

The Welcoming Ceremony

What is a welcoming ceremony?

- Each October, the new Junior Infants who come into our school put together a Welcoming Ceremony.
- Through the use of songs, art, drama, oral language and dance, the children become part of their school community while sharing what makes them special and unique.
- All this is done through linkage and integration with the GMGY curriculum and the curriculum as a whole.
- Usually the parents will come in and see the children perform (similar to the Winter Concert) but unfortunately the last couple of years the Ceremony has been pre recorded and sent to parents.
- Contributions to the ceremony should be made by the children but also parents, classroom teachers and the principal can add to the ceremony



Why we have a welcoming ceremony?

- Children mark their first half term as a member of a Community National School by celebrating some of their achievements of this first half term.
- Allows us as a school to get to know the children and their stories in a safe and energetic environment.
- Through conversations in preparation for the ceremony, children get a better understanding of each other's celebrations and appreciate each other's right to express their beliefs through celebrations
- Children have the opportunity to have a shared celebration, where even though the children may come from different backgrounds and different and no faiths, they have this first shared experience
- Introduces children to the GMGY Curriculum through the Strand *Beliefs and Religions* and the Element of *Celebrations*

ELEMENT

Celebrations

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through appropriately playful learning experiences, children should be able to

Develop a sense of respect for and understanding of celebrations that are relevant in their own lives and the lives of others.

How it links with GMGY?



- Here are just some of the Strands and Elements we feel are linked with the GMGY Curriculum when completing the welcoming ceremony
- We Are A CNS
 - Community and Citizenship
 - Values
 - Respect
- My Stories
 - My Life
 - My Relationships
- Thinking Time
 - Emotions and Wellbeing
- Beliefs and Religions
 - Special Artifacts
 - Celebrations

How to prepare for the welcoming ceremony.

- Designed to link in with the teaching already being done during the first half term. Embed the preparations within the GMGY programme, Art, Aistear, SPHE.

For example:

- History - Self portraits & Baby photos
- Art/GMGY - Painting flags & Name writing
- Geography - where our families come from
- Gaelic songs/poems
- Routines

