

Adam Sends his Hugs

When 6-year-old Adam King from Cork joined Ryan Tubridy on The Late Late Toy show last November with his cardboard drawing of a heart, little did he know he would melt the hearts of everyone in the country.



Adam who has brittle bones carries his heart drawing as a virtual hug for his friends because we are no longer able to hug each other or shake hands due to Covid-19. For Christmas An Post decided they would share Adam's hug worldwide by using it as their Christmas postmark on all letters posted during the Christmas season.

Now Adam and his family have made Valentine's Day cards with his hug printed on them for people to share with family and friends anywhere in the world. The cards which are on sale in Centra and SuperValu stores all over Ireland are selling out quickly. All money made from the cards are going to charity.

Biden and Harris Sworn In



On January 20 Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn in as the 46th president and 49th vice president of the USA. The ceremony took place on the steps of Capitol Building which houses the US government.

In his speech, President Biden said he will be a leader for all Americans and asked that everyone pull together to face the challenges of racism, violence and above all the deadly Covid-19 virus which has killed more than 460,000 people in America to date.

It is the custom for the outgoing president to attend the inauguration of the new president,

however, Mr Trump refused to attend and instead he flew to his golf resort in Florida.

Just two weeks earlier Capitol Building was attacked by a crowd of protesters who were claiming to be Trump supporters. They were objecting to Biden's election win. The mob who forced their way into the building past the security guards were carrying placards and shouting. Five people were killed as the protesters clashed with police.

40 years since Stardust Tragedy

On the night of February 14 1981, Valentine's night, a fire broke out in the Stardust Night Club in Dublin and within 15 minutes of starting, it had spread through the entire building. 48 young people, all aged between 16 and 25 lost their lives and 214 were injured. All of them were from the local area.



It was the worst fire disaster ever seen in Ireland and became known as the Stardust Tragedy.

[The Stardust Nightclub](#)

The cause of the fire was never established. However, it was found that fire safety standards had not been in place. Many of the fire exits doors were locked or blocked by furniture preventing many of the 800 people from leaving and causing a major crush as people began to panic and push towards the main doors.

40 years on and the relatives of those killed are still looking for answers and are pleading with the government to hold an inquiry into the actual cause of the fire that night.

Several years ago, a Stardust Memorial Garden was built to commemorate all those who died in the fire and is situated near the site of the old nightclub.

Report into Mother and Baby Homes

The report into the running of mother and baby homes in Ireland between the years 1922 and 1998 was recently made public. The report which took five years to finish gave accounts of the treatment received by thousands of women and children who stayed in eighteen homes which were run by the church and the state all across Ireland.



Mother and baby homes were set up for unmarried women who became pregnant and had nowhere else to go. This was at a time in Ireland when being pregnant and unmarried was seen as bringing shame on the woman and her family.

The report found that more than 57,000 babies were born in these institutions during these years. 9,000 babies died while there, most babies were given up for adoption. The report gives accounts of some cruel and shameful treatment of the women in these homes. The Taoiseach Micheál Martin apologised on behalf of the Irish people for the lack of kindness and respect shown to the women. The head of the Catholic Church in Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin also apologised to the survivors for the way in which the church here in Ireland judged and rejected the women and their babies.

These are some of the bigger words from the stories you have just read. Try breaking down them into syllables/beats.

challenge _____

commemorate _____

virtual _____

disaster _____

president _____

tragedy _____

violence _____

establish _____

inauguration _____

apologise _____

protester _____

institution _____

A big thank you to everyone who entered our competition.

Congratulations to our winners:

M from Cork, S from Tipperary & N from Donegal.

A €25 book voucher is on its way to each of you.

We will have another competition for Easter.

Remember if you have difficulty with reading, writing, maths or technology contact NALA, Our Freephone support line is:

1800 20 20 65 or
free text LEARN to 50050
to get help

(This is a free and confidential service)

Words ending in ture (sounds like chur)

picture	fixture	manufacture	structure
adventure	fracture	mixture	sculpture
capture	furniture	nature	posture
future	lecture	puncture	torture

Use this to help you learn to spell each

word

Example: **manufacture**

Look at the word closely, what words or pattern can I spot? **man** and **ture**

Say the word, breakdown and count the syllables/parts: **man- u- fac- ture** 4 beats

Cover the word with your hand

Write it down from the parts you remember in your head

Check if you have it spelt correctly

Try and find these words which are hidden in the word search.

adventure fracture capture furniture

lecture mixture nature puncture

w r n k s x c e x e i a a c
 k c w z m a y a k v i l c k
 y c r d z m j s p w v e u w
 a t c j p x f g e t p n c x
 h d a q w n g o o p u f i r
 z n v q j m r c e h q r q x
 i d w e s i p r t y q a e e
 g g u i n x u v y c n c e c
 k l l z y t b k s e a t a y
 p e v s i u u u u q t u h h
 d c r n x r y r k w u r e q
 u t r l a e w o e t r e x l
 f u w p u n c t u r e c p n
 f r a a o i v i v x e a v b

Fill in the blanks using words from the list above.

1. My friend works in a factory where they _____ toys.
2. I got a _____ in the wheel of my bike.
3. I need to buy _____ for my new house.
4. The x-ray showed I had a _____ in my arm.
5. He painted a nice _____ of the countryside.
6. Put the flour, eggs and sugar in a bowl to make a _____.
7. Nobody can tell what will happen in the _____.
8. You need to sit in a good chair to have good _____.
9. The teacher gave the class a _____ about poetry.
10. They tried to _____ the wild animal but he escaped.
11. _____ is all about plants and animals.

Maths

1.

- In shop A, I can buy fire logs at €1.10 each.
- In shop B, I can buy 5 fire logs for €5.
- In shop C, I can buy 1 fire log for €2.40 but If I buy 1, I get a second one free.

I need to buy 10 fire logs; how much will I pay in each shop?

Shop A _____

Shop B _____

Shop C _____

3.

720 people are employed in a company.

- $\frac{4}{6}$ of them are men
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of them are under 35
- $\frac{1}{5}$ are over 55
- $\frac{3}{4}$ wear glasses
- $\frac{1}{8}$ are smokers

a. How many women are in the company?

b. How many workers are under the age of 55?

c. How many wear glasses?

d. How many are smokers?

Answers:

1. Shop A €11, Shop B €10, Shop C €12.
 2. €300
 3. a) 240 b) 576 c) 540 d) 90
 4 a) €375 b) 25

2.

Ann's household bills in 2020 came to the following:

Insurance €420
 Heating Oil €1,200
 Electricity €1,100
 Telephone €520
 Bin collection €360

She has decided that she will set aside a set amount of money for these bills every month in 2021.

How much will she need to put aside for bills every month?

4.

Paul earns €15 per hour. Last week his take home pay was €348.50, **after he had paid** tax, PRSI and USC of €26.50.

a. What was his pay before tax, PRSI and USC?

b. How many hours did Paul work last week?

5. This puzzle is called Sudoku.

3		4	
	4		
		2	
	2		1

Each row across and down must contain the numbers 1 2 3 4 in any order.

Be careful it's not as easy as it looks!