



# Crosskeys National School

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## NUACHTLITIR

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Happy Easter



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our Easter Newsletter. It has been a busy and exciting Term 2 in *Crosskeys National School* with lots of enjoyable activities and memorable moments along the way. We are all set for a busy and enjoyable Term 3. There's lots of exciting things for the children to look forward to!!! 😊 😊 😊

### Some dates to note:

**Boys' FAI Blitz:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Bí Cineálta In-Service Half Day Closure:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 12.00pm

**Confirmation:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May in St Matthew's Church, Drumavaddy

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May in St Matthew's Church, Drumavaddy

**School Tour:** The Causey Experience at Causey Farm - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Sports Day:** TBC - weather dependant



### Junior and Senior Infant News:

Another extremely busy term in the infant classroom. It's hard to believe how much we packed in. In January we had a busy and blustery term. We used our Active School Walkway for the first time and we continued with our Literacy Stations.



In February we did some beautiful Valentine's art and also continued to use Reading Eggs. Lots of people received their certificates for doing so well at it. We also used it in the classroom with the help of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class on the devices.



March is always a busy month. We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge, using lots of Irish in the classroom. We did a Kahoot together with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class thanks to Mr. Donohoe. We also had a whole school concert which we all really enjoyed. We celebrated World Book Day where the children brought in their favourite book.



They were all very brave and stood up to tell the class all about their book. We had Mark from Skip'n'rope come in and complete a super skipping workshop. This was done just in time for our Active Schools challenge of skipping around Europe. On our first week of skipping we managed to travel as far as Ukraine and Khazakstan. By the end of our 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the challenge we hope to have reached Melbourne Australia. Everyone has really improved at their skipping and it is great for fitness too! We also managed to squeeze in a nature walk to look at the beautiful flowers and plants starting to come back to life in spring. We are all looking forward to Easter and a little break from all the hard work. Please God the wonderful weather we've been having will stick around for then. Happy Easter from everyone in Junior and Senior Infants.



*Thank you, Mrs Armstrong*



### First and Second Class News:

We have had a very busy few months in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. We welcomed a new pupil into 1<sup>st</sup> class and she has settled in very well. In January we took part in the Food Dudes programme which we really enjoyed. We tasted lots of fruit and veg and we earned stickers and rewards for our efforts. We continue to bring in fruit and veg from home and we can earn certificates for doing so. For 6 weeks we enjoyed weekly basketball coaching from 2 coaches from the Cavan Eagles Basketball Club. We loved this. We also enjoyed a skipping workshop with Mark McCabe and this set us up really well for our 'Skip Around Europe' Challenge that we are currently taking part in. We enjoyed many well-being activities during the month of February which the Student Council organised. We said goodbye to our bus driver Paul and we were very sad to see him go but we wish him well in his retirement. We enjoyed marking World Book Day and World Down Syndrome Day in our classroom. 2<sup>nd</sup> class made their First Confessions in St. Matthew's Church Crosskeys on March 11<sup>th</sup> and we are so proud of them. We are starting to prepare for First Holy Communion which will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> in St. Matthew's Church Drumavaddy. We enjoyed many fun activities during Seachtain na Gaeilge and we thank Mr. Donohoe for organising.







*Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly*

**Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Glas in Crosskeys N.S.:** A huge thanks to Mr Donohoe for organising lots of exciting events over the course of Seachtain na Gaeilge. The highlight was our ceolchoirm and Lá Glas.



1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class i rith an ceolchoirm - maith sibh go léir!



**Student teacher:** Ms Reilly, a past pupil of our school, was on teaching practice placement in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class during Term 2. The boys and girls really enjoyed learning from her. We thank Mrs O'Reilly for welcoming her into her class and Ms Reilly for her efforts.



### **3rd and 4th Class News:**

This has been a very busy term for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class. Our class are taking part in the Active School event, "Skip around Europe." We are enjoying skipping and so far we have skipped a total of 29,000 km's. Mark showed us lots of different ways to skip. We are enjoying the glorious sunshine. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class helped to plant potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, onions and strawberries in the polytunnel. We got a Food Dudes drinking bottle. Our class have done lots of lovely Art work. We made Bunny paper chain cards for Easter. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class enjoyed the Lá Glas concert for Seachtain na Gaeilge. We recited the poem "The Old Woman of the Roads" by Padraic Colum. Lanetta and Mena from Cavan Eagles Basketball Club, Virginia were coaching 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class. Some pupils went to see them playing in the semi-final against Dunshaughlin Rockets in Virginia Show Centre. Ella (3rd Class) won an Easter Egg in the Eagles Basketball Art competition. 3rd and 4th class are practising their Basketball skills. The pupils wrote great "Friends" poems for Wellbeing month. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class are looking forward to the Easter holidays.





*Thank you, Mrs McCabe*

**Board of Management update:** the Board's last meeting was on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. As at all meetings, the BoM was given a general school update as well as an update on the school's financial position in April. The Board ratified our Intimate Care & Toileting Policy (this is now available on our school website) as well as the 2025/2026 school calendar.

The Board was informed that the school has made an application for a review of our current SNA allocation to the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) in an effort to get another SNA post for our school. We are hopeful of a favourable outcome in this regard. Mr Gurhy thanked school staff for their efforts with this review. The Board was also informed that the school has applied for a review of our special education teaching hours due to the significant increase in our enrolment for the 25/26 school year. Sadly, since this Board meeting, the NCSE has rejected our appeal which is very disappointing.

The Board's next meeting will be in June.

#### **Crosskeys N.S. on social media:**

There's simply too much going on in our school to put it all in a Newsletter, so please be sure to check us out on social media for regular updates! Sincere thanks to Mrs O'Reilly, we are very active on Instagram. Search Crosskeys National School or by our username, crosskeysnat\_school.



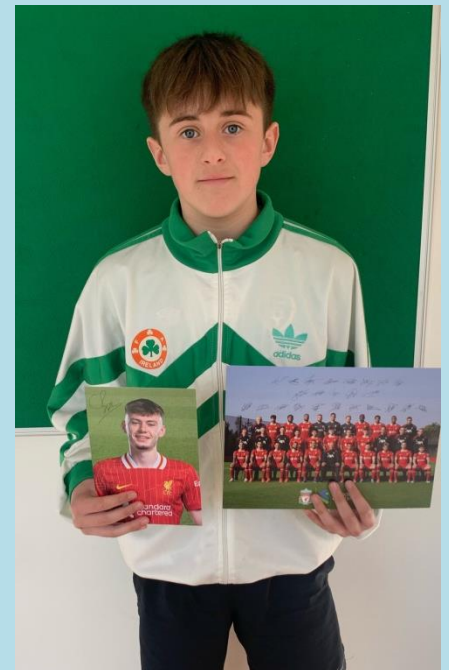
**BLAST:** Our school has made an application to take part in BLAST once again. 2 years ago we had an artist in residence that helped our pupils create some fantastic murals which are to be seen around our school. Fingers crossed for a favourable outcome!





## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class News

We had a very busy 2nd term in the 5th and 6th Classroom. Science week was a fantastic experience for all. In January, we began the food dudes program. The children made an extra special effort to bring in fruit and vegetables as part of their healthy lunches. Thank you to Mrs O'Reilly for organising this. In January, we also marked Catholic Schools week, where we took extra time to reflect upon our faith, our faith community and what these mean to us. February saw us celebrate well-being month, which included Safer-Internet Day, a well-being walkway, morning greeters and much more. We also began having Playground leaders at first break each day, where members of the 5th and 6th Class room facilitated games for the infant classes, as part of the Active Schools Flag. This is something that we have really enjoyed doing. We also completed our swimming lessons in Cavan Leisure Centre, which is always a fantastic experience. March saw Seachtain na Gaeilge come around again. Rinne gach duine an-iarracht a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Chríochnaíomar Seachtain na Gaeilge le Lá Glás agus ceolchoirm. Everybody made an extra effort to speak Irish during Seachtain na Gaeilge, which was finished off with our Lá Glás and concert. A big highlight in March was Mark McCabe, the skipping coach. The children really enjoyed learning some tricks and improved their overall confidence with skipping. We had an action-packed finish to March, with the beginning of the Cumann na mBunscol competition for both boys and girls, as well as the girls participating in the FAI Schools 5s competition. Thank you very much to all parents that supported and provided lifts on both days. We were also very lucky to have John McConnell coming in to help us to plant vegetables in our polytunnel. John is always so helpful and informative.



Well-done to our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupil pictured above who wrote to one of his favourite Liverpool players recently, Tyrone's Conor Bradley. He was delighted to receive a reply as well as a signed photograph!

*Thank you, Mr Donohoe*

# Parents Association

## A message from the Parents' Association

Thanks to all parents who attended the Parents' Association quiz in February and also for the donations for the recent cash for Clobber fundraiser which was a huge success. We hope everyone enjoys the Easter break and we look forward to celebrating the Communion and Confirmation in May.

Kind regards,

*Aisling Kiernan,*

Chairperson Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

## A message from Denn Toddlers Playgroup:

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter from all of us at Denn Toddlers' Playgroup.

Please note the following schedule changes:

- ECCE closes at 12:00 PM on Friday, 11th April.
- Afterschool will be open from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- We will reopen on Monday, 28th April.

We hope the weather stays lovely for all our families during this time.

## Urgent Reminder: New Committee Members Needed

As our current committee term is coming to an end, we urgently require new committee members to ensure the continued success and smooth operation of our service to the community and their children. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us!

## Solar/PV Panels:

Gaffney Electrical and Renewables recently installed PV panels on the school's roof.

We are looking forward to them making a positive impact on the school's carbon footprint in the years ahead.

## Active Schools Update:

The Active School Flag Committee have been very productive since January.

We purchased some new equipment for the playground box that is used by the children in 3rd to 6th class. This box is kept in the 5th and 6th classroom and is taken out to the yard at every break. Some of our skipping ropes and beanbags needed replacing so we arranged for this to happen. We organised the set-up of a Playground Leader rota in 5th and 6th class so that every day at little break, 2 members from 5th and 6th class organise and facilitate a playground game for Junior and Senior infants to take part in, if they wish. The feedback from this is very positive from both the leaders themselves and the infants who enjoy the games.

Our most recent and ongoing initiative is the 'Skip Around Europe' Challenge that we are currently undertaking. Each day every class goes outside for approx. 5 minutes and the children pair up to count each other's skips. When we come back to the classroom, we add up all our skips and we record this number on a chart that we display on our classroom door. We pick a new place every day in Europe that we would like to skip to (each skip counts as 1km). Members from the Active School Flag Committee come around on Fridays to add up the total score for the week for the whole school and this is recorded on our Active School Flag Noticeboard. The children are really enjoying their skipping breaks and they are becoming more familiar with the map of Europe in the process. Over Easter our caretaker John will erect signage outside on our school grounds for our Active Walkway so we will be able to use this for outdoor active learning in Term 3. Thank you to all teachers, staff and children for engaging so willingly in the Active School Flag process.

*Thanks, Mrs O'Reilly*



***That's all the school news for now, take care everyone!***

***From all the Staff in Crosskeys National School - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025***