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1st and 2nd Class

Caring for our Community



Dear Teacher,

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 care for 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 "Caring for our 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 can care for 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 **28th March 2025**.



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?
- **An Post Video**
 - Show the pupils the video. Question pupils for their understanding.
- **Reflect on the video:**
 - What do the postal workers do at the door?
 - Have you ever received a letter/a parcel from someone? How has it made you feel?
 - What kind of vans do An Post have? Why are these better than other vans?
 - What could you do to help and care for your communities?
- **Elicit from pupils their understanding of the following key words**
 - **Care:** "offering kindness, attention, and responsibility to nurture the well-being, safety, and happiness of others or things in need".
 - **Nurture:** "taking care of planet Earth so it stays healthy for a long, long time".
 - **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:** "welcoming and celebrating the unique backgrounds and experiences of each and every person".
- **Inclusion:** "making sure feels happy and welcome to join in and play/learn together".
- **Discuss** (as a whole class, in groups or pairs the images on the slides) Encourage discussion on the images, using them as a stimulus 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.

2. Reading and Writing

- Read the sample letter to the pupils. If possible, display it at the same time, so that they can see the layout of the letter.
- Discuss the letter as a whole class:
- Prompt questions:
 - What ideas does Flora have in her letter?
 - Can you think of any more ideas for caring for the community?
 - What do you think Flora means by saying each of us can make a BIG difference?
 - How can you get some of your community involved?
- **Ask pupils to compose a letter outlining practical ways to nurture initiatives that promote sustainability, inclusivity, and care within their communities, ensuring a brighter and more compassionate future for everyone.**
- Ask pupils to use the template provided to write their letter.
- Ask pupils to 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.



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Sample Letter

Read and discuss the letter below. Based on Flora's letter, think about actions which can be taken to care for our communities.

Flora is a lively student in 2nd class at Sunnyvale National School. She loves learning about her community and enjoys coming up with ideas to make it a kinder, more inclusive place.

Dear 1st and 2nd Class Pupils,

25/02/25

I hope this letter finds you buzzing with energy and ready for a super cool adventure! Today, I'm writing to you about something really important - taking care of our communities and making them an extra special place for everyone!

First things first, have you ever heard of the word "sustainability"? It's all about being friends with nature. It's like a secret handshake with trees and animals! There are loads of ways for us to make more sustainable choices for our communities. For example, recycling is like a magical process where we turn old things into new and amazing stuff! Just imagine, your old plastic bottles could become a super cool backpack or your used paper could turn into a brand-new book. Recycling is like giving our stuff a second chance at being awesome! Have you ever tried this at home?

As well as that, what if I told you that by using less plastic, we could save sea turtles' and whales' lives? Plastic sometimes ends up in our oceans and harms fish and sea creatures. So, how about using reusable water bottles and saying "no thanks" to single-use plastics? Our fishy friends will thank us for it!

Caring for our communities is about not only the plants and animals around us, but the people too. What good would a perfect community be if there were no people to enjoy it with us? Our adventure to make our world awesome doesn't stop there! We can also care for our communities by being kind and including everyone.

So, me and my friends thought about how we could make our school and neighborhood communities great places for everyone. We decided to start a Book Club in our local youth centre where we read cool stories from all around the world and everyone is welcome! That way, we'll learn about different cultures and make friends with amazing people who might have different experiences than us. How cool is that?

Thanks for reading about my ideas - I'm so excited to hear what you come up with. Maybe you have a super plan to make your school or neighbourhood more friendly and inclusive? Perhaps you've thought of a fun game that teaches everyone about the wonders of recycling? Share your thoughts, and let's build the best communities we can!

Remember, each one of you has the power to make a BIG difference. You could think about ways that you can work with other people on some of these projects. Could you tell your grandparents what you're doing? Maybe your neighbours or friends? Together, we can create a community where everyone feels welcome, people from all walks of life come together, and the air is filled with joy! Get ready for this incredible journey towards a more inclusive and caring community!

Lots of love,

Flora

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Draw a picture for
your letter here!

A large, empty rectangular area with a green border, intended for drawing a picture for a letter. The area is mostly blank, with some faint, colorful patterns visible along the right and bottom edges of the page.