

Our Experience Performing in the All Ireland Community Games Choir Competition

By Emma McCamley – 5th Class

We can happily say that we had a great time performing at the All -Ireland Community Games. We never in a million years thought that we would come first.

On the day of the All Irelands we had to be at the school at 10:00a.m because the bus was leaving at 10:15a.m and we were all tired but excited at the same time. We were on the bus for one and a half hours. We got to Athlone at around 11:45a.m and ate some lunch, then we headed to the hall where the choir competition was held.



We had to sit through fifteen choirs and we were second last to perform. We didn't think we were going to win because all the choirs were up to a very high standard but we didn't mind. When it was our turn to sing we were a little tired but that didn't stop us, we sang our hearts out and that was all that mattered to us.



We think that the judges loved our three songs that we sang which were 'Viva La Vida' by Coldplay, 'Bring Him Home' from Le Miserables and 'I Will Follow Him' from Sister Act. Well they must have because we scored 92.8 out of a hundred points! Monaghan were the winners last year and they were leading through the whole competition with a score of 91.5 until we performed and then we were leading for the rest of it.

The judges didn't talk to each other about the scores because they were at four separate tables writing down scores for each choir and then at the end they gave all of

their scores to the people who counted up all of their scores together for each school and announced them. They called out who had one 4th, 3rd and 2nd place and then finally they called out Ratoath Ratbeggan and we couldn't believe it we were so happy!



It was an amazing and exciting experience but we wouldn't have won first place in the All Ireland final if it wasn't for Ms Hession and Ms Kieran.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR HIT THE WINNING NOTE!!

By Freya Kavanagh

We went to the school on Saturday 26th of May and drove off on the bus at 10.15. We chatted away on the way down. When we got to the A.I.T (Athlone institute of technology) we were surprised seeing a carnival and a few bouncy castles!! We walked up to the hall that we were going to be singing at and checked if they were ready, but at the time they were doing the indoor soccer matches. So we walked up to an area of grass and ate our lunch. In the field beside us they were doing cross country so we could watch!

There were 16 choirs competing in the competition. We were going to sing 2nd last which was good because that lets us see how the choirs do first. We sang Viva La Vida by Coldplay, I Will Follow Him from the movie Sister Act, and Bring Him Home from Les Miserables. There were 4 adjudicators and they were at separate tables.

The long day was nearly over. The tension grew and grew. Finally it was our turn to sing. We sang our very best, Miss Hession played the piano her very best, and Miss Kieran conducted her very best. One of the judicators taught me, Lucy Kelly and Ella Hussey singing before!

The announcement of the 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place choirs was going to start soon and most of us thought that we might just get 4th place. But they had already said who got 4th, 3rd, 2nd place, we then thought well maybe not.... The host said "And 1st place goes to Meath!". We screamed!!!! Some of us even cried!!!! We could not believe it!! It was a dream come true!!! We won by **1 point**. We got **92.58** out of a 100. 2nd place Monaghan got 91.5!!!!



**WE ARE ALL IRELAND COMMUNITY GAMES CHOIR
WINNERS!!!!**

Everyone was calling friends and family!!! It was mad!!!! Miss McGowan bought us ice-cream!! At the presentation we were on a podium and were given the gold medals and cup. The medals were on a velvet cushion and put around our necks. It was a wonderful day!



