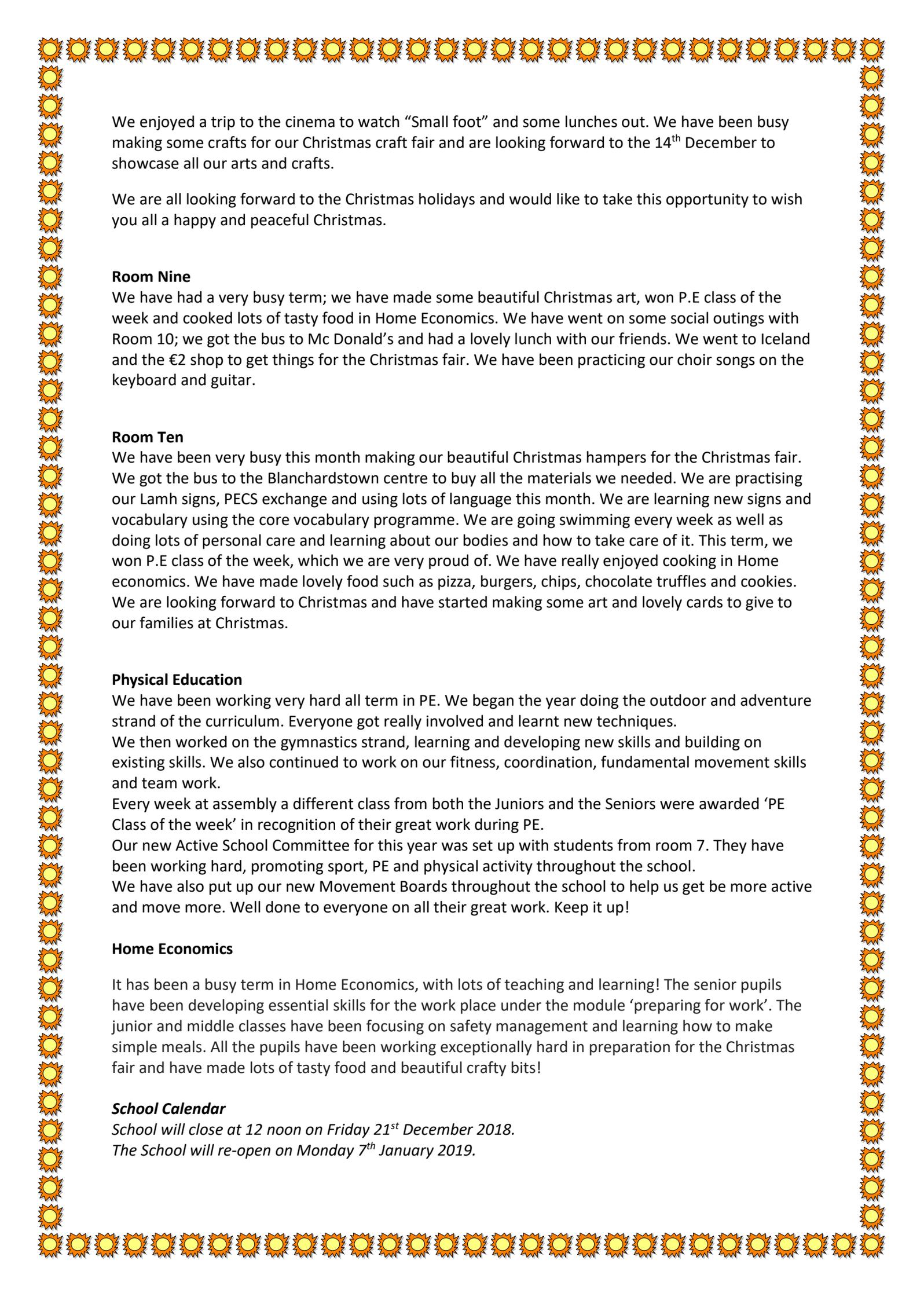
Room Six

Working with such a committed team in such a vibrant class has been a pleasure. Over this term I have watched the children grow and gain confidence and self-esteem while learning and building up social skills. We have used different strategies and methodologies to achieve this including circle time, active learning and problem solving. We have learned as a team where we show each other respect and value the opinion of others. Aistear has become a huge part of our morning routine. The children have a chance to play together while being creative and using their imagination in art, construction and role-play. In the new term our focus group will be about renewal and growth and the children will have a chance to grow seeds and plants inside and outside the classroom. The numeracy and literacy programs we have been working on have been a great success and the children are making great progress. Weekly the children have a chance to go to the shop and before Christmas we plan to make an outing to see Santa. In the new term we are participating in a sports focus group and swimming lessons which will be active and enjoyable. The children have made cookies and ornaments for the Christmas fair and I've been talking to the man himself and he told me they are all on the nice list. Nollaig Sona.

Room Seven and Eight

Room 7 and 8 have been working extremely hard this term. We have been busy working on year 2 of our JC2 programme developing loads of new skills in communication and literacy, numeracy, personal care, living in the community and preparing for work.

We have been developing our water skills at swimming every Wednesday and Thursday. Room 8 and some pupils from room 7 have been attending woodwork classes in Castleknock Community College and are really enjoying this.



We enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch “Small foot” and some lunches out. We have been busy making some crafts for our Christmas craft fair and are looking forward to the 14th December to showcase all our arts and crafts.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Room Nine

We have had a very busy term; we have made some beautiful Christmas art, won P.E class of the week and cooked lots of tasty food in Home Economics. We have went on some social outings with Room 10; we got the bus to Mc Donald’s and had a lovely lunch with our friends. We went to Iceland and the €2 shop to get things for the Christmas fair. We have been practicing our choir songs on the keyboard and guitar.

Room Ten

We have been very busy this month making our beautiful Christmas hampers for the Christmas fair. We got the bus to the Blanchardstown centre to buy all the materials we needed. We are practising our Lamh signs, PECS exchange and using lots of language this month. We are learning new signs and vocabulary using the core vocabulary programme. We are going swimming every week as well as doing lots of personal care and learning about our bodies and how to take care of it. This term, we won P.E class of the week, which we are very proud of. We have really enjoyed cooking in Home economics. We have made lovely food such as pizza, burgers, chips, chocolate truffles and cookies. We are looking forward to Christmas and have started making some art and lovely cards to give to our families at Christmas.

Physical Education

We have been working very hard all term in PE. We began the year doing the outdoor and adventure strand of the curriculum. Everyone got really involved and learnt new techniques.

We then worked on the gymnastics strand, learning and developing new skills and building on existing skills. We also continued to work on our fitness, coordination, fundamental movement skills and team work.

Every week at assembly a different class from both the Juniors and the Seniors were awarded ‘PE Class of the week’ in recognition of their great work during PE.

Our new Active School Committee for this year was set up with students from room 7. They have been working hard, promoting sport, PE and physical activity throughout the school.

We have also put up our new Movement Boards throughout the school to help us get be more active and move more. Well done to everyone on all their great work. Keep it up!

Home Economics

It has been a busy term in Home Economics, with lots of teaching and learning! The senior pupils have been developing essential skills for the work place under the module ‘preparing for work’. The junior and middle classes have been focusing on safety management and learning how to make simple meals. All the pupils have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for the Christmas fair and have made lots of tasty food and beautiful crafty bits!

School Calendar

School will close at 12 noon on Friday 21st December 2018.

The School will re-open on Monday 7th January 2019.