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3rd and 4th 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 promote 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. Ask pupils to 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
Freeport 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**
 - How do An Post leave their mark on communities?
 - Who is impacted by the work of An Post?
 - How do you leave your mark on your community?
 - Who do you help? Who are you kind to? Why?
 - What else might you do to help others in your community?
 - How could you leave the biggest and best mark on your community?
- **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."
 - **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".
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- **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) what the pupils themselves can individually do (and what change they could inspire in their communities) to care for their communities in terms of: sustainability, biodiversity, reducing, reusing and recycling, diversity, inclusion and reading for all. Use the slides to scaffold the discussion.

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:
 - Who are Mark's friends?
 - What do Mark's friends recommend?
 - How might you reply to Mark?
 - Who do you think should take care of the community? Why?
 - What do you think you could do to motivate your community to get involved?
- **Ask pupils to compose a letter discussing the ways in which we can promote initiatives to make our communities more sustainable, inclusive, and caring for the future.**
 - Ask pupils to use the template provided to write their letter.
 - Ask 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.

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Sample Letter

Read and discuss the letter below. Think about actions that can be taken to care for our communities based on Mark's letter. Mark is an enthusiastic 4th-class student at Oakwood Primary School. He enjoys taking part in projects that promote teamwork and finding creative ways to make his community a better place for everyone.

Dear 3rd and 4th Class,

25/02/24

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. Recently, I've been thinking a lot about the beautiful communities that I am a part of and how I could make a positive impact on them. I've been looking around and have been really inspired by the action some people are taking. I wanted to share some cool ideas with you and inspire a ripple effect of positive change!

My first inspiration came from my friend Rory. He created "Rory's Recycling Registry" for his school. That gave everyone an idea of how to recycle every piece of waste in school. He also advises re-using materials - he is the reason I started writing on both sides of the page! I was thinking of putting together a guide for my school to share all of the knowledge I learned from my friend and put the ideas into practice in my own school community.

Have you ever heard of sustainability? My friend Greta inspired her school community by writing a letter and sharing it with every class in her school. She even shared it with other schools in her town. What does Greta recommend? We can learn about the small changes we can make, like using energy-efficient light bulbs and turning off appliances when not needed, to have a positive impact on our communities. When we share these messages with our communities, they can inspire loads of people and make a big difference.

My friend Ben has been telling me all about biodiversity and how his After School Club has been thinking of ways that we can change our environments to keep them diverse. He told me that we can plant wildflowers so bees can pollinate areas, not cut our grass as often and even grow our own vegetables. My town has a community garden where I could definitely use those ideas!

My final piece of inspiration came from my Grandma... She asked me if I could teach her how to use the Internet to do some research online, and I thought about all the other elderly people that might not have a grandchild to ask. So, I talked to my teacher about sharing skills with residents of the local nursing home, and let me tell you - she loved the idea! Now we have two days of skill-sharing per week, with volunteers in every class! Last week, I showed a man named Patrick how to find gardening videos online and he shared some stories about my town from before I was even born! I loved learning more about the history of my community.

Now, it's your turn to spread the community cheer - imagine if our ideas could reach every corner of the community! What could you do to spread the message for everyone to get involved? I want to hear all of your ideas.

Remember, even the smallest actions can create big waves of change. By sharing how we care for our communities with others, we become ambassadors for a world full of better, more inclusive and caring communities. I can't wait to hear your amazing ideas and see how our actions can make a world of difference!

Speak to you soon,
Mark Green



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My Letter



A large rectangular area with horizontal green lines for writing a letter.

- I wrote using my neatest handwriting.
- I used spaces.
- I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence.
- I used punctuation marks.
- I tried my best when spelling my words.

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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 completely blank and occupies most of the page.