

Quarterly Newsletter - October 2020



Welcome to the first Changemaker Schools newsletter.

The 15 Irish Primary Changemaker Schools have a new home...the D.C.U. Institute of Education!

We are delighted that D.C.U. has chosen our 15 Changemaker schools to help transform education in Ireland and we are really excited for the future of our network.

Thanks to all the Change Leaders for their hard work in supporting the development of this newsletter.

We have visited Corpus Christi in Moyross, Donabate Portrane Educate Together, Dalkey Project N.S., Tarmon N.S., Our Lady Immaculate J.N.S. in Darndale and of course my own school Francis Street School and look forward to many more as soon as we can. Visits have been curtailed due to current restrictions.

Newsletters will be created in December, March and June so keep sending me information and pictures.

What is a changemaker?

"A Changemaker is someone with the skills and confidence to lead change in their home, school or community..."

"I am a Changemaker because I have learned how to fix punctures on bikes and when Shane had a puncture I fixed it. Mr Keane shows us how to fix bikes and to do DIY. We helped to make a polytunnel and we grow loads of vegetables. Sometimes we pick the vegetables to

— BY SHAY NEVIN, 5th CLASS, SCOIL BHRIDE SHANTALLA

Change Champions don't forget!

For the next newsletter we would be very grateful if each school could create and document one initiative to embed the identity of a Changemaker with their students and send it in by Dec 11th.

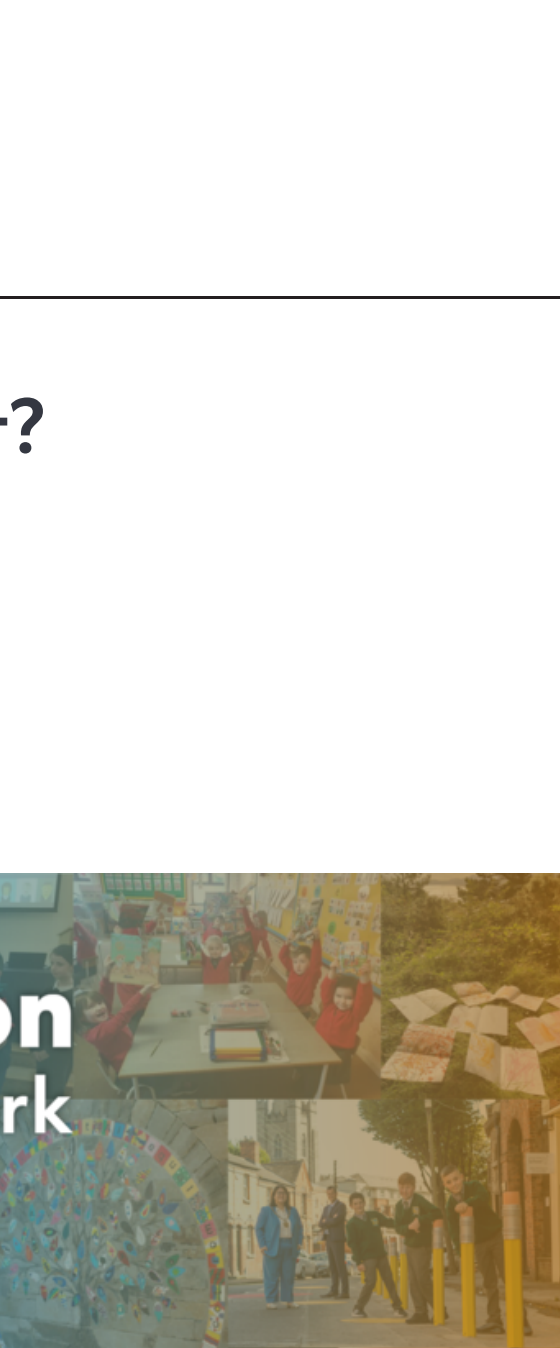
It can be as small or as big as you like and each school will feature in the December Newsletter.

Students are encouraged to finish this sentence: 'I am a Changemaker in my home, school or community because...'

Send all information to fiona.collins@dcu.ie.

One of our schools has already started.

Students in Scoil Iosagain in Buncrana have been asked to finish the sentence in their daily gratitude journals.



Does your school have a twitter account? Do you have a twitter account?

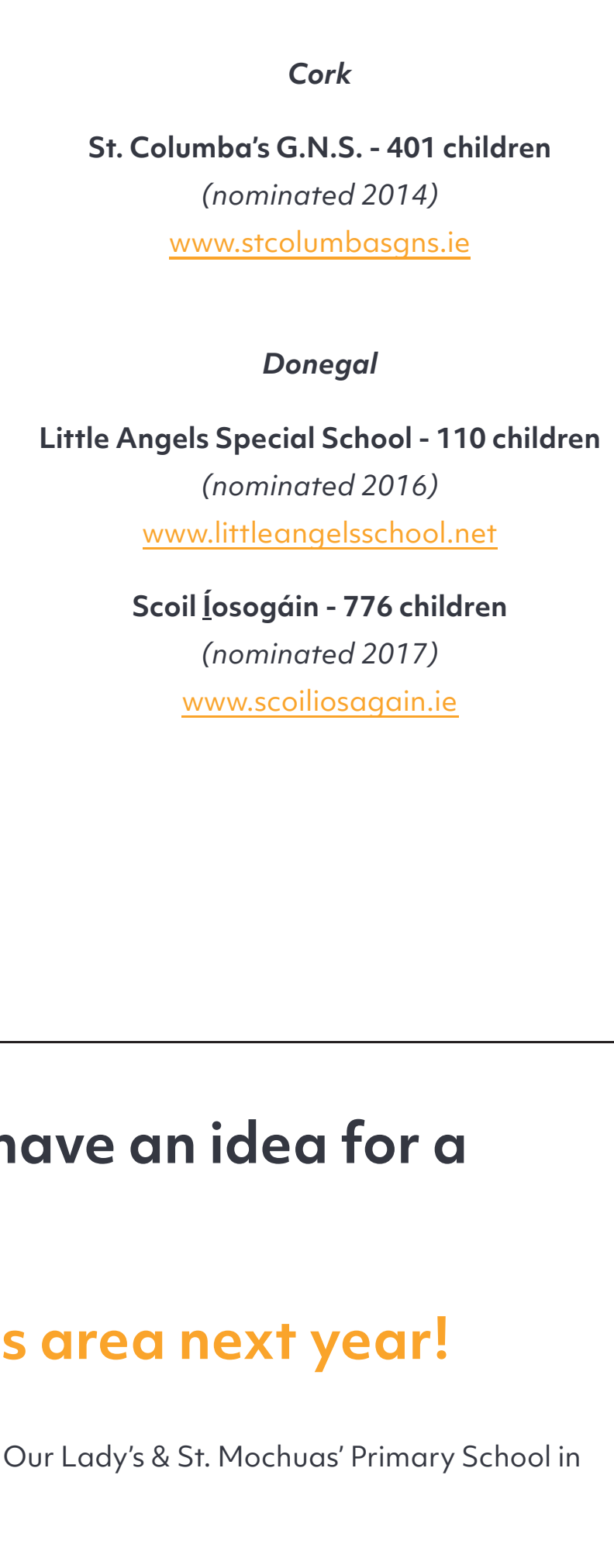
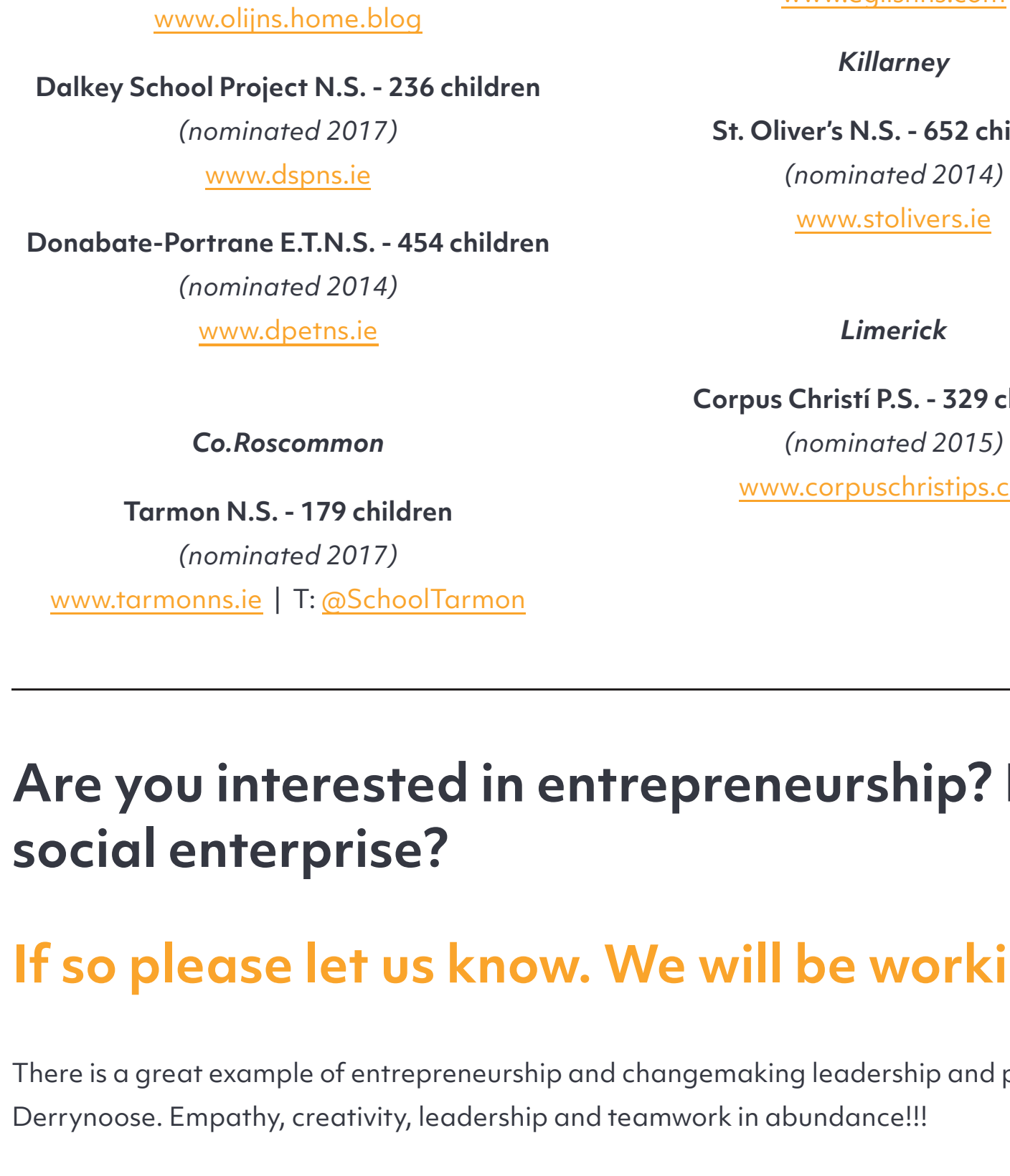
If so follow us on [@DCUCMS](https://twitter.com/DCUCMS)

#Changemaker



We have 15 schools and support 5,000 students between them all.

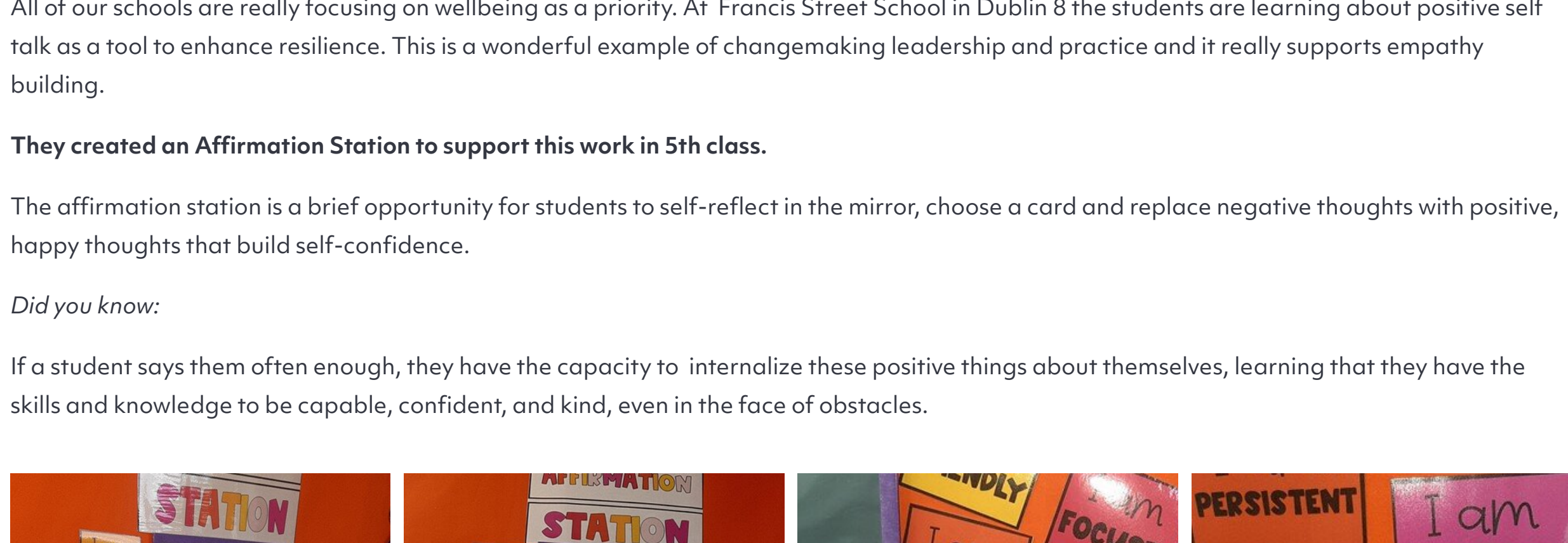
Meet our 15 Primary Schools:



Are you interested in entrepreneurship? Do you have an idea for a social enterprise?

If so please let us know. We will be working in this area next year!

There is a great example of entrepreneurship and changemaking leadership and practice [here](#) at Our Lady's & St. Mochua's Primary School in Derrynoose. Empathy, creativity, leadership and teamwork in abundance!!!



Wellbeing

Francis Street School

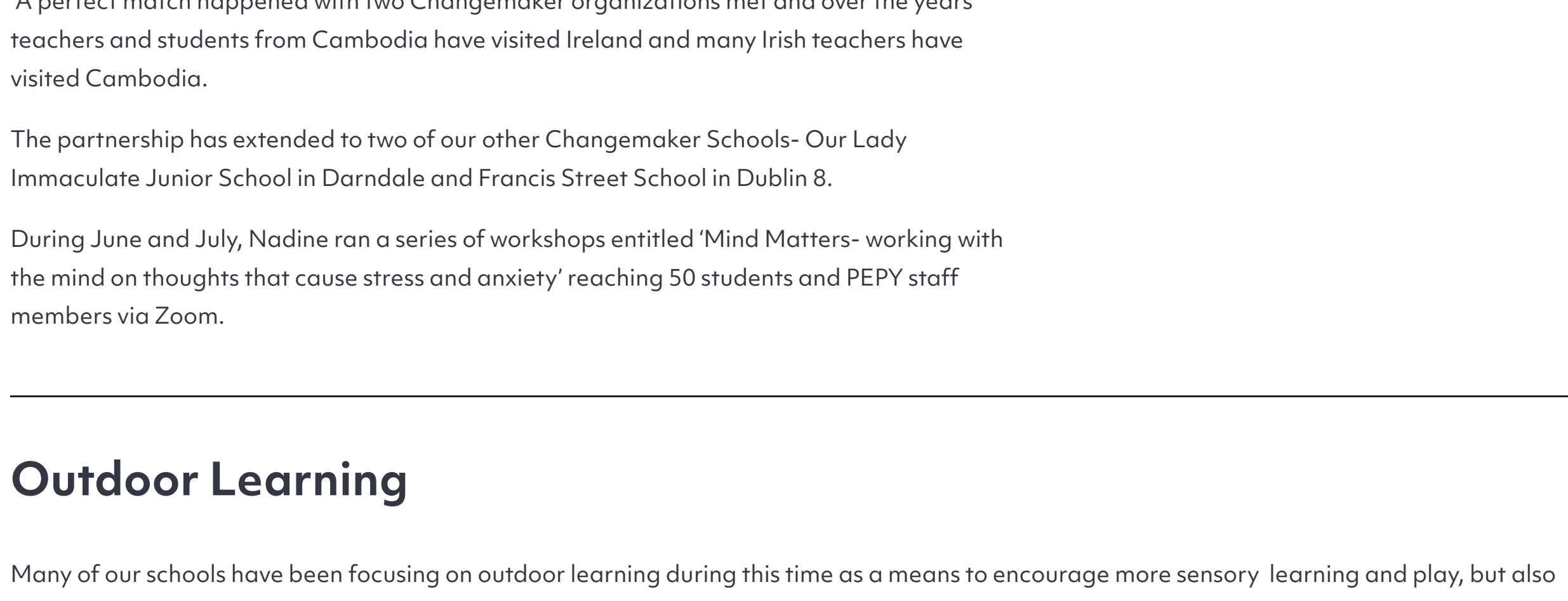
All of our schools are really focusing on wellbeing as a priority. At Francis Street School in Dublin 8 the students are learning about positive self talk as a tool to enhance resilience. This is a wonderful example of changemaking leadership and practice and it really supports empathy building.

They created an Affirmation Station to support this work in 5th class.

The affirmation station is a brief opportunity for students to self-reflect in the mirror, choose a card and replace negative thoughts with positive, happy thoughts that build self-confidence.

Did you know:

If a student says them often enough, they have the capacity to internalize these positive things about themselves, learning that they have the skills and knowledge to be capable, confident, and kind, even in the face of obstacles.



PEPY

Donabate-Portrane ETNS

Changemakers connecting across the globe.

Donabate Portrane Educate Together National School (DPETNS) has a strong focus on Global Citizenship and Human Rights as a means of expressing their identity as a Changemaker School and as Changemakers.

The school works with [PEPY Empowering Youth](#) a non profit NGO providing personal and professional training to rural youth in Cambodia.

This partnership began in 2013 when a parent, Nadine Ferris suggested that the school partners with another school to expand the scope of the students learning.

A perfect match happened with two Changemaker organizations met and over the years teachers and students from Cambodia have visited Ireland and many Irish teachers have visited Cambodia.

The partnership has extended to two of our other Changemaker Schools- Our Lady Immaculate Junior School in Darndale and Francis Street School in Dublin 8.

During June and July, Nadine ran a series of workshops entitled 'Mind Matters- working with the mind on thoughts that cause stress and anxiety' reaching 50 students and PEPY staff members via Zoom.



Outdoor Learning

Many of our schools have been focusing on outdoor learning during this time as a means to encourage more sensory learning and play, but also as a way to integrate safely. For some it is as simple as making a decision to get outside daily, for others it is very embedded.

Outdoor learning as a changemaking practice, is a wonderful way to embed empathy, explore creativity and engage in leadership and teamwork.

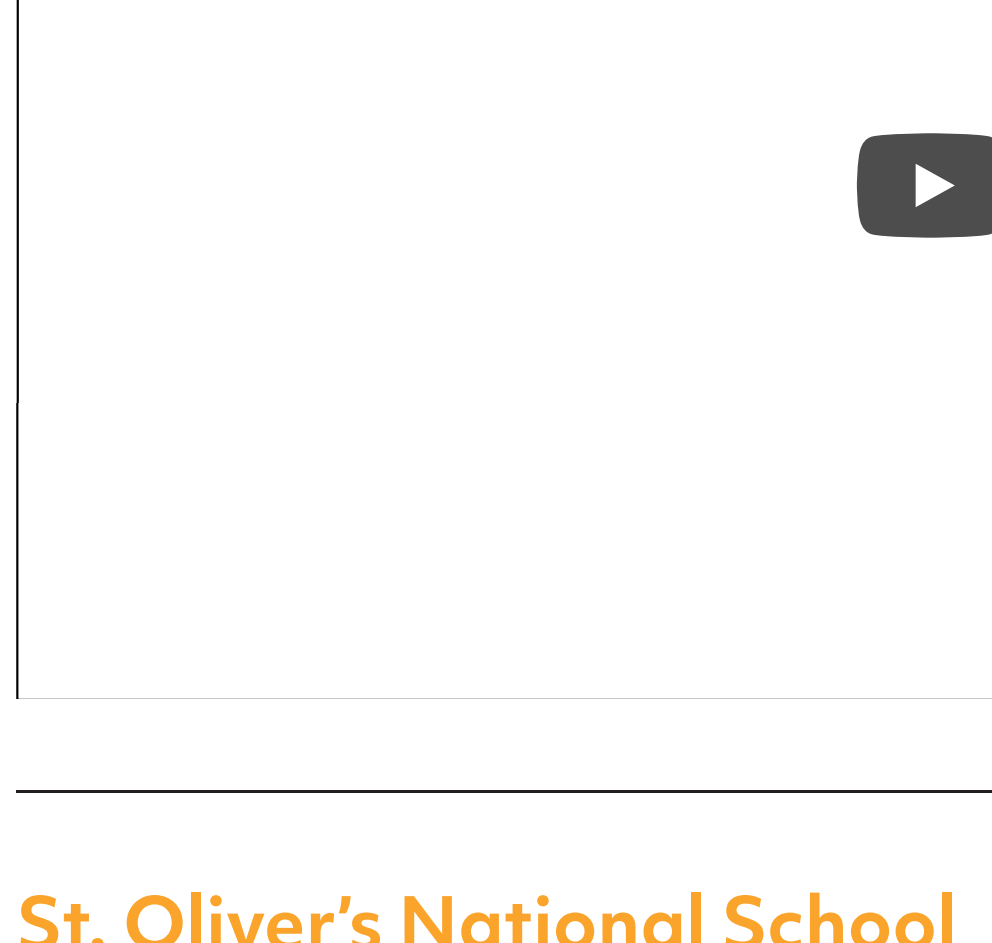
One such school is Dalkey Project N.S. and I had the fortunate experience of visiting while I could travel!

Please send me any photos, videos or experiences you have had of outdoor learning.

Forest School at Dalkey School Project N.S.

I witnessed a wonderful lesson on 'Giant Spider Webs and Loom Weaving' and learned about base camp, how to weave a friendship bracelet, played games and was invited to reflect in a 'sit spot'.

READ THE FULL POST HERE



'Giant Spider Webs and Loom Weaving' in 2nd, 3rd and 5th Class

This week the children learnt another way to weave a friendship bracelet, this time, using a cardboard loom. The objective for this activity was to weave a bracelet for someone at home as a way of bringing a little piece of the forest home to a loved one. The children were so engaged and focused on this activity and it was very clear to see the calming and relaxing effect the weaving had on the children. Here are some of the things that the children noticed this week:

- 'Weaving in my sit spot felt magical'
- 'How simple string could be made into such a nice bracelet'
- 'I felt really calm in my sit spot'
- 'How calm and quiet the forest is during sit spot'
- 'The leaves in my tree were rustling and crunching'



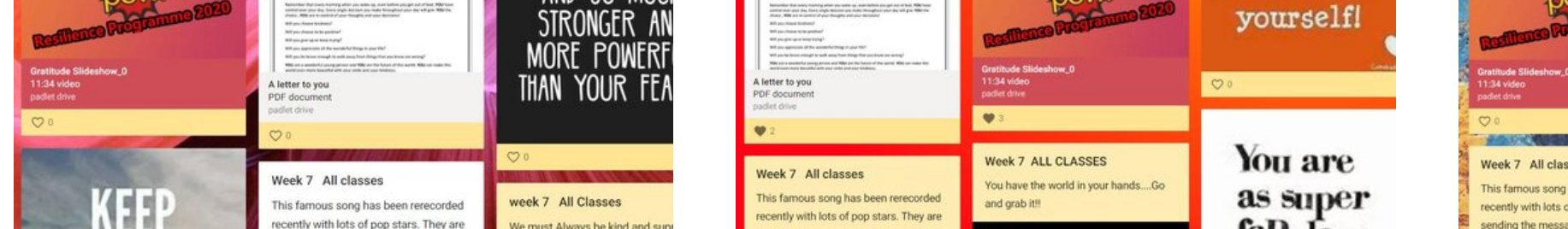
'Tracking' in Senior Infants

Senior Infants had a fabulous time at forest school this week. On the journey up to base camp they looked to see if they could spot any animal tracks! At base camp the children listened to a gorgeous Story called 'The Busy Little Squirrel' by Nancy Tafuri. We learned all about different kinds of tracks and how to spot them, for example, Deer hooves are splayed, meaning they leave two long imprints in the snow with a gap in between; Rabbits' hind feet are much larger than their fore feet, meaning their tracks are comprised of a pair of long, thin prints and a pair of shorter prints; Badger tracks have five toes positioned ahead of a broad rear pad and claw marks may also be visible. Fox tracks have four toes – two at the front and one at each side and a roughly oval-shaped pad at the rear. Claw marks may be visible at the end of each toe; Bird tracks are long and thin and often look a little like arrowheads. Our focus for the learning this week was creating animal tracks in groups with stencil cut-outs, flour and sieves. At the end of the trail the children created a 'Treasure' of conkers, pine cones or acorns.

English N.S.

English N.S. has a very well established Forest School and ethos of outdoor learning.

Watch the video below!



Resources for Junior and Senior Infants.

Resources for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class.

Resources for 4th, 5th and 6th Class.

