

A school we are lucky to have

■ Hi my name is Ava Madden. I'm in sixth class so this is my final year, I know I'll find it difficult to leave, this school is my home away from home. I have great friends and an amazing teacher called Mr Murray so I guess I'll just have to make the most of it.

I am in a family of five, my mum, my dad and my two siblings — they're all very funny, all very sweet and they're all very silly.

I'll start talking about my school again because it's my final year and it might seem mean if I don't say some more nice things about it. Well let's see...oh yeah every summer we do surfing lessons with the school since the beach is just down the road and I love that!

I love the school because everyone respects each other and you always have someone to talk to.

I'm so lucky to have the life I do because not a lot of people are as lucky as us. I think they deserve what we have as well. I love my school and I know there is not and will never be a school like Gurraneasig NS. **Ava**



Fiach, with Fuinneamh the green school energy mascot, at Gurraneasig NS. Picture: Denis Minihane



Megan enjoying a healthy lunch at Gurraneasig NS. Picture: Denis Minihane



Lily Rose, junior infants, as a princess during Aistear at Gurraneasig NS. Picture: Denis Minihane

■ My name is Niamh Verkade. I am 10 years old. I am in fifth class. I adore my school because we do loads of exiting activities and the teachers are amazing.

My teacher is called Mr. Murray and he is the best. He takes us to so many different activities like spikeball, table tennis, football and GAA and he is always fair when he gives us work because he always lets us play at the end of the day.

At school my favourite subject is maths because it is really fun, interesting and exciting and my least favourite subject is Irish because I find it really hard to learn different languages.

My friends are all so nice, kind, and supportive and they always help me if I get stuck at a question in any subject.

The school also throw parties and collect money for charities like MS and Cork Simon and we get to dress up and bring in toys and treats.

I love my school and I think anyone who comes to Gurraneasig NS should too. **Niamh**

■ My name is Bobby. I live in Sandycove. I enjoy maths, reading history and projects. My teacher is named Mr Murray. He lets us play games like table tennis, spikeball and tag rugby.

The subjects that I do are Maths, English, Gaeilge, reading and spelling.

The subjects that I do not enjoy so much are some parts of Gaeilge and Starlight (which is my English book).

My favourite type of homework is of course — NO homework!

My favourite games are tag and cops and robbers.

My favourite types of toys are Lego because you can be very creative. I enjoy reading books and I have lots of them at home. **Bobby**

■ My name is Charlotte Cochrane. I'm 10 years old. Gurraneasig NS, is the best school ever because we're not loaded with books but we're also not spoiled — well, maybe a little bit.

The teachers are kind, active and caring.

I am in 4th class for a while now and I can't believe how much I am enjoying it and I still have so much more to look forward to.

My favorite subject is art, I find it relaxing, but my least favourite subject is Irish, I find it really hard but even though it's hard I always give it my best.

We also get to do so many activities like surfing, spikeball, tennis, table tennis and much much more, and GAA which, I might add, I cannot do because I have Marfan syndrome, which does make it harder than some but I like a little challenge in life. After school on Tuesday and Wednesday I do swimming. I absolutely love the water. Fridays I do violin while my sister does piano. I also have two brothers. My friends [which I have too many to name] are all so sweet and caring, they are always there for me just like I will always be there for them. **Charlotte**

■ Hi I am Ella. I go to Gurraneasig school, it is the best. I am really dreading the day I leave. Let me tell you more about it. I am in 5th class and it is really fun. We do lots of sports, art and much more. Two or three years ago I was finally old enough to do surfing on the beach. We go to the beach for a walk nearly once or twice a week. Our walks are about 30 minutes long unless we stay longer. Surfing is the best. We also do tennis, table tennis, spikeball, Gaelic football etc. I am not a sporty type but my teacher Mr Murray likes to keep us all fit and healthy.

My school is the most amazing school in the world. I love the fact it is small so you have a nice group of friends and the teachers are the best. **Ella**

■ Hi my name is Gia Vincent. I love Gurraneasig mostly because the amazing sports like surfing, table tennis, tennis and more. I really fit in because of the amazing teachers and the activities they have in store for us like all the sports tournaments, school tour and bike day.

I am dreading to leave the school because I only have a few more years. I like the way it is small and that we have three classes in a

classroom and you get to have friends in all different classes.

All of my friends are so kind, funny and encouraging.

Outside of school I like camogie and skateboarding. **Gia**

■ My name is Layla O'Neill. I am in 6th class in Gurraneasig NS.

I adore my school. My favourite subject is maths because I love solving problems.

When I leave Gurraneasig in June I will definitely be crying! I have so many memories in Gurraneasig. I can still remember my first day of school. I remember walking in the front gates with my best friend Lydia. I didn't want to come in. I thought it would be scary and an unhappy place. Once I walked in the doors I was surprised to realise that it was not like that AT ALL!

The people were friendly, the classrooms were bright and colourful and welcoming. It was not what I expected. As soon as I walked in the door I realised this was my school for the next eight years, and I was going to love it.

As the years went on, I made friends and memories that I knew I would remember forever. The teachers are so kind and helpful and the students are so friendly and outgoing.

The school is in such a nice area and we sometimes walk to the beach. The yard is big with a large grass pitch, a basketball court and a concrete area to play in.

I love my school and even though I am excited to go to secondary school, I am not looking forward to leaving. **Layla**

■ My name is Loughlin O'Donnell. I am 11 years of age and in 5th class, in an amazing little school called Gurraneasig NS.

I love being in the senior room because of the sense of responsibility, everyone is either smart, sporty, funny or a mix of everything.

I love sport and most people are unique in a way that they all have a sport to share. We all have a choice to play spikeball, table tennis, sciath na scol etc... all through the year. And every June we do surfing.

We are incredibly lucky that we're a 10 minute walk to Howe strand beach!

Even though we do so many different sports and activities, we certainly don't lack academically.

It is easy to make friends at Gurraneasig and hard to leave them. All in all I adore Gurraneasig NS.

I love my school. I think it is the best school in the world (or Ireland at least). Some subjects are easy, like English and Maths and some I find are a bit tricky like, like Irish, although I try my best.

Our school encourages creativity and sports, which I really like. We even get to go surfing in the summer (lucky us)! We do table tennis, normal tennis, spikeball, GAA and so much more that I can't even name them all.

I like being in the senior room because I feel more independent and capable of bigger things. I only came in the middle room (2nd and 3rd classes) and I had a really good time. All the teachers and students are really nice and I think they love the school just as much as me. **Maia**

■ My name is Sióg Moynihan. My school, Gurraneasig NS, is incredible. It has everything a kid would wish for from being able to walk to the beach during school to great teachers.

Our school is such a special school and I know how lucky I am to go to Gurraneasig.

There are only 60 pupils...there's 10 in my class, six girls and four boys...there's three teachers that all have something in common — they all love teaching and know each kid individually.

Gurraneasig is a place for everyone whether you like maths or sports we have everything. **Sióg**

■ Hi, my name is Torin. My school is fantastic because we are close to the beach. In summer time we get to go surfing on the beach. I'm pretty sure that we are the only kids who do that in a Primary school.

We also do loads of sports throughout the year, such as spikeball, table tennis, GAA, soccer and at the end of the year, sports day. As well as doing our fun and games, we also do our work. My teacher, Mr Murray, is the best teacher that you will ever have.

Outside of school I like playing soccer, rugby and table tennis. Some of my hobbies include racing my RC car, drumming, playing videogames and going for runs.

Sadly I will be leaving Gurraneasig soon. I have mixed feelings about it because as well as it being sad that I'm leaving I am also excited I'm going to Kinsale Community School. **Torin**

Puzzle solutions

■ **FIGURE It Out:** Across: 2, 144; 4, 25; 5, 67; 7, 38; 8, 29; 9, 81; 11, 70; 12, 432. Down: 1, 54; 2, 15; 3, 46; 4, 288; 6, 720; 10, 14; 11, 72; 13, 33.

■ **Add A Letter:** Carmel, Store, Shore, Swore, Short.

■ **Find The Word:** Scar, Elsa, Simba, Snow White, Moana.

■ **Word Ladder:** Face, Lace, Lack, Lick, Link.

Pictured at Dreeny NS with their project titled 'Dreeny drive thru' are, Labhaoise McCarthy, Laura Daly, Grace O'Sullivan, and Chloe Delaney. Picture: Denis Boyle



Next week we feature photographs and words from Dreeny National School, Skibbereen