

# Borris NS News

## Merry Christmas 2014!



This photo was taken earlier this morning over the playground. A mystery sleigh pulled by reindeer landed on the roof. The driver said his name was Mr S. Claus. He also he might come back to visit the children on the day of the holidays, if we are very good. Merry Christmas, everyone!



Can you find 8 tiny snowmen like me hidden in this magazine?



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*Our Christmas Nativity Play returns for 2014! It will be on in the Church on Wednesday 17th Dec at 7:30p.m. As you can see, rehearsals are under way at the moment. We have some new songs and of course a completely new cast! There will also be some choral singing, where you get a chance to hear what the children have been learning with this year's Music Generation repertoire (a national programme to develop music in Irish primary schools, sponsored by U2). Of course no concert would be complete without a few carols from Tina Kavanagh. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 17th at 7:30p.m. Roll up! Roll up!*

We welcome articles for the magazine. Hand them in to the office or email them to [borrisnews@gmail.com](mailto:borrisnews@gmail.com). Contributions may be combined, edited, declined and/or deferred.

A big thank you to all the parents and others who helped in the school and behind the scenes to make our first term so enjoyable. We appreciate your great work! Thank You!





## Book Fair

**2014** In November the Book Fair brought fantastic books to our school—again! Each class had a great time looking at the books and choosing some to buy. The book fair people gave €355 worth of books to the school. The reps were very impressed with the excellent behaviour of the children. Well done, everyone!



## Shoebox Collection

*At Christmas we think of children less fortunate than ourselves. Every year there is an opportunity to bring in a gift box of toys and food for children who might get no Christmas presents. Lots of us brought in boxes full of food, toys and games, all nicely wrapped. Here are just some of the children with a sample of the presents. Thanks to everyone who helped. More about the great work of the Irish charity Heart to Hand on [www.hearttohand.net](http://www.hearttohand.net)*



### *Oh to be an actor!*

*First and Second classes at the Carlow Visual Arts Centre in October to see "Mr Foley the Radio Operator". They found it "exciting, funny and magical".*

## Elf on a Shelf

Have you ever wondered how Santa could know if you're naughty or nice each year as you grow? The Junior Infants have the answer! This is their *Elf on a Shelf*. One of Santa's helpers watches them and sees if they're being good. He moves to a different place in the classroom every morning so when they come in they look to see where he is. Nobody knows how he moves—it must be magic!





## Dogs' Trust

Recently a lady from the Dogs' Trust came to school to show us how to look after our dogs. She brought with her a small dog called Meg who was SO cute!. She taught us what to do if we met a dog and wanted to pat it (ask the owner first, then put out your hand for the dog to sniff before you try to pat it). She also told us what to do if we were scared of a dog coming towards us (cross your arms and look up to the sky and the dog will go away). We saw lots of pictures of different types of dogs and learnt about how to train, feed and exercise them and, most importantly, how to have fun with them! It was a great day!



## Bowling

*Mr Coady's and Mrs Farrell's classes went bowling a few weeks ago. We went on a big bus. It was raining very hard and we could see floods in the fields. We had to stop to let a train pass. We were put into groups and a screen told us when it was our turn. The balls were very heavy and some people used a special frame to help them take their shot. It was great fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.*



## Hallowe'en in school





## Prizewinners

Fionn, Eoghan and Megan (*right*) won prizes in the Tullow Show for art and essay writing. Two wrote essays on "My Ambitions" - (what they would like to do when they grow up) and one drew a picture of the show. The prizes were given in Tullow, and children from many Carlow schools were there.

Fionn also won a Music Tuition Bursary from Music Generation for his guitar playing. He passed two auditions and won the final. The bursary will pay for some of his guitar lessons. Quite an achievement when you think that 300 children entered the competition. Well done to all!



## Buying a tablet ? Some top tips...

*There are three main types of tablets available today. 1: Apple (the iPad range): if you have deep pockets there's no doubt Apple products are well-made, well-supported and the range of apps is the widest. 2: Store-linked tablets like the Kindle Fire HD (Amazon), the Hudl 2 (Tesco) and MyTablet (Argos): some store tablets lack features and can have restrictive tie-ins with that store's products, often to the exclusion of free alternatives. 3: Android tablets, from the cheapest imports to those made by well-known companies.*

*If you buy the least expensive no-name tablets be warned that they are likely to stop working suddenly and be uneconomic or impossible to repair (see tip 1 below). Android tablets from well-known names have several advantages for kids: they're much cheaper than Apple (because there are many companies making similar items), they play kids' games made with Flash software (Apple tablets won't), new apps download quickly from the PlayStore to the device without needing to sync with iTunes, and they mostly have easily replaceable batteries. Three good value choices from major names are the Google Nexus 7, Asus MemoPad 7 and Samsung Tab 3 Lite, depending on how much you want to pay. The Kindle Fire HD6 (or the Tesco Hudl2 if you get it from U.K/N.I.) are the best of the store-linked tablets. Of course there are lots of others. Here are 3 top tablet-buying tips:*

- 1. make sure you can return the tablet easily if you need to (buy from a bricks-and-mortar store or a well-known online retailer e.g. Elara, Komplett, Pixmania, Amazon etc with a reputation to protect).*
- 2. try to get one with a reset button on the side (often just a pinhole). Tablets sometimes freeze and pressing the Reset button is a quick and easy way to get going again. If it doesn't have one the process is more uncertain and takes longer!*
- 3. put on some safety apps before you hand it over to your child. We suggest these three free ones:*

- \* Antivirus/security programme. Lookout and 360Security are good. Avast is better as it updates itself and runs in the background. Stops malware coming onto the tablet hidden in other things.*
- \* Clean-up programme that stops the tablet slowing down over time. We like CleanMaster. Tap the 1-click CleanUp button once a week to keep things running smoothly.*
- \* Parental Control app. If you don't want your child to access the entire internet unsupervised this app locks the browser (and other functions if you like) with a password. Your child can use all the other apps that are not locked. To access the internet, you put in the code. The best one we found is Locx (free) but there are many others. The Kindle Fire HD6 has built-in controls.*

*To get these free apps, look for the PlayStore icon on your tablet and do a search by name for them. There are many YouTube videos showing how to install apps. Have fun!*

