

# INSIDE ALEX.

A JUNIOR SCHOOL PUBLICATION

ISSUE 5 JUNE 2021



Special  
Summer  
edition

Cover Design: Aisling Doyle & Lauren Rea, J6R Masthead: Salla Kirk, J6R



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE  
DUBLIN



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## Message from the News Committee



Welcome to the summer edition of *Inside Alex*! We hope you enjoyed reading all of the editions and got to see what we do in Alexandra College Junior School. This edition is our very special summer issue where we feature our regular stories, interviews, book & film reviews, cooking along with some summer stories, giving you our readers a taste of life inside Alex.

This is our last edition as part of the News Committee in the Junior School. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to every issue. We had so much fun putting this together each time and learnt so much as a team. A special thank you to Mrs. Lamplugh for her support, to Ms. Gorry for kindly taking the time to edit each edition, to our class teacher Ms. Byrnes for her assistance and especially to Ms. Smith for guiding us and putting this newsletter together.

We really hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it together.

We wish the incoming new committee the best of luck, we will be keeping an eye on it! Happy summer!

*Emma, Salla, Emily, Lauren, Maddy, Aisling, Niamh & Eva.*

**The News Committee Team 2020/21**



IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING

# #Choose Kind



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## A Message from Mrs. Lamplugh

Well, here we are – we have reached the end of another school year, a year like no other. Yet despite the endless government restrictions, bubbles, pods, social distancing and school closures, the creative, hard-working and resilient Alex girls just got on with it and together we all managed to keep this school year as normal as possible. This was thanks to all the fantastic work put in by your teachers and all the staff in the Junior School. Well done, everyone.

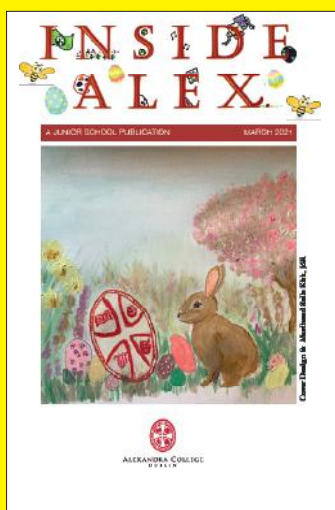
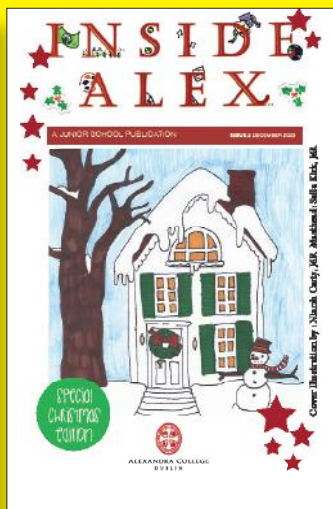
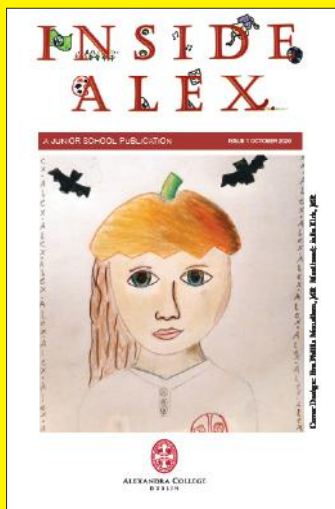
This is another super, informative and colourful edition of INSIDE ALEX. We are very grateful to all the girls on the

news committee and to Ms. Smith for steering this project over the past two years. I enjoyed reading every page of this and I know you will too.

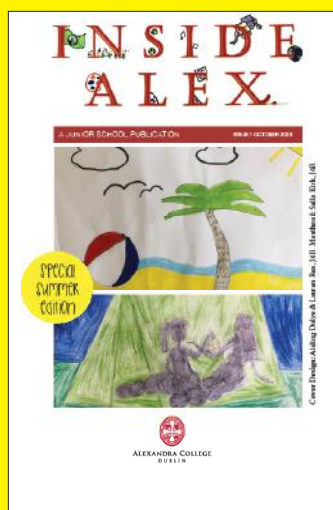
We wish our J6 Class of 2021 all the very best as they move on to the Senior School. They have been an amazing group of girls and excellent role-models for all the other girls in the Junior School.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break with your families and friends. I am so proud of each and every one of you. Stay safe and well and remember to always CHOOSE KIND!





**THANK YOU  
FOR ALL YOUR  
AMAZING  
CONTRIBUTIONS**



## News Committee 2020/21

Emma Butcher, Niamh Carty, Emily De Marco, Aisling Doyle, Salla Kirk,  
Maddy O' Donohoe, Eva Phillis Mouallem, Lauren Rea



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# Visions of Summer

We are all so excited to have our summer holidays to look forward to for the summer of 2021. Most of us will be holidaying in Ireland and here is what Salla Kirk will be doing over the holidays.

*By Salla Kirk, J6R*

As I am typing this I am filled with hope and excitement for summer, one that will hopefully bring with it much longed for reunifications with family and friends and an abundance of outdoor pursuits.

My family and I will be holidaying in Ireland and I was so thrilled when my parents shared the news that we will be holidaying at Fota Island Resort, Co. Cork. Fota Wildlife Park has more than 70 species of exotic wildlife and many of the animals are able to roam through the 50 acres of grassland with the exception thankfully of predators like cheetahs who are kept in caged enclosures. I am also really looking forward to playing golf there as it's been a

while since I've played.

The lifting of government restrictions on inter-county travel now means that I can see my grandparents and cousins who I have not seen in months. It will be so nice to see their faces as opposed to chatting on Zoom.

The summer is an excellent time to learn different skills and enjoy your hobbies. I plan to paint with my mom "en plein air", read lots of books and play golf. Most importantly I am planning on having plenty of lie-ins! If my dear sister Penelope is reading this "Don't even think about setting your alarm clock for 6am"!!



Illustration by: Salla Kirk, J6R



# Going into Senior School

As the J6 girls prepare to go into Senior School, read about what one J6 girl has to say

**By Niamh Carty, J6R**

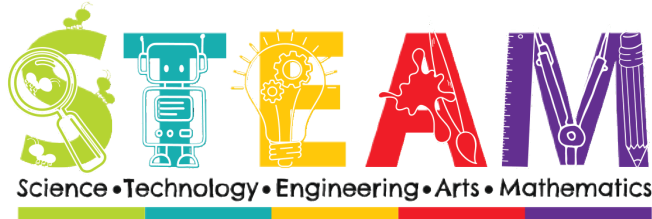
As we're coming towards the end of this year, the J6's are heading toward the beginning of Senior School. As a J6 myself, I can say that we all are feeling a different mix of emotions. For example, I am excited to meet new people and make new friends, but not quite as excited about having homework on the weekend (I think a lot of my classmates would agree). But especially in these past weeks, we have been focusing more on our past experiences in the Junior School, rather than the future. I think only now as we have matured, we can look back on our memories in a different way, or from a different perspective. I tend to think about all the times I was upset with my friends, because I let them borrow my pencil, and they never returned them. At the time I was upset and angry, but now I laugh over the

thought of getting upset at something so small. Looking back at the school trips we went on as a class, I think I can only truly appreciate the experiences we've had. I don't think in third class I fully understood how lucky we were to be able to go to the Titanic museum, and now I think something like researching the Titanic has affected my personality in positive ways. There are thousands more instances where an experience at school has changed my perspective on something important. In conclusion, going into Senior School I think it is incredibly important to take in those experiences and look at our future with hope instead of with fear, as I was scared going in on the first day of school, but now I know there was nothing truly to be scared of after all.





# INSIDE



Becky sketches out her design on cardboard before cutting it out and attaching a Makey Makey

Since the girls in both the J3/J4 and J5/J6 Makerspace classes have returned to school, they have been hard at work finishing their “Tiny Home” and “Tiny Theatre” projects and also getting started on some new games projects.

During lockdown, the J3 and J4 girls created some very inventive “Tiny Homes” out of salt dough bricks, cardboard boxes and other recyclable materials.

The J5 and J6 girls also constructed creative “Tiny Theatres” and completed these by coding some Micro:bits to display a message on a mini OLED screen. Finally, they then recorded some stop-motion animations of their characters in the theatre. As you can see from the photos, they did an amazing job!

Both Makerspace classes are now working on new projects - the J3 and J4 girls are creating some interactive musical instruments that they hope to share with their peers when they are done. They are using lots of different materials; cardboard, plastic tubs, string, cardboard and fabrics to create their instruments. They will then code a MakeyMakey to add sound to their instruments.

The J5 and J6 girls are working on creating a “buzzer” game - is your hand steady enough to wind the looped handle over the wire!!? We look forward to both groups sharing their finished pieces when they are done.



Emily and Camillia created their own working mini drum kit - The Electric Coders!



Bella adds some LED lights to her Tiny Home



Sophie and her cardboard guitar under construction!

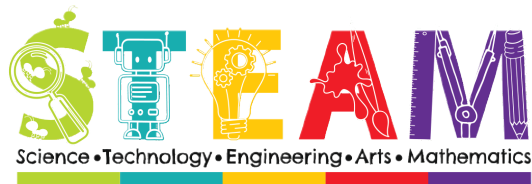


Emily testing the final product is an important step - Emily checks to make sure her musical piano is working



Freya and Amelie attach some strings to their guitar





**Molly and Annabelle, J3,**  
*Tiny Home*



**Emily, J3**  
*Tiny Home*



**Sophie P, Annabelle and Molly, J3**  
*Tiny Home*



**Sophie P, J3,**  
*Tiny Home*

# INSIDE Drama

*with Kg Lower, Kg Upper & J1*



It has been a brilliant year in drama and it has been an absolute pleasure to teach the girls in Kg Lower, Kg Upper and J1 again this year.

In September we decided to channel the Ancient Greeks and take our classes outside. We even had our very own Amphitheatre (aka The Drama Pit) and the rain didn't stop our outdoor fun - we just headed off to the newly erected marquee, also known as The Drama Tent.

In January our classes changed and we moved online, but that didn't stop the fun and creative spirit. The girls showed such resilience in the way they embraced online school but it was such a joy to get back into school in March.

The combination of story, play and games are the perfect ingredients for developing creativity in young

children so in Kg Lower, Kg Upper we brought stories to life with books, we explored the senses through movement work, and we had great fun with our drama games which enable the children to communicate and cooperate. In J1 we explored character and storytelling through stories and improv (with hilarious results) and had great fun with our performance activities and drama games. From online puppet shows to outdoor pet talent shows the girls never cease to amaze me with their creativity and curiosity. The girls even created their own short play!

I would like to wish them all a fun filled, happy and safe summer and I am so looking forward to seeing them all in September. Keep creating girls!

*Ms. Crowley*



# INSIDE DRAMA

Our Drama reps have written some lovely poems about their summer



## My Favourite Actor

By India Heffron, J6W

Lily James is a famous actor all over the world. My favourite movie she has acted in is Mamma Mia 2. When I first watched the movie, I remember my big sister saying that she'd love to travel to Greece like Lily's character did in the movie. She is an English actress and model. Lily studied acting at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She began her acting career on the series Just William. Lily is now 32 years old and is an amazing actress and role model to many young girls!



## SUMMER

By Clara Galvin – J5W

Summer is coming!  
Under waves swimming.  
Me and you eating ice-creams,  
Meeting with the cousins,  
Enjoying every minute,  
Relaxing in the sun.



## Summer Breeze

By Róisín O'Callaghan J5R

The coastline glimmers  
Waves rising and swiftly down  
The sea relaxes at ease  
The tide comes in with a splash  
The sun shines  
and the waves crash  
The sea roars its familiar song  
The breeze sways to and fro  
The salty smells are strong  
Boats gliding on the seas strong, blue path  
Then all bubbles and froths  
Oh, how I wish summer lasted all year long



## The Three Stages of Summer

By Sorchá Moran – J6R

I  
Study, exams, schedules,  
graduation, sun, end of school,  
athletics, tennis, friends.

II  
No school, sunburn, sunscreen,  
sunhats, sunglasses, freckles,  
suntan, flip flops, blisters, swimsuits,  
wetsuits, kayaks, salty skin,  
surfing, water parks, dust, light, palm trees,  
exercise, 99's melting, blinding sun,  
hikes, airports, pony camp,  
zoos, late nights, treats,  
travel, suitcases.

III  
school shoes, uniforms, school bags,  
lunch bags, new books, extra activities,  
more subjects, homework, new stationary.

Dreaming about next year...



## Summertime's Finally Here!

By Aoife O'Neill J6W

I can smell the new summertime breeze,  
Just last week I thought I would freeze.  
The suns come out, so give a shout.  
Come on! I say, let's go out and play  
The water is so clear and the beach so near.  
Is that the ice cream man I hear?

The cherry blossoms bloomed  
The world is illumed, Shorts and t-shirts  
Are all I can see  
With stains of ice cream 1,2 and 3!

Our cheeks turned red as we bathed in the sea,  
Oh, how I really do feel free!  
What's that I hear the buzzing of a bee  
All happy and lively just like me!  
Smiley and happy all the time  
Daytime and nighttime  
I could get used to this!

Summer is finally here  
Everything seems so clear  
I wish it could be summertime all year  
I'm at peace at last

# INSIDE STUDENT COUNCIL



*By Riley J6W and Ciara J6R*

The Student Council is a group of students from each class that help organise activities for the school. Being on the Student Council is lots of fun and everyone enjoys sharing ideas about fun activities that the school can do. To be on the Student Council you have to be a good listener, bring forward ideas that your classmates have and be able to tell your class about upcoming events.

The Student Council couldn't have any meetings when we were on Zoom but once we got back to school the Student Council were able to get back on their feet and organise a fundraiser for Laura Lynn.

Recently we decided to do a fundraiser for Down Syndrome Ireland. On Thursday, 20th of May the

students at Alexandra College had a pyjama day. Everybody brought in a donation and each class watched a movie and wore their pajamas. We were thrilled to raise over €2,000!

The Student Council has made other donations to many charities, such as the Make-A-Wish foundation and the Capuchin Day Centre.

Being on the Student Council is a tremendous honor and even though the school year is coming to an end, we have enjoyed all of the fundraisers that we have organised. The Student Council wouldn't be able to do any of the events without Ms. Evans and Mrs. Lamplugh. We are so grateful for the wonderful year that we have had on the Student Council.

# INSIDE GREEN-SCHOOLS COMMITTEE



The Green-Schools Committee has been working hard towards our Travel Flag. We have been reminding all classes to keep up our good work from previous flags, to recycle more and reduce waste, to save energy and to conserve water.

We are building on this with our new Travel Flag. On Earth Day, we launched Walk/Cycle/ Scoot on Wednesday, encouraging everyone to ditch their cars and get some fresh air, even if it is only for part of the journey. This was a great success and we hope everyone will continue to join us walking, cycling and scooting to school each week.



We marked Earth Day by walking a mile with a smile. It was a lovely sunny day and everyone enjoyed getting a chance to enjoy our beautiful school grounds. Our budding poets also celebrated Earth Day by entering the Earth Day Poetry Competition.



*Respect the planet and GO GREEN!*

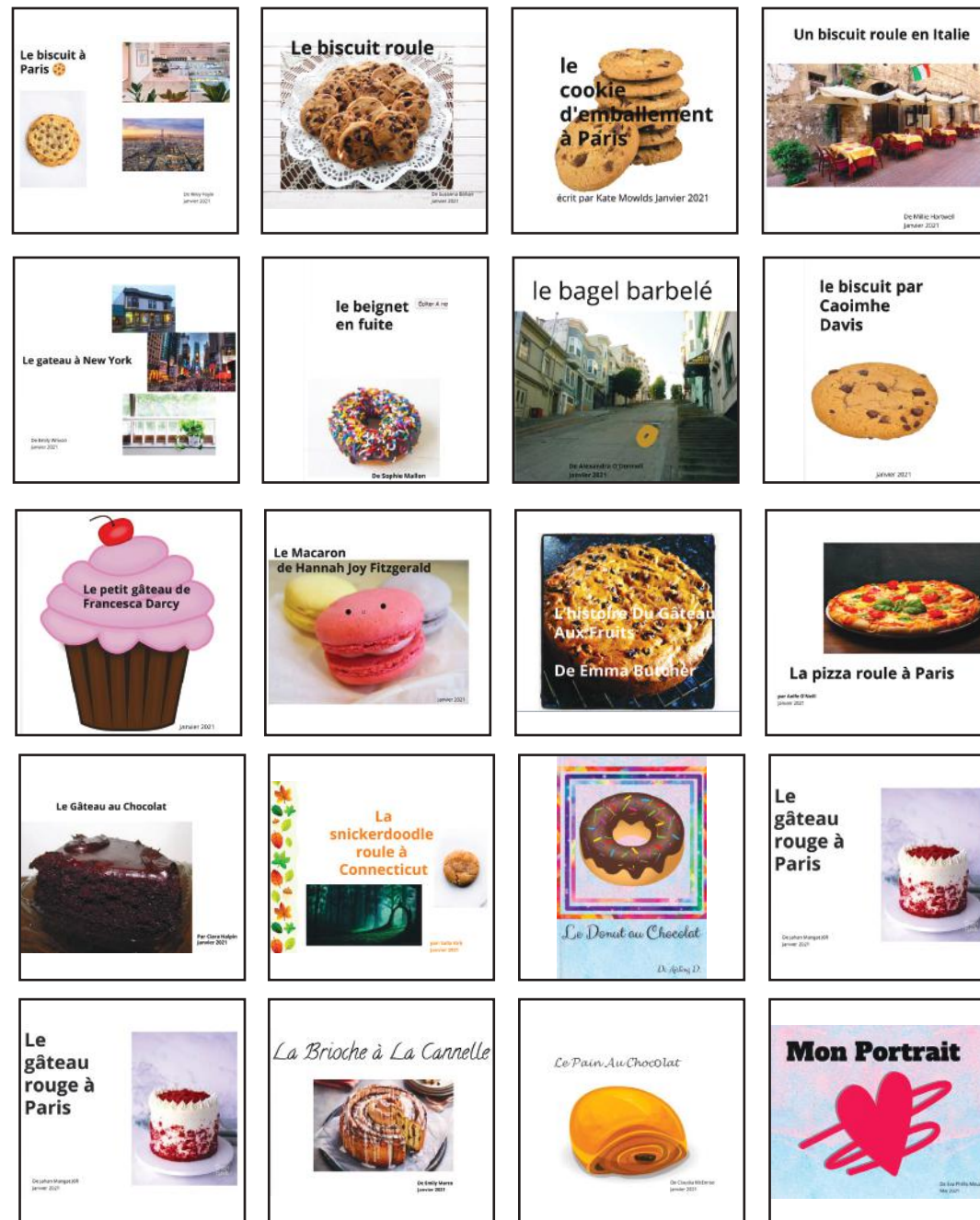




# INSIDE Les Nouvelles

## D'une histoire à la publication d'un livre en Français

The girls have been writing an adventure inspired by a traditional story called "Roule Galette" which is a bit like the Gingerbread Man and which they are self-publishing online. Well done on your first French publication and I hope you will write many more in the future.







## **INSIDE** Les Nouvelles

J4R and J4W “C’est ma fête d’anniversaire !” (It is my birthday party!)



J2R and J2W “les animaux de la ferme”, masque for our French week.



# DODGEBALL FINAL FOR J6



We had our Dodgeball Final in the sunshine!  
J6W were the winners, in a close final!

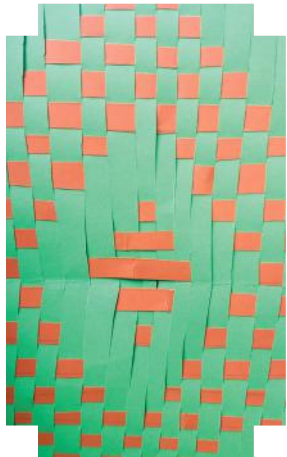




# INSIDE ART

## CREATIVITY FROM KG LOWER TO J6

The girls have been busy over the past couple of weeks. Here is a selection of their artwork from printing, clay, watercolour, outdoor art, sketch book work and much more!





# Poetry Competition

**Theme:** *Earth Day*

All the girls in Alexandra College Junior School took part in our poetry competition. Please see a selection of the creative writing from all the classes.

**J6W-Alice Kent-overall winner**

**Preschool Upper** - class entry

**Kg Lower** - class entry

**Kg Upper** - class entry

**J1** - Amy Mintern

**J2R** - Maggie Gilmore

**J2W** - Lila Jane McElligott

**J3R** - Molly Cahill

**J3W** - Sophie Molloy

**J4R** - Seraya Matchett

**J4W** - Megan Pearle

**J5R** - Matilda Shine

**J5W** - Claudia Kelly

**J6R** - Salla Kirk

## Earth Day By Alice Kent, J6W

The smell of flowers, the songbird's tune,  
But I open my eyes, smoke encircles the moon.

The oil turns the sea to a pitch-black abyss,  
And I think, how everything must be amiss.

Trash on the streets and fumes in the air,  
To treat our planet like this, it is hardly fair.  
As the temperature rises, we wait for our prizes,  
Why is there no reward for our vices?

There are so many ways to stop this maltreatment,  
Towards our planet that's ever so frequent.  
Just turn out the lights, and try not to drive  
And buy locally; sustainably, so our planet can thrive.

Next time you're shopping, or buying online,  
Think of how it could affect the temperature's incline.  
We have a hope, a chance, to change our fate,  
If we all do our bit, we'll be fine at this rate!



**Preschool Upper-class entry****Earth Day**  
By Preschool Upper

I love my Earth,  
I have known since birth,  
Help me to do my share,  
to show the Earth I care.

Please remember our Earth is special,  
It provides us with water, soil and sun.  
Animals and people share the land,  
So please lend a helping hand.

We must keep the rivers clean and forests green,  
If you see paper on ground and the air smells of pollution  
Please remember, there is always a solution!

We must protect not neglect,  
So take time out on Earth Day,  
To show the Earth how much we care.

**Kg Lower- class entry****Earth Day**

By Kg Lower

Earth is very important and together we must help to look after it!

All around, we can enjoy wonderful nature, admire many things and  
all kinds of animals and little creatures too!

Rubbish is meant for the bin! Let's help to keep places clean and  
tidy, for everyone and everything!

Turn off the tap and try not to waste water!

Help all Homes and Habitats on earth - live together happily!

Earth is a special planet! Love the World You're On!

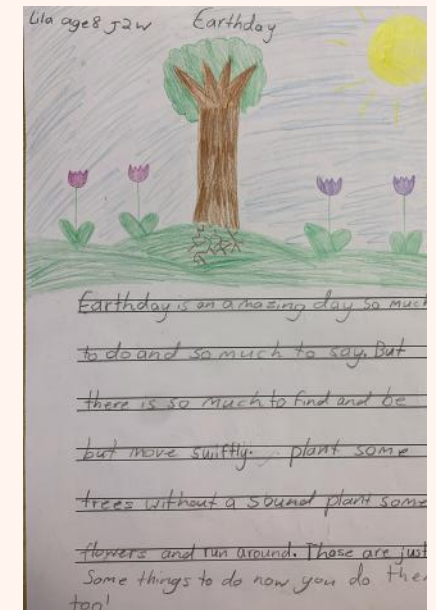
**J2R-Maggie Gilmore****Save The Earth**

So many people litter,  
And they need to stop.  
Very clean streets would be great.  
Everyone help save the Earth!

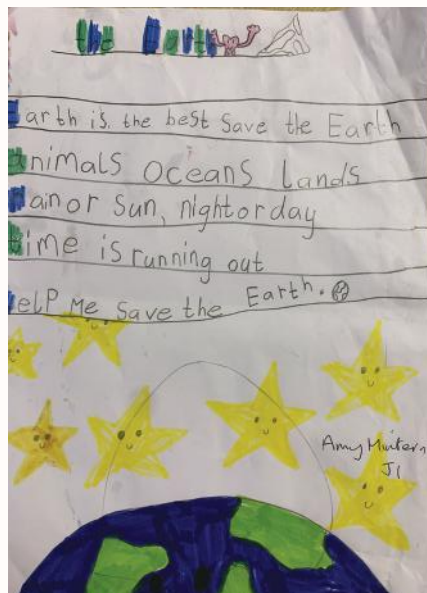
The world is amazing.  
Have respect for it.  
Everyone try to pick up litter!

Everyone can make a difference for a cleaner world.  
Anyone can save our Earth, step by step.  
Really, get ready for a shock if you just clean up.  
The world is one of a kind; there's no backup.  
Have a smile while you save the Earth!

Maggie Gilmore J2R

**J2W- Lila Jane McElligott**

Earthday is an amazing day so much  
to do and so much to say. But  
there is so much to find and do  
but move swiftly. plant some  
trees without a sound plant some  
flowers and run around. These are just  
some things to do now you do the  
too!

**J1-Amy Mintern****Kg Upper- class entry****An acrostic poem for Earth week - by KG Upper**

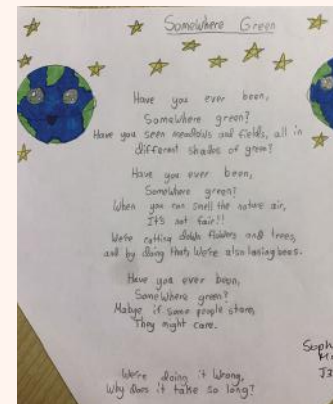
Earth is a special place

Animals of different shapes and sizes live on the  
Earth

Recycle to take care of the environment

Tall Trees help us to breathe

Having a happy heart helps to protect the Earth

**J3W-Sophie Molloy**

Have you ever been,  
Somewhere green?  
Have you seen mountains and fields, all in  
different shades of green?  
Have you ever been,  
Somewhere green?  
When you run smell the nature air,  
It's not fair!  
We're getting sick, fishing and trees,  
and by doing that we're also losing bees.  
Have you ever been,  
Somewhere green?  
Maybe if some people stop,  
they might care.

We're doing it wrong,  
why does it take so long?

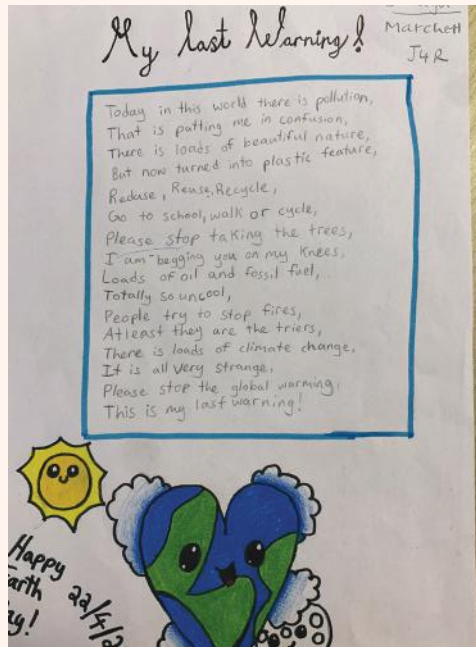
Sophie  
Molloy  
J3W**J3R-Molly Cahill****EARTH DAY!**  
POEM BY MOLLY CAHILL  
J3R

E. is for ever green tree which makes me smile  
A. is for air which we need to breathe,  
R. is for rain which is part of the sea,  
T. is for trees that blow in breeze,  
H. is for help "we need to respect earth's nature"  
D. is for "don't throw rubbish in the sea",  
A. is for always keep the earth green,  
Y. is for YES we need this earth CLEAN!

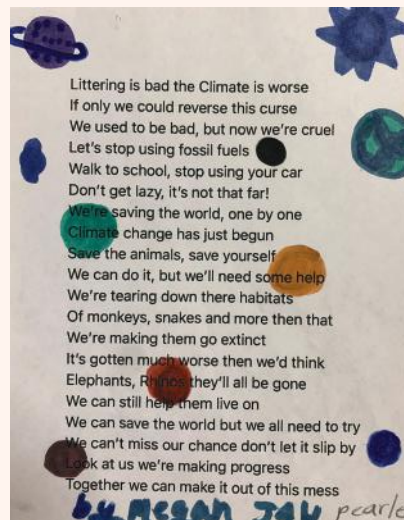
**EARTH DAY**



## J4R-Seraya Matchett



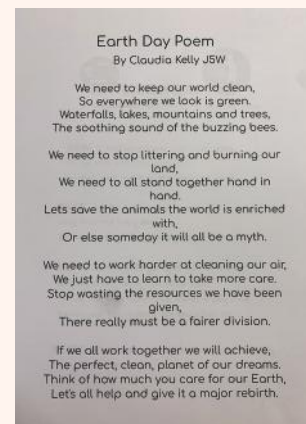
## J4W-Megan Pearle



## J5R- Matilda Shine



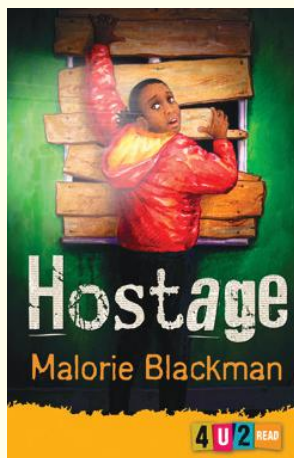
## J5W-Claudia Kelly



## J6R-Salla Kirk







## BOOK REVIEW

By *Riley Foley, J6W*

### Hostage By Malorie Blackman

#### About the Author:

Malorie Blackman is a British writer. She was born in Clapham, London. Both her parents were from Barbados. She wanted to be an English school teacher but she grew up to be a systems programmer. She earned an HNC at Thames Polytechnic and is a graduate of the National Film and Television School. She married Neil Morrison in 1992 and their daughter Ivey was born in 1995. Her work has won over 15 awards. One of her books "Spring" sold out within a week! Malorie Blackman has written over seventy books for children and young adults, including the Noughts & Crosses series, Thief and a science-fiction thriller, Chasing the Stars.

#### About the book:

Hostage is about a girl called Angela whose mum has just left her and it is just her and her dad. At the moment there is a lot of bickering so Angela decides not to go home and to go to the cinema and get an ice cream. Then she hears someone calling her name from a car. She turns around and sees this woman with short brown hair who

smiled before Angela could smile back, she was lifted off her feet. She was put into this car and she was screaming. All the car doors were locked and there were 2 very big muscled men in the back. Angela was screaming at the top of her lungs.

Then a bald guy duck taped her mouth and he said "shut up" and hissed at her. They drove to this abandoned house where they tied Angela to a chair while they went down stairs. Angela thought of many reasons why she was being kidnapped. The one that really stuck out in her mind was her beads jewellery shop. Whenever they had a fight he would always go there. Was it because they wanted her dad's jewels? Angela's dad would do anything for the jewels. Angela is able to escape from the chair, runs out and locks her kidnappers in. Somehow they get out but Angela calls the police and gives them a code to follow. Her dad knows it and Angela's dad and the police get there and you'll see what happens next. I really recommend this book. If you like Crime, Action, Scary and Plot Twisting books I recommend this book deserves 5 stars!

# BOOK REVIEW

By *Maddy O' Donohoe, J6R*

## Tomi

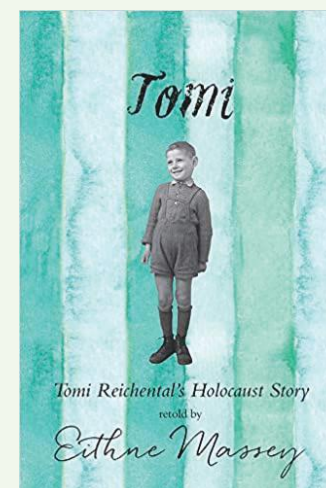
Tomi Reichental's Holocaust story

This book is called Tomi, the author is Eithne Massey. Eithne has written a number of children's books based on the history and legends of Ireland. Many of her stories contain elements of fantasy and magic, but this book is the story of a living person.

For sixty years, Tomi didn't speak of his experiences, but since 2004, he has been giving talks in schools and universities about the Holocaust. Three documentary films have been made about his experience, and his book "I Was a Boy in Belsen" was published in 2011. Tomi says "I realised that, as one of the last witnesses, I must speak out. I owe it to the victims that their memory is not forgotten."

#### Main Character

Tomi I felt was very confused when it all happened so sud-



denly, but I think he handled it very well for a 9 year old boy. I thought Tomi in the story always tried to look on the bright side, even though he didn't really know if there was one.

#### Summary

In 1944 in Merasice, Slovakia, Tomi was captured and deported to Bergen-Belsen concentra-

tion camp in Germany, along with his mother, grandmother, brother, aunt and cousin.

When the people in the camp were released in April 1945, Tomi discovered that thirty-five members of his extended family had been murdered.

#### My Opinion

Many people would know of the great injustices committed against the Jews but reading this book really put you in Tomi's shoes.

I really enjoyed this book, although in the middle of it, it got a bit tedious, but apart from that I enjoyed the book and will probably try and find another quite like it.

I would recommend this book to 11 and up. This was a sad non-fiction book.

# COOKERY CORNER

## FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH

*By Emma Butcher, J6R*

### Lemonade

#### Ingredients

About three lemons – it doesn't need to be too exact; you just need roughly 125-175 millilitres of juice.

Roughly a cup of water, depending on how sour you want it. If doing berries, an additional ½ cup.

A handful of berries, optional.



#### Method

Juice the lemons, making sure to remove any seeds. Pour into a largeish container, with a lid, and add water – you can change it to three quarters of a cup if you want it more sour, or 1 ¼ if you want it less so. It's really up to you!

If using berries, put them in a small bowl with ½ cup water. Mash together, and sieve into container with lemon-water.

Put the lid on and shake until you can see some foam forming on the top.

If you want it cooler, put in the fridge till at your desired temperature. Beginning doing this in the morning, and then drinking it when the sun is at its hottest, can be very refreshing!



### Lemon Sorbet

#### Ingredients

A cup of berries.

A cup of hot water.

A ¼ cup sugar.

Lemon, to taste.

#### Method

Carefully, pour the hot water into a large bowl with the sugar until the sugar is beginning to dissolve. Mash the berries in a blender – you can do it by hand, but it might take a while!

Pour the berries into the bowl, and stir until well combined.

Taste and see what you think. Add lemon as necessary.

Put in the fridge for around three hours, stirring every half hour.





# SPECIAL AWARDS

## Sports Girl of the Year



### Jahan Mangat, J6R

This is one of the most sought after titles in our Junior School, this unique cup, presented by Ms Evans in 2010. It is a testament to a J6 student's overall positive sporting spirit, sporting attitude and dedicated teamwork. This year, a year like no other, was for sure a tough decision to find only one deserving student out of a very exceptional and talented group of J6 students.

The student who has been chosen for this award is remarkable in that she always has a smile on her face. She quietly displays a confidence in her own sporting prowess and ability, while not neglecting those of her teammates in both J6 classes. She has determination to do her very best, is responsible and aware of others and promotes a positive feeling around her peers. She is happy to help move cones, collect hockey balls, etc., and shows strong but fair leadership qualities. Her enthusiasm for fun is infectious, her enthusiasm to learn new skills is commendable and her amazing smile is never too far away.

As mentioned earlier, this was truly not an easy decision, but having given much thought to this, we know that this student is "The One".

It gives me great pleasure in announcing Jahan Mangat as our 2021 Sports Girl of the Year. Many congratulations Jahan, on a marvellous achievement and of your consistent happy participation in all our sporting activities and challenges which you take on with great enthusiasm. Very well done!

You follow in a very distinguished group of Cup winners as you will see. Continued success in sports in the Senior School, keep enjoying it and having loads of fun making new friends through sports.

*Miss T.*

## Drama Student of the Year



### Claudia McEnroe, J6R

Claudia McEnroe is a very deserving recipient of this very special prize in Drama. Claudia is an extremely gifted performer who embraces each and every drama exercise and activity with enthusiasm, humour, joy and an endless amount of creativity. Her ability to spontaneously create instantly colourful and thoroughly engaging and memorable characters is truly admirable and a delight to see. Claudia's focus and commitment to her 'Speech and Drama' exam preparation was very apparent throughout the year and this work was awarded with a wonderful result for her Grade 4 'Speech and Drama' exam.

I wish Claudia all the very best as she enters her senior school years and I have no doubt that she will continue to entertain and bring joy to so many people with her shining, bright and natural talent in performance. Congratulations, Claudia!

*Ms. Quinn*

# SPECIAL AWARDS

## Music Student of the Year



### Sorcha Moran, J6R

It is my very great pleasure to award Sorcha Moran the Alexandra College Junior School Music Prize this year. Sorcha is a wonderful musician and since her arrival to Alexandra College in J3 she has added hugely to music in the school.

She is a superb leader of the orchestra and I know that she has always been very helpful to Ms. O'Rourke during orchestra rehearsals.

She is a hard-working member of her RockJam group and is very helpful to others around her.

She has been a dedicated member of the choir and when we visited a Stroke Support Group last year to sing some carols, Sorcha also brought her violin along and gave us all such a treat by playing a Christmas medley.

Sorcha has helped out in many other ways and she has been a great influence during Orff classes. She approaches her music without fuss. Ask her to do something and she just gets on with it.

I know that Sorcha will be a huge asset to the Senior School and I hope she continues to get as much joy from her music as she clearly does now.

*Mary Fitzgerald*

## Art Students of the Year



### Millie Hartwell, J6W

I am delighted to have chosen Millie for this year's Art Award. Millie was one of my Art Captains and a valued member of that team. Millie is patient, kind and considerate at all times. Her ability to be creative across all mediums is a credit to her artistic talent. She welcomes and understands the process of art and has a great ability to talk and reflect on her work. She is also a valued member of her class by assisting her peers with art challenges. She has carried out her Art Captain duties with great confidence and contributed a lovely piece to the school newsletter about her role. Millie has an amazing raw artistic talent that is unique to her. I'm very proud of Millie and I wish her the very best of luck in Senior School and with any further creative projects she embarks on.

### Sophia Kelly, J6R

I am delighted to have chosen Sophia for this year's Art Award. Sophia was one of my Art Captains and always willing and able to help me, whether it was to move around art materials or help me in class. She assisted me in many ways from displaying artwork to tidying up the classroom. She has shown great leadership amongst her class and the Art Captains throughout the year. Sophia's quiet determination and resilience is evident in everything she does. Sophia's a conscientious student and produces artwork to a very high standard. Sophia is a self-starter, uses her own initiative and contributed great ideas at our Art Captain meetings. Sophia has a superb student with amazing natural artistic talent that will bring much joy in her life. I'm very proud of Sophia and I'm glad to have worked with her. I wish her the very best of luck in Senior School.



# INSIDE Preschool Lower

Over the last two weeks Preschool Lower have been learning about their senses. We had lots of discussions about things we like and don't like to touch, taste and smell as well as our favourite and least favourite foods and sounds. We ended this theme with a senses scavenger hunt around the school grounds. The girls had to look for things that felt smooth, rough and soft. Listen for loud and quiet sounds and find something that smelt bad amongst other instructions. Preschool Lower had a lot of fun completing this scavenger challenge.

*Ms. Brandon & Ms. Malseed*





# INSIDE Preschool Upper



**Irish National Sailing School**



## The Sparkling Mermaid

Preschool Upper girls were very excited to write their own book this year. The title of the book was the 'Sparkling Mermaid' and Preschool Upper was the author and illustrator. Each girl took a page each and what followed was a wonderful story about a lost mermaid who sought the help of the crab, jellyfish, the starfish, the dolphin, the shark, the humpback whale and finally the magical powers of the sea witch who helped Pearl the mermaid to eventually find her way home. What followed was a big feast in the castle surrounded by her sea creature friends. Well done girls for a fabulous read!

*Ms Murphy & Ms Moran*

# INSIDE Kg Lower



**Pyjama Day**

## Trip to Airfield

Friday 14th May was a very exciting day for the Kg Lower and Upper classes! Everyone was excited to go on their first outing on the school bus to Airfield!

Kg Lower went in the morning. We met our friendly and helpful guide called Amy. She brought us on a bug hunt in the wildlife garden and told us about the animals on Airfield's urban farm.

We were delighted to meet the one day old calf and to watch Amy feed the other hungry calves with milk bottles! It was also interesting to learn the differences between Jersey and Friesian cows and to see the Jerseys being milked in their parlour.

As we walked around we enjoyed taking photo-

graphs. On our return to school, we shared our experiences and drew pictures of the farm.

We would highly recommend a visit to Airfield and hope that we can return again.

For a special end to a challenging year we are very excited to visit the Irish National Sailing School. Seaside Safety is very important prior to our summer holidays. We had a great time rock pooling and learning about the marine life on Dún Laoghaire's coastline, in June. Wishing a happy and safe summer ahead to everyone!

Best wishes,  
*Ms Boyd and Kg Lower*



# INSIDE Kg Upper



# INSIDE J1



The J1 girls have been working really hard these past few weeks in preparation for moving to J2.

Throughout the year we have looked at many different styles of writing such as narrative, recount & procedural.

Recently we have been learning about report writing. The girls picked a topic that they would like to write about and created posters to display the information they learned.

They shared their information with the class and we learned interesting facts about everything from Kangaroos and Under the Sea to Marie Curie and Rachael Blackmore.

For example, did you know?

- Kangaroos are about the size of bees when they are first born?
- About 70% of the oxygen we breathe is produced by oceans!

Well done to the J1 girls on their excellent report writing. It has been such a pleasure to work with these girls this year. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer.

*Ms Martin*



# INSIDE J2



J2R



J2W

## Highlights of Our Year in J2

We were delighted to welcome a number of new girls during the year and they have become great friends and classmates. Throughout J2, we had a number of opportunities to dress up in costumes or our own clothes for Roald Dahl Day, at Halloween, Christmas, Green Dress Up Day and for the Pyjama Day in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland. We enjoyed researching and presenting our science projects on transpiration and fingerprints for the Mini-Scientist Competition. J2 created many artistic pieces over the year which included the class Christmas post box, the St. Patrick's Day virtual parade and exhibits for the reception area

art gallery. We were fortunate to experience a selection of virtual visits such as the Fighting Words Creative Writing Workshop, tour of the National Art Gallery, Carla's Dance Party, Joe the Magician and a tour with Dublin Zoo. We enjoyed walking a Mile with a Smile to support environmental awareness and the Green-Schools' Committee.

We would like to thank the J2s for their hard work throughout the year and we wish them every happiness and success for their forthcoming year in J3. Enjoy the summer!

*Niamh Murray and Aisling Gorry*





## INSIDE J3



J3R



J3W

## INSIDE J4



J4R



J4W



# INSIDE J5R



J5R have been diving into history this term, learning about the plantations and the history of Northern Ireland and presenting projects on World War I. We researched military technology, daily life at home and in the trenches and important figures of the war.

In science, we explored forces, investigating the concept of the centre of gravity and creating seemingly impossible balancing objects. We are growing plants and carrying out experiments on them, such as giving them different liquids, instead of water, and talking kindly or unkindly to them.

In geography, we surveyed the school

grounds for different wild flowers and we will soon be carrying out a comparison survey along the Dodder.

Sa Ghaeilge, táimid ag foghlaim faoin siopadóireacht agus faoin mbaile. Chruthaigh gach cailín a baile féin agus táimid ag tabhairt treoracha agus ag scríobh futhu.

We are very excited about our upcoming trip to Russborough House in June, where we will be ziplining, orienteering, learning bushcraft and doing team tasks.

*Ms. Richardson*

# INSIDE J5W

J5W has had a busy year and it is hard to believe that it is coming to a close! Everyone was delighted to return to school in September 2020 and the girls quickly settled back into school life. J5W was also lucky to welcome two wonderful new students to their class - Katerina Morris and Emilia Kravetz.

Soon the girls were busy preparing for different events such as Hallowe'en dress-up and the first ever Alex JS STEAM Competition! Lots of different STEAM projects were investigated and submitted to be judged by external engineers from Intel Ireland. J5W was very fortunate to have two of its students (Olivia Wilson and Molly O'Reilly) take 3rd place in the competition and furthermore, four students from J5W also came highly commended (Claudia Kelly, Aifric Dunleavy, Katerina Morris and Aoife Mitchell) Well done to the finalists and to all who took part!

After Christmas, the J5W girls returned to on-line learning for a little while. The girls worked hard in their virtual environments but also took time out to enjoy some fun dance workshops with Carla Roberts and even made some colourful craft entries for a virtual St. Patrick's Day "Float in a Shoebox" Parade!! On return to school in February, the students also enjoyed a surprise virtual visit from Joe the Magician and this proved to be a very popular event!

As the girls get ready for end of year exams, they are also very much looking forward to their end of year school tour. This trip, to an adventure centre on the grounds of Russborough House, will be a well earned break after all their hard work during the year. Here, J5W will team with J5R to complete a variety of team tasks, orienteering trails and zipline activities.

*Ms. McGarry*





## INSIDE J6R

It has been a really busy term in J6R! We took part in a workshop over 3 sessions with MOTUS where we learned all about our emotional intelligence and developing resilience.

On Earth Day we watched a live workshop from the Natural History Museum- where we learned about when the woolly mammoth lived in Ireland and some really cool experiments that we could do at home to show the effects of climate change.

We were very lucky that week to also take part in a live Q and A with Kelly from Dublin Zoo. Kelly answered all our questions from who is the most popular animal in Dublin Zoo to how likely are scientists to bring back dinosaurs using DNA!

Alongside all this we have been studying for our summer check-ups, preparing for French Week with Ms. Conan and taking part in a debating workshop with Mr. O'Connor.

We were all delighted to receive our J6 hoodies at the beginning of term, with thanks to JACA. We have also been preparing for our farewell assembly- it is hard to believe how quickly the term has gone.

Finally we are beyond excited that we are going to Carlingford in the last week of term! Some of us have been waiting 8 years for this trip and we can't wait to get off the bus, put on a wetsuit and jump in the Lough!

*Ms. Byrnes*



## INSIDE J6W

It's been a busy term in J6W and the girls really settled back into learning in person. Although there was a lot of work to finish during this term, the girls were involved in the MOTUS Mental Health workshops, in order to remind them of the importance of balancing their studies with their mental health. It is always important to keep things like tests and homework in perspective.

The J6W's also put together a maths project, where they were asked to start an imaginary business. This involved calculating cost and selling prices, working out profits and percentages and converting between currencies. They did a great job working through all of these areas of maths while showing their creativity. Speaking of which, there are some very talented girls in our class and some of their work has been on display as part of the Junior School Art Exhibition at the main entrance.

The girls received their hoodies from JACA at the start of the term. This is a long standing tradition here at Alex and we were glad that the girls could receive them in person and celebrate

this milestone in their final year of Junior School. Thank you to Veronica and all of the J6 reps for sponsoring these hoodies. The girls will treasure them for years to come.

Ms. Conan has been busy working with the girls preparing them for their participation in French Week. They have been learning the words to the song On Ecrit Sur Les Murs, while also putting together a book to read to younger classes en français.

Finally, the exciting news! The restrictions are starting to ease and we are now allowed to travel inter-county. Therefore, the girls have been given the green light to go to Carlingford! There was great excitement when we revealed this to the J6W's and they are looking forward to going on their trip on the 8th of June.

The J6W's have been brilliant right throughout the year and are looking forward to their last few weeks of their time with us in the Junior School.

*Mr. Fitzgerald.*

