

*This school story was written by the pupils of Liosmór Mochuda N.S. with help from their teachers. It tells about how we went about a project in SESE.*

## **SESE: Transport in Lismore**

In our school, Liosmór Mochuda N.S., we are working towards our fourth Green Flag. To earn this flag we must think about transport. We decided we should look at transport under three headings: History, Geography and Science.

Under the heading of HISTORY we set out to explore changes which have taken place in places and buildings in Lismore due to changes in transport. We know that in the past people did not have cars or vans. They relied on horses, coaches and carts. Could we find evidence of this in our town, Lismore? We thought of coach arches. They were the entrances to yards for horses and coaches long ago.

### **Our field trip**

On our field trip we had maps attached to clip boards. We marked the arches on the map. The first one we saw was at the Wine Vaults. It had been remodelled to make the arch into a supermarket entrance. We could see stables and cobbles through another arch on Main Street. Then we went to the old fair field. It is now built over with a housing estate. It is designed with cars in mind: the roads are smooth and there is a car space outside each house. We were like detectives looking for clues about the past. Helen and Ruairi designed a photo story about our history field trip.

### **Visit from Robert's grandparents**

The other thing we did under the HISTORY heading was to invite Robert's grandparents to visit us in school. We asked them how they travelled when they were young. Robert's grandmother told us that when she was a little girl she had to go to places in a horse and carriage. The driver had to be in the front and the rest of the people were behind him. In the olden days the Wine Vaults had a stable. People who came to Lismore to shop could put their horse in that stable while they shopped in the market. She showed us old reins from the horses.

Robert's grandfather told us that he used to walk the cattle from his farm to Lismore to sell them in the fair field. The cattle would then be loaded up on the train in Lismore station. The farmers had to wait in the rain by the bank to get paid. They had to leave the farm so early in the morning that he had to get out of bed when it was still dark. Nowadays cattle trucks transport cattle from the farm.

### **Our survey**

Under the heading of GEOGRAPHY we wanted to become aware of transport routes in the locality. We did this by doing a survey of the registrations of cars that were parked on the Mall. We found cars from lots of different counties that included Cork, Clare, Tipperary, Dublin, Wexford, Wicklow, Galway, Kilkenny, Down and Donegal. We then looked at a wall map of Ireland and we traced the routes that cars from the different counties took to get to Lismore.

We then investigated parking here in the town. We asked - 'Is there enough parking in Lismore for all the cars?' There were loads of spaces for cars in the car park. In fact, on that day there were 24 empty spaces. However, some drivers were too lazy to walk the short distance to the car park, because there were cars parked close to the shops on double yellow lines, parked in loading bays and some were even double parked!

We also investigated parking outside our school when the infants were collected at 2 o'clock. We found that there were a lot more cars than usual. They were not double parked. There was room for them all. This was a good result.

Mrs Sheehan's younger class did a survey of the colours of the cars on the Mall. They counted the number of red, blue, silver and black cars and had great fun doing the count. They walked on the grass in the Mall so they were safe. We made a block graph showing their results, so we also did some maths! Silver cars were the most popular. The older children also did a survey of make/models of cars on the Mall. We found the Toyota to be the most common make/model.

### **Our audit**

Under the heading of SCIENCE we did an audit of traffic sounds around our school. We made a map of our school grounds and worked out where north, south, east and west are by using a compass. We walked around the school, tracing our route and listening to the sounds of traffic. We discovered that the west side of the school was the noisiest. This is because at this point the school is on the side of a valley. The road is at the bottom of the valley. All the noise from the road gets funnelled up to the west side of the school.

### **Design and make**

We then designed and made cars. The younger class made cars with fixed axles and the older class made cars with fixed wheels. Some of us added cannon, a sail, an exhaust, a boot, side mirrors and steering wheels to our cars.

We investigated how cars may be slowed down. Our investigation was to find out which material gave the most friction: was it paper, bubble wrap or cloth? Like true scientists we recorded all our results very carefully. We found that the bubble wrap offers the most friction. Since then we have noticed that some roads have a better surface coming up to roundabouts. This is to increase friction coming up to the dangerous junctions. Science helps to save lives.

We had great fun doing our study of transport. We acted as historians, geographers and scientists. We explored our town of Lismore. We have proven that we can learn things just as well outside the classroom as in it!

A special thanks to the pupils and teachers of Liosmór Mochuda National School, Co. Waterford.