

Invasive Species invade Mr. McCahey's Class!

Mr. McCahey's 2nd class were very lucky to have Rory, a Marine Biologist and PhD student come into their class and give them a talk about **invasive species**. The children learned about the dangers of the giant Hogweed. They found out how easy it is for species to start spreading to regions where they do not belong. Rory discussed the killer shrimp, the silver carp, the Asian clam and the grey squirrel. They found out about the impact that this has on the wildlife that already exist in these areas. The children got a chance to look at the equipment Rory uses in his studies in the area of invasive species. They also got to get their hands dirty and get a closer look at some shrimp and other sea creatures. The children really enjoyed the chat. Some of the children wrote about what they learned.

"We learned about Invasive Species. Invasive Species are plants and animals from somewhere else that come to Ireland or a different place and can harm the environment there. They do not belong in their new environment. The Giant Hogweed is really dangerous because if you touch it, you will burn yourself and every summer the place where you got burned by the

Hogweed will sting with the sun. Even when it dies it is still dangerous.”

By Ava Fay.

“We also got to look at and touch some insects and shrimp from a river. We saw the equipment Rory used to catch the insects. It was very interesting and fun.

We learned about invasive species and creatures that live in the sea. We even got to hold some shrimp and insects in our hands. The killer shrimp is actually really small. Invasive species can spread on boats when they travel from one country to another.”

By Sarah Fox.

“I liked the video of the Silver Carp jumping out of the water. It is an invasive species that can jump up to three metres out of the water. It even jumps into boats! It can be dangerous because they are heavy and they could injure someone.”

By Lily Nannery and Abbie Coyne.

“My favourite part was when we found out that the grey squirrel first came to Ireland as a wedding present.”

By Seán Harte

“My favourite part was when we got to touch and look at the different sea insects and shrimps. We also got to see the Asian clam.”

By Aaron Kane.













**Mr. McCahey and his class would like to thank Rory
for the fascinating talk 😊**