



Explorers: Scéal

7-4-2014 # 4

Harold School

There has been great excitement last week and this week with new additions to the fish tank. The children were only too happy to head off exploring and investigation the local shore. Their rock pooling endeavours netted us 3 new sea anemones, 3 sea slugs and a common crab.

The tank is looking much more natural with



the addition of rocks, shells and seaweed all borrowed from the local beach.

The children presented

and displayed their marine explorers projects, models and experiments yesterday.

Exciting Week in Scoil San Eoin

This week has been a very exciting one for our fish.

We put shells from the beach and a castle in the tank. The starfish loves his new shell chair and



even tried to climb onto our 'bridge', but Goby Sherlock kept biting at him so he gave up! Goby likes to have a look

around the castle and clings onto it like he's King Kong! On Friday Rocky Plaice was asleep in the shell. On Tuesday, our caretaker and Calum (4th) syphoned the tank and Nathan (5th) cleaned the glass. Nathan 'accidentally' hit Shark-bait on the head and he opened up! Well done Nathan!



All the fish are enjoying their new surroundings and we will be very sad when they leave us.

By Benjamin Usher and Aoife Redmond (5th) pics

Holy Trinity's Aquarium

We received our 'Explorers: Education Programme' aquarium on Friday 7th March. It had four fish, a Goby, a flatfish Plaice), a Common Starfish and a Beadlet Anemone.. Unfortunately the Goby consumed the plaice, which was then replaced with a Shanny.

We carried out experiments and found out that:

- (a) The water temperature is affected by the room temperature.
- (b) If a goldfish joined the tank it would be eaten.
- (c) Saltwater enables objects to float more easily than they do in freshwater.

Joe Prendergast

Francis Street CBS

So far for us, siphoning has been a problem but I've managed to get the hang of it. I can get a perfect flow in seconds!. I was delighted

with myself when Tomás came in today and he said our tank is one of the cleanest tank he's seen!



Our shanny has been quite active and generally hangs around at the water filter. Patrick thinks the Shanny has grown a lot! Our beadlet anemone hasn't moved that much lately He's stuck to the side of glass! Our tank seems quieter since we lost our brittle starfish. That was quite a sad event for us. The rock goby doesn't move too much but likes to play with his reflection a lot!

We have really enjoyed having the aquarium and we will all be sad when it is taken away next week.

Johnstown BNS 1

Unlike the last few weeks, the tank has been very calm this week, but we still have some interesting news. Our snake-lock anemone split in two. We got a fright as we didn't know what happened or if it was dead. Luckily, Anne-marie found out that it is perfectly normal for a snakelock to split in two because that is how they multiply.

When Tomás visited us this week, he brought a container with plastic netting to protect the eggs in our tank. Sadly, we had to tell him that the eggs had vanished. Most likely they were eaten!

We've been very observant this week and have noticed that one of the gobies is constantly changing colour from dark black to a sandy colour. We think it is doing this to camouflage itself.

We carried out more science experiments this week so we could learn about refraction. We learned how light bends when it hits water and saw this happening using a glass of water and a pencil. We also discovered how rainbows are formed!

All in all, it was a calm but interesting week.



We are looking forward to displaying our projects over the next week.

Ms. Nestor's 5th class

Hollypark G.N.S, Foxrock

On the 26th of March we received an aquarium from Sea- Life. We gave all the fish names. We got a Goby called Chomper, a Blenny called Benny, a Starfish called Patrick and a Sea Anemone called Noodles.

We all researched different topics on our four new friends and also other sea creatures. We put our research on the notice board behind our tank. We hope our new friends will feel at home in our classroom.

We only had the tank for a few minutes when Noodles opened! The other class had said he was very shy but we were delighted he opened so quickly for us. (Note aquarium spent 2 weeks with one fifth class and then moved to this fifth class. Ed)

At first, we thought they were all harmless and sweet, but suddenly, Chomper made a vicious swipe at poor innocent Benny. Poor Benny! Now, Benny seem to be more attached to the

filter than ever before! He hides out there day and night.

During the afternoon, we had a problem with the chiller. When we called Sea Life and they told us that we hadn't even turned it on! We soon fixed that problem.

Each of the fish has their own particular characteristics. We observed them throughout the day and noted our observations. We discovered that Chomper liked playing dead and posing for the camera (along with bullying all the other fish!).

We also found out that Patrick appears to want to escape because he was squashed in the top corner of the tank! He was also probably terrified of Chomper! The next morning, Benny tried to make friends with Chomper again. However, Chomper made yet another swipe at poor defenceless Benny! Chomper also sat on Patrick! He appear not to like any of his friends. Patrick wasn't too happy, so he climbed his way up the wall of the tank again!

Later in the day we think Chomper fell asleep because he was tired of waiting for Benny to come down from the filter (so he could bully him!). We also noticed that Noodles had closed (he probably was scared of Chomper!). By now we were getting a bit worried about Benny. He was still attached to the filter and was not moving away from it at all. We also noticed that Chomper had been sleeping a lot on the 27th of March; probably from all the energy he spent bullying Benny the previous day.

We are getting quite worried about Benny, as Chomper is the only one of our new friends being active. Benny hasn't moved from the filter for a whole day. Patrick is thinking twice about going down to Chomper, who in case you forgot, sat on Patrick earlier that day.

We are very much enjoying our aquarium watching and will keep you posted on next week's antics in the aquarium.

By Suzanne Cullen, Joey Walshe, Leonie Judge, Caroline McIntosh, Clíodhna Keane, Alessia Aprile

Ms Foy/ Ms Codd's 5th class

St Mary's & St Gerard's

Our tank was still very cloudy this week, making it hard to see our sea creatures unless they are at the front of the tank. Tom thinks that our filter may be faulty. Our teacher, Ms Malone, went to Greystones beach to collect six 2 litre bottles of fresh seawater. We cleaned the tank, syphoned off dirty water and then we put in the clean water. So far, it hasn't made a difference but we hope it will.

We also studied ships and famous Irish sailors in history. We did experiments on floating and sinking. We



also built boats out of plasticine and put them in water to see if they would float. Two sank immediately!

Then we put peas in the other five boats as passengers. The winning boat was The Potato Pot which carried 174 peas!!

Johnstown BNS 2 – Mrs. Sheehan's

US customs Officer (blenny) sits in his pipe, head sticking out, observing us work Fergal (brittle starfish) is still trying to escape via the top left hand corner of the tank,



you can see this clearly in Caolan Burn's amazing drawing. Kelzy (beadlet anemone) is stuck to the rock and has only opened once all week.



Little Timmy (baby goby) hides by the filter. This week US Customs offi-

cer has become especially active when I feed him. He had the frozen shrimp eaten before my back was turned! I think he also thought that Fergal was dinner as he went for him too. Luckily for Fergal he escaped unharmed.

This week we learned about floating and sinking. 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. On Monday, we learned about mass, density and buoyancy. We then experimented with this in pairs by first dropping a ball of plasticine into a tub of water. It quickly sank. Then we made boats out of the same piece of plasticine that could float and carry peas (passengers). Some pairs sank their boats by trying to carry too many passengers. We left the remaining floating boats overnight. Two boats were still afloat the next morning (one of which was mine). Our principal, Mr. Cadogan, walked into our classroom at the end of the day and wondered if we had had a water fight!

On Thursday, we also experimented with Reflection and Refraction of light using water. This was really cool and more messy and fun learning with water. We are enjoying learning about our new aquarium classmates and hope to have our project on display next week.

We thought the cinematography of St. Catherine's feasting blenny was amazing, Mrs. Sheehan chose to show us this video while we were eating!

Written by Neil Broderick.

St Catherine's

Hello Explorers! We have had such a busy week in St Catherine's that the children unfortunately didn't have time



• Our Open Day

to write their usual newsletter update, so I am just going to pass on our main observations from the week instead.

By last Friday we had given up hope for our crab Bear Grylls, thinking he had succumbed to the shanny's aggression in the end, but on Monday morning we discovered him buried deep into the stones underneath our oyster! He has since moved hiding place a few times during the week - settling himself under an empty shell and under the mussels amongst other places. The shanny circles the tank and sometimes 'sits' on top of him but hasn't managed to defeat him so far. It looks like Bear Grylls definitely deserves his name!

The starfish has continued his path of destruction this week, spending most of his time wrapped around one of the mussels. He seems to be trying to prise it open, as we have learned that is how he feeds, but so far he hasn't been strong enough.

Our beadlet anemone is still just a blob on the side of the tank - we have only seen his tentacles for about five minutes during the whole four weeks, and we suspect this is because he is intimidated by the shanny.

We had a whole school open day on Thursday.

The children planned the programme of events and decided they would make some speeches (and one rap!) to present what they had learned about the creatures. They also demonstrated two science experiments, and held a short quiz.



We finished off with a bake sale, which had a fishy theme as you can see from the photos! In total we raised €291.24, to donate to the WWF. My class did a great job this week and I was very proud of them!

Fiona