

2nd and 3rd Class by Ms. Pitt

1916 Rising and Famine Ship Experience

On Thursday January 14th we went on a school trip to the 'Dunbrody Famine Ship' in New Ross. Firstly our day began with a talk about the 'Famine' and the 'Famine Ship' experience. The children all received tickets for their month long voyage to New York on board the 'Dunbrody'. The children then went out on to the deck of the ship and below deck where they got to experience the story of Famine and emigration from the point of view of the Irish emigrants during that time. The guide explained to the children about the tough conditions people endured on these voyages. 'Mrs. O'Brien' and 'Mrs. White' played the roles of famine emigrants, this really brought the experience to life for the children, and they particularly enjoyed this part of the experience.

Secondly, we had a presentation delivered to us about life in Ireland after the Famine until the 1916 Rising. The children learnt about the major events throughout this time and the major historical figures involved. Finally, we had our lunch and ended our trip with a visit to the playground. The children had a great day out and they really enjoyed learning more about the 'Famine' and the '1916 Rising'.

Here are some of the children's thoughts about their '1916 Rising and Famine Ship Experience':

'I had fun being on the ship'. Róisín

'I liked being below deck where they slept'. Jasmine

'It was fun learning about Irish people in the past.' Evan

Here are some photographs of our trip to New Ross:











'Healthy Lifestyle Week' (25th -29th of January 2016)

Each day throughout 'Healthy Lifestyle Week' we focused on different aspects of healthy living and took part in lots of fun activities. Throughout the week the children were encouraged to drink water rather than juices or diluted drinks with their lunches.

-On Monday we discussed the importance of healthy eating and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

-On Tuesday we focused on the importance of a well balanced diet, sleep and exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

-On Wednesday we focused on dental hygiene and the importance of brushing your teeth and gums properly.

-On Thursday we created our own fruit smoothies.

-On Friday we recapped on the week.

As part of 'Healthy Lifestyle Week' we did mindfulness colouring. We also went through a PowerPoint about healthy eating in which we discussed the food pyramid. Then we made our own food pyramids in pairs by cutting out pictures of different foods and pasting them onto the correct part of the food pyramid. We also did 'Drop everything and Dance' where we did dances from 'gonoodle'. Furthermore we played 'food bingo' where the cards displayed foods from the different food groups.

On Wednesday we did an experiment where the children were given pictures of different types of drink, the children then had to arrange themselves in order from what drink they thought contained the least amount of sugar to what drink they thought contained the most amount of sugar. The children were then told the amounts and measured out the amounts of sugar in each drink; they then placed the sugar in zip lock bags along with the pictures of the drinks on a notice board.

On Thursday we made fruit smoothies that the children got to sample. On Friday we recapped on the week through discussion and repeated some of the activities. We also used discussion cards to discuss which three foods they

would bring with them on a trip to the moon based on what they had learnt throughout the week.

Here are some of the children's thoughts about 'Healthy Lifestyle Week':

'I liked doing the mindfulness colouring.' Bríann

'I liked the different activities we did.' Amy F

'I liked having the smoothies.' Laureann

Here are some photographs of activities from 'Healthy Lifestyle Week' such as mindfulness colouring, food bingo, sugar experiment and 'Drop Everything and Dance'.





















'Forces' Science Experiment

We have been learning about 'Energy and Forces' in Science. We decided to create an experiment in which we designed and made parachutes where we investigated wind/air resistance. I demonstrated a quick experiment about wind resistance in class where I dropped a flat A4 sheet and a scrunched up piece of A4 paper from the same height. The children observed that the flat piece of A4 paper fell much slower than the scrunched up A4 sheet as the greater the surface area the slower the fall.

In preparation for the experiment we discussed the experiment. For our experiment we used an empty yoghurt carton, a hardboiled egg, 4 pieces of 20 cm string and a piece of bin liner for the parachute 30cm x 30cm. We discussed how there can only be one variable for an experiment to be a fair test. The variable in our test would be the different yoghurt cartons.

We then attached the four pieces of string to the corners of the yoghurt carton and the four corners of the bin liner to the pieces of string. We placed the hardboiled egg in the yoghurt carton. The children predicted whether their eggs would stay intact when dropped in the parachute exercise. We created success criteria to gauge how well the egg stayed intact. A score of 10 was given if the egg was still perfectly intact, 9 if there was a slight crack and so on.

Each child let their parachute go from the bridge and observed the results when they collected their egg afterwards. We then recorded our results using our success criteria to guide us. Only two eggs stayed perfectly intact! We concluded that their parachutes were the best containers used. Most of the children's eggs cracked and a few completely cracked into pieces.

Here are some of the children's thoughts on the experiment:

'My egg cracked a lot when it fell'. Lucy

'It was fun when we were doing it but it wasn't fun when we got them as they smelled stinky'. Pádraig

'If we used a bigger piece of bin liner for the parachute it would have fallen more slowly and safely. Some people's eggs didn't crack so they got a score of 10.' Muireann

Here are some photographs of our experiment as we released the parachutes and our results when we collected our eggs.























