

an  
post

# Junior & Senior Infants

Nurturing the Community



Do you believe that we have the power to grow a brighter future? Something fresher, more vibrant, a happier world? At An Post, we recognise that each of us holds the potential to nurture positive change and growth for our communities and beyond.

Picture a future where our collective efforts are like seeds sown in the soil of our communities. This year, we challenge you to share positive actions that can improve Irish communities for the future. It's not just about words on paper; it's about the tangible steps we can take to make a difference.

Whether it's fostering inclusivity for the elderly and vulnerable within our community, championing the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, setting up community spaces like gardens and libraries or starting clubs for sports or hobbies, your ideas for real-life, positive change are what we seek. We want to hear about initiatives, big or small, that can contribute to protecting and bettering our communities.

So, join us on this endeavour to contribute to the growth, wellbeing, and sustainability of our beloved Ireland. Let's sow the seeds for a future we can actively shape and be proud of!



## An Post Writing Competition

To participate in the An Post "Nurturing the Community" Writing Competition, complete the following steps. The following pages will help your pupils create their individual entries!

### Step 1: Explore how we can take action to build inclusive, caring and sustainable communities

Use the Teacher's Guide on the following pages to explore key questions related to positive community impact.

### Step 2: Writing Prompt

Read the Sample Letter below. Have your pupils use the writing template to write their own letters about how they nurture their communities for the future. They can add a picture to their letter so we can see their ideas realised, too!

### Step 3: Check your Work

Encourage your pupils to use our handwriting checklist to self-edit their work!

### Step 4: Send it in!

- Fill out our entry form for each pupil and attach the handwritten copy of their entry.
- Send it to:  
**An Post Writing Competition**  
**PO Box 13287**  
**Freepost FDN7461**  
**Dublin 1**
- The deadline for entry submission is **22nd March 2024**.



We hope you're excited to participate in An Post's annual Writing Competition. We've put together a Teacher's Guide to help you facilitate letter writing in your class.

## 1. Introduction

- Show the slides to the pupils and ask prompting questions. The pupils can engage in think-pair-share and may need some prompting in places.
- What does 'community' mean?
- What communities are you a part of? (Think about your town, your clubs, places you like to visit)
- What do you like about your communities?
- How do you protect or look after your community?
- How does it make you feel to be part of a community?
- Why is it important to be in a community?
- **Next Slide:**
  - What is the postman doing?
  - What is happening with the car?
  - Why is the lady smiling?
  - Remind pupils it is important to build community around us, like the postie is doing when he delivers letters.
- **Explain some of the key vocabulary to the pupils.**
  - **Nurture:** "giving love, care, and attention to help things, people or communities grow and be happy".
  - **Community:** "a group of people living in a particular area or who have common interests such as the sport they play".
  - **Sustainable:** "taking care of planet Earth so it stays healthy for a long, long time".
  - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** "ways to be kinder to planet Earth and to make less waste".
  - **Biodiversity:** "the different plants and animals living in nature".
  - **Diversity:** "having friends who are different in cool ways".
  - **Inclusion:** "making sure everyone has a chance to join in and play together".

- **Discuss** (as a whole class, in groups or pairs) the pictures that the pupils see on the slides that follow. Encourage discussion on the images, use them as a stimulus and to gauge pupils' understanding of the topics. Elicit and question as necessary to help deepen their understanding and appreciation of the importance of nurturing inclusive and caring communities.

## Reading and Writing

- Read the sample letter to the pupils. If possible, display it to them too at the same time, so that they can see the layout of the letter.
- Question the pupils on the letter on slides:
  - What ideas does Sebby have in his letter?
  - Why do you think he wants us to tell other people?
  - What other ideas might you have?
  - Who else could we encourage to get involved?
  - How can you nurture your communities?
- **Have pupils compose a letter discussing the ways in which we can nurture initiatives to make our communities more sustainable, inclusive, and caring for the future.**
- Have pupils use the template provided to write their letter.
- Have pupils self-check their letters, using the letter writing checklist provided.

## 3. Entry Submission

- Write the final version of the letter in the template provided. A copy could be made of the letters and retained for the pupils to display in an area in the classroom or shared with parents.
- Complete the entry form and send entries to the address on page 1 of this document.



an  
post

## Junior & Senior Infants

Nurturing the Community



### Sample Letter

Read and discuss the letter below. Think about actions that can be taken to nurture communities based on Sebby's letter.

Dear Girls and Boys,

25/02/24

How are you? My name is Sebby and I am writing to talk about something super exciting - nurturing my community! By "nurturing", I mean treating my community with love, care and attention to help it grow for the future!

First off - recycling is magic! It's when we turn old things into something new and fantastic. We can be recycling heroes together! You can pop your used paper into the recycling bin and bring glass bottles to a bottle bank near your home. In my school, we even recycled old egg cartons to make art to brighten up our classroom.

Sustainability is a big word, but it's all about being nice to each other and our Earth. We have a Sustainability Club in school where we come up with ideas to make the whole school community even better. For example, we made posters reminding everybody to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" which we hung up around the school, and we visit the local nursing home to share stories with the elderly people there. I told a lovely lady all about my town's GAA club and how we play games every week that bring all our neighbours together, and, in return, she told me all about her life!

We can all make choices that make our world colourful and beautiful. My local community has a garden where we planted tiny seeds - I can't wait to watch them grow into lovely flowers! I guess all of our actions are kind of like that - we plant the seeds of change and then we get to watch them grow into an even better community! We can nurture a more inclusive, caring and sustainable community when we all play our part.

Let's talk to our neighbours, friends and family about nurturing our communities. Maybe you have some ideas of what we can do to make our communities even better and spread the word to others? If you do, be sure to share them!

I can't wait to hear your ideas,  
Sustainable Sebby



an  
post

## My Letter



Dear

We can be kind to our communities by...

I can share the message by...

Sincerely,

- I wrote using my best handwriting and used spaces.
- I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence.
- I used a punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.
- I tried my best when spelling my words.
- I did my very best!

an  
post

Draw a picture for  
your letter here!



A large, empty rectangular box with a green border, intended for drawing a picture for a letter.

