



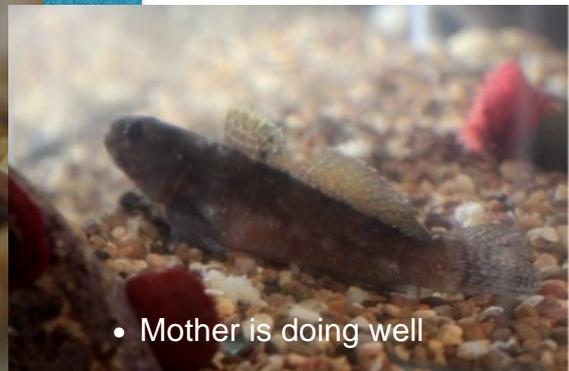
Explorers: Scéal

31-3-2014 # 3

NEW ARRIVALS



After all the deaths of the last few weeks we have the good news of some births in Ms Nestor's aquarium



• Mother is doing well

Johnstown BNS 1-Ms Nestor's

What a week we have had with our fish tank! Firstly, our S.N.A. Anne-marie found out that the blenny in our tank is actually a rock goby.

After we had found out this important piece of information, we noticed that one of our gobies had turned a darker colour and we didn't know why. When we checked the tank the next morning, we found lots of tiny white eggs in the tank. After some research, we found out that when a goby changes colour, it's protecting its eggs. So we realised that our gobies weren't attacking each other last week!

We learned about floating and sinking this week and we also made boats out of plasticine that could

float and carry peas (passengers). In our floating and sinking experiment, we made

predictions about what objects would float and sink. We later tested our predictions and recorded the results. We are wondering what exciting surprises our fish have in store for us next week!

Daniel, Joshua, Kevin, Rory and Patrick



• Another of the occupants of their aquarium

Scoil Mhuire

We are in our third week with the aquarium & thankfully things have been normal enough compared to the first two weeks. On Wednesday we had a visit from Ms. Hogan's Junior infants. Conor & Josh gave a presentation to the class about our marine friends & the aquarium.



Shauna from junior infants won the prize to feed the fish as she gave super answers to Conor's questions. The class were asked did they know what happens when a starfish loses its legs? Shauna answered, "The leg grows back so it can stick to rocks again" Great answer Shauna, well done!

We are keeping an eye on Shannon & Starsky & Anton has not been threatened at all this week. We have observed that the classroom temperatures have increased this week, but the aquarium temperatures are the same, which is a good thing.

We are making our Confirmation on Saturday so good luck to all of 6th class.
By Conor & Emily.

Johnstown BNS.2 -Mrs. Sheehan's

We were very excited when Joanne from Sea-Life arrived at lunch time on Monday with a tank and sea creatures for our class.

Unlike Ms. Nestor's 5th class next door our sea creatures have been quite calm. We have a rota of feeding and care duties.

Our brittle starfish (Fergal) looks more like an underwater black widow spider. Fergal spent two days clinging to the top of the tank; it looked like it was trying to escape. Now he is hiding under the black pipe.

Our anemone (Kelzey) has now attached to the rock but we have yet to see it open up. Little Timmy (our baby goby) hides behind the filter and US Customs Officer (our adult goby) spends its day resting either beside or inside the black pipe. US Customs Officer and Little Timmy become very active when Mark feeds them.

Caolan and Evan have spent some time drawing their artists' impression of our tank and sea creatures. We will include a photo of their drawings next week.

Scoil San Eoin

This week in Ms Greene's class there was lots of research and work completed on our sea creatures. We researched each creature and also did an underwater sea collage for display (Pictures next week!). We also found out some very interesting facts about sand, seaweed, corals, litter and treasure found in Irish waters! Tomás came to visit on Thursday and we told him what we had discovered. He told us a very interesting story about Aristotle. Callum gave him the answer he had been waiting for each year on how anemones get their food. Well done Callum!! Our creatures are all still alive and well and showing off their personalities. We have an open day on Saturday so we can show off our aquarium and all the work we have done.

St Catherine's

This week we have had some new creatures in our tank! Our teacher brought them all the way from Sligo. They were: four crabs, two oysters, a limpet, some sea snails, three mussels and some other rocks and seaweed. Sadly, most of these are now dead or in the stomachs

of our starfish and shanny!

We only had time to name one of the crabs as the



other smaller ones died too quickly to name. We called him Bear Grylls. On Monday when we got him first we put him in but immediately Pablo the shanny tried to kill him. It seems to be like the Hunger Games in our tank this week! Sadly, Bear Grylls didn't last either! He was missing this morning when we came in to school. Our limpet was sucked up and eaten by our starfish Patrick (above), along with one of our sea snails. He also tried to crack open a mussel yesterday but failed.

Tomás came in on Thursday and we showed him the video we took of our shanny eating the limpet after the starfish was finished with it. *(see picture above and view that video from the link in the main message.)*

This week we also got to watch the mussels filter-feeding and the tiny barnacles waving little feathery things to get food from the water.

We have had quite a tragic week but hopefully our last week with the creatures will go more swimmingly.

From Sol and Clara and the rest of 5th and 6th class.

Francis Street CBS

Bad news here this week! Our brittle starfish (pentacles) has passed away. We came in on Tuesday morning and he only had 3 tentacles left and part of his central disc was gone too. He was lying beside the shanny and the goby. We think the central disc may have been eaten by the Shanny (Ivor) and that our anemone (Beetle Juice) joined in at the end.

Our teacher rang Pat and he advised us to remove Pentacles from the tank. We were all very sad. This week the anemone was stuck onto the glass the whole time. He has not moved at all but when we siphoned he closed up the bottom of him turned white. We thought he was dead too but he's ok!!!

We enjoy reading the newsletter and we were amazed to hear that one school has 18 creatures in their tank!

By Patrick Petrut

St Mary's & St Gerard's

This week, we also studied the fishing industry in Ireland and did some experiments on water pollution. Obi, Jimmy, Felix and Gumball were well after the weekend. Sea-Life brought us extra water on Monday. Matthew helped to syphon the water and to vacuum the gravel. We also used the magnets to clean the algae off the glass panes. However, on Wednesday after we fed our sea creatures, the water became very cloudy and we could barely see into our tank. So on Thursday we cleaned the filter – the sponge was filthy! Today the water was still murky so we turned the filter onto high this morning – Obi, Jimmy, Felix and Gumball thought there was a storm at sea-they spent time moving around and trying to avoid it!!

Hollypark GNS

We've had a very exciting two weeks with our aquarium! Before the arrival of our aquarium we made an under the sea art display which included many fish, treasure, an anchor, sea weed, a diver and a ship. We placed the aquarium in front of this display.

We were delighted to welcome a goby, starfish, anemone and a tiny baby plaice. The goby was very active and to our horror started to attack the baby plaice. Sea-Life very kindly replaced the plaice with a blenny. They now have settled. The goby however is usually very dominant during feeding time!

We wrote some lovely narrative stories with a sea life theme. We also did illustrations with our stories. We learned the song "Trasna na dTonnta". Each of us did some research on one of the fish in our aquarium.

We invited First Class to our classroom to see the aquarium. Firstly, we divided our class into groups and prepared a presentation for them. On their arrival to our room, we divided them into groups of four. Each of our groups worked with four first class girls. We told them about the installation of the aquarium, showed them the different parts of the aquarium, introduced them to the fish and read to them some of the stories we wrote. We told the girls all about the different species in the tank using our research. We ended our presentation by singing "Trasna na dTonnta". It was a great success and both classes really enjoyed the presentation.

We are now focusing on the Antarctic and the sea life which is found around there. Sadly the aquarium is moving to the other fifth class this week but we will keep in close contact and continue to explore the wonders of the sea!

5th Class, Ms. Grenham

St Kevin's

Saint Kevin's were very busy this week! Cleaning the tank, changing the water, checking temperatures, feeding the fish, observing our creatures, recording our findings, painting fish and researching all about our creatures - real marine biologists!

Here are some facts for you

- A starfish is often called a sea star. It has loads of tiny sucker tube feet on their soft side that they use to move. There are almost 2000 species of starfish. They can come in a variety of colours. Some of them can live in sand. They have a prickly top bit that they use like armour against predators. They feed by putting their stomach out their mouths! They like to eat mussels and oysters best. They are not very sociable but they sometimes get together to feed. Asia brought in a big dried up starfish for us to see - it was very cool!

- An Anemone has loads of stinging tentacles in 6 circles that it puts out some times. They go out when they are feeding or if they are fighting! (sometimes they fight among themselves even though they look lazy)! They have poison but it's not harmful to humans. They like to live in rock pools. When the tide goes out they suck water into them and close their tentacles to keep themselves moist. They like to eat plankton. If they are disturbed or threatened they suck in their tentacles and look like a blob of jelly!



- We are really enjoying learning about our fishy friends and we are learning lots to tell our visitors on our open day. We are glad that all our creatures are still happy and getting on well together. Let's see what next week is like!

By Aoife