

CLASSROOM COMMERCE

Serious business

By EMILY DIEBOLD

Skerries News was delighted to be invited to meet the Junior Entrepreneurs Club in Valerie King's sixth class in Skerries Educate School last week.

We were greeted very professionally with a handshake at the front door by David and led up to the library for a meeting with his entire group, where Mattie had a powerpoint presentation ready.

Oran explained: "An entrepreneur is someone who owns a business. To be an entrepreneur you need to be able to make snap decisions, take risks and work well with others."

"We're building things and making things and we're going to sell them. We're simulating how real businesses would work and we're hoping to make a profit so we can donate it to charity."

David continued: "We don't know the prices yet but when we do we will advertise them through our website and we'll set up a stall in the hall or maybe outside."

Mattie then went on to give the presentation explaining that the entire class will be making wooden ornaments/coasters and pencil cases and the group will be selling them.

They will be making a website which Mattie showed us a mock up of. He said "The point of the website is to show people about the Junior Entrepreneur programme and tell them about why we are doing it."

"It will also be used for marketing. We are doing the Junior Entrepreneur programme to be creative and have fun, not just to sell pencil cases and ornaments."

They will make posters to tell people what they are doing and to advertise the website.

They are just at the beginning stages of the project and are working towards having it all ready for the Christmas market in the school.



READY FOR BUSINESS:
Matthew, Daragh, Odhrán,
Maggie, Ruby, David,
Finlay, and James

Photos: Emily Diebold

Meeting Skerries' youngest entrepreneurs



PRODUCTS: Burnt wood coasters and ornaments and pencil cases

Mattie said: "We're also thinking about custom ones. At the market, if people have a picture on their phone or they show it or drive back and get the picture, and we will trace it for them."

Maggie and Ruby are in charge of the pencil cases. They explained that they make the pencil cases with a sewing machine.



Ruby said: "They only take like 10 minutes to make. It's actually really easy. You just need a zipper, fabric and thread."

"We went around lots of classes and did a survey and asked what fabric they would want so we're just going to order that and make them."

Meanwhile the wooden decorations will be made with

a wood burner.

Mattie explained: "We have two wood burners. We've done our first practice yesterday, me and Finlay, and Oscar and Finlay made these today."

"It took about 20 minutes for each. They are coasters and ornaments. As well as custom ones there will also be base ones like a Robin or a Christmas tree that someone in the class will do and someone else will do like a dog and you can just order them if you want."

"We're also going to do custom pencil cases with white fabric," added Ruby, "and they can say if they want their name or a design on it and we can draw them on."

The names for the companies are 'Skerries Woodburnt Designs' and 'Skerries Stationery'.

We look forward to finding out how they get on. ■