

Dear Maria,

Our project Tubber through the Mists of Time was a huge success. Tony Kirby was our Heritage Expert throughout the project. Tony Completed 4 full days and his 5th day was to consist of a field trip to the Burren National Park but because of the bad weather the school felt it would be better to postpone this until the Springtime. Throughout the project the children did various activities which were cross curricular and on the last day we compiled a booklet of the children's work as a keepsake which they titled 'My Book of the Burren'.

Our Project began with Tony doing a presentation on the Burren and its features, Tony also provided a workbook 'The Burren a Special Place' for the children to complete which included many photos that he had prepared and cut out at home. This booklet allowed the children explore the Burren in more detail and ask questions along the way which Tony was more than happy to answer. Tony's knowledge of the area made the project more special for the children as he was able to answer questions that they posed about their own townlands.

Tony gave the children a little 'obair bhaile' going home after their first session in which they had to find out the meaning of their townland which they did. They spent the next session exploring townlands of the Burren and their meanings. They also spoke about various monuments and ruins e.g wells, towers that were in their locality. The children went off and researched something in their own townland. They loved doing this. Many went and did a mini interview with older members of the locality to find out more information.

St. Colman was a famous Saint in the area and had a very special story connected to him. St Colman and the flight of the dishes. Tony elicited the children's prior knowledge of the story and went into greater detail about the story with them. They then completed a timeline recount of the story which included pictures for the infants and pictures and text for the senior end of the school.

The next session consisted of the children recapping on the story from the previous week and working in teams to comprise a drama. There was 3 groups and each group had to draft 2 scenes each. They did a first draft and then they all came together to re draft the scenes as a group so that they story made more sense. Children then got to work on dramatizing what they had come up with. Over the 2 weeks the children worked on the drama in class with their teachers. When Tony returned the children acted out their play and it was recorded. They put a huge effort into it. Whilst doing the project with Tony, the children of the school also took part in the Music Generation Programme and decided to compose their own piece of music that would tie in with their drama. They named it the Tubber Polka. The senior members of the school also did some art work based on the story. It was the Burren Winterage Festival during the middle of the project and this tied in very well with the project. A local farmer came in to talk to the children about the Burren Winterage and they all had so many questions that they wanted to ask based on what Tony had been teaching them about the Burren. They were then able to bring back what they had learned from the farmer to Tony's next workshop.

Tony brought the whole project together during the final session. He did some mapping skills and the children completed a story map of the Burren including the story of St Colman and the Flight of the Dishes. He finished off the day by assessing what the children had learned. They took part in a monster quiz. It was amazing to see what the children had learned throughout the whole project.