

THE RIVER JIGGY PROJECT

Environmental Awareness and Care: A local river project in Roscommon Town

Roscommon Tidy Towns invited our 6th class pupils to participate in the River Jiggy project in Roscommon town. The project was funded by Waterways Ireland with its aim to clean up the river and to bring the flora and fauna of the river to the attention of the local community. Unbelievably, not many local people were aware of the river prior to the project work of the Tidy Towns Committee. Kathleen Shanagher, Roscommon Tidy Towns organised for our 6th class pupils to receive a workshop with Heritage in Schools Expert, Michael Bell to highlight the flora and fauna around the River Jiggy in Roscommon Town.

On October 27th, 2019, Michael Bell spent a full day with our three 6th classes presenting fabulous slides on the wide and varied flora and fauna that exists around the River Jiggy. He also spoke about the clean-up operation undertaken by Roscommon Tidy Towns in trying to enhance the river system itself.

The pupils were then treated to an outdoor mini-beast and plant hunt on our school grounds. The pupils worked in teams and collected as many samples of mini-beasts as they could find in a given time. All of their findings were recorded and the children had to

provide feedback to their peers when they returned to the classroom.

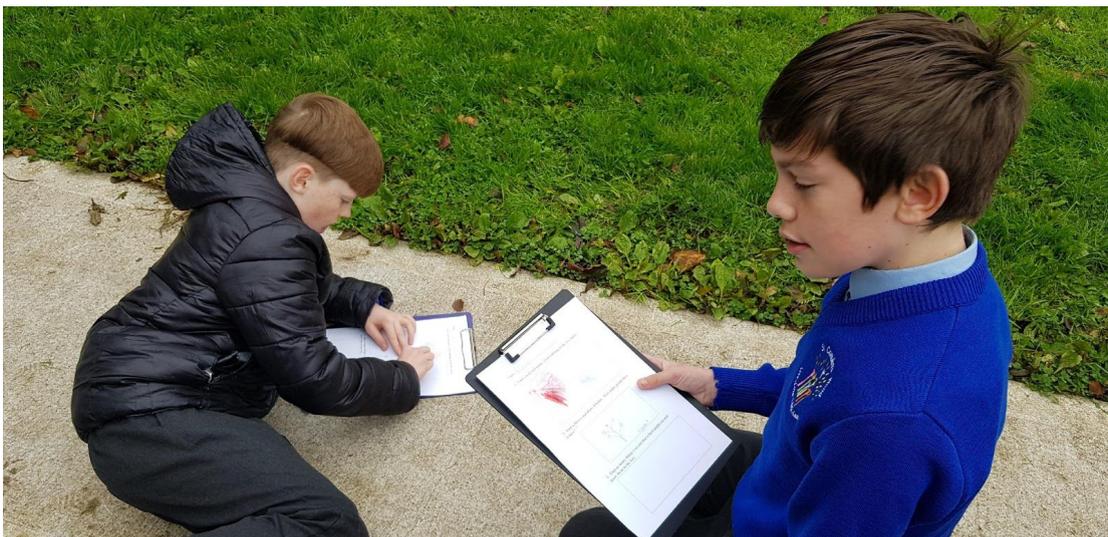
Kathleen Shanagher and members of the Tidy Towns Committee presented our school with 2 large posters displaying the course of the River Jiggy and also the common flora and fauna found in its surrounds. We were also presented with a beautifully illustrated copy of “The Compelling Compendium of Irish Mammals” and a copy of “Collins Complete Guide to Irish Wildlife” to add to our library. Our pupils then created their own projects on the River Jiggy, based on the workshop that had been delivered. This was a fantastic community initiative and we were delighted to be part of such an important local environmental awareness campaign.



Heritage in Schools Expert, Michael Bell, explaining the local habitats to the 6th class pupils



6th class pupils are busy on the mini-beast hunt



Pupils record their findings



Roscommon Tidy Towns Committee presenting Reference Books and Posters to St. Coman's Wood as part of the River Jiggy Project