

Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 22nd June 2021



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our June Newsletter. As we reach the end of this school year, special mention for our pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Classes for their good humour and resilience during this challenging school year. The sound of their chatter and laughter and smiling faces lifted our spirits each day and helped everyone to cope with the restrictions on school life due to the Covid pandemic. We look forward to seeing everyone return to school again after the summer break on Tuesday 31st August, refreshed and ready for the new hopefully more 'normal' school year. School staff would like to thank all families for the efforts you have gone to, ensuring that Crosskeys National School has been a safe environment for all our pupils this past year. The school has really appreciated the diligence and support of parents throughout the year. During our period of remote learning children made a wonderful effort, all the while, receiving wonderful support and guidance from their families at home.

Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling: On Thursday 10th June Crosskeys National School had an inspection conducted by the Department of Education Inspectorate. The inspection examined the Covid-19 protocols in the school as well as our procedures relating to child protection. We are pleased to announce that the school was found to be fully compliant with best practice in both aspects of the inspection. A report will be released in the coming weeks.

The school will close on Thursday 24th June at 12pm for the Summer Holidays.

Ice Cream Time: A big thank you to our wonderful Parents' Association and our Parents' Association Committee for organising ice cream for all our pupils on Friday 18th June. It was a wonderful treat which was so appreciated by all the boys and girls.



Junior and Senior Infants are really improving using the Blue Bots on Fridays. We pre-program the computer devices to

move forward, to the right, to the left before we put them down on the mats and press 'Start'. If you meet one coming out the gate it means we've pressed the

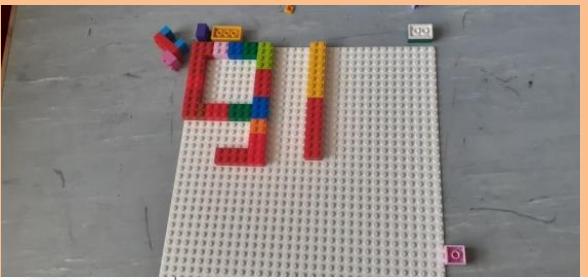
Junior and Senior Infant News:



forward button too many times!!!!!!

Here is an example of how skilful our class pods have become working together to create a masterpiece of engineering!!

We are only required to count to 20 in Senior Infants but here's a Lego creation of the number '91'.



Ready for action on Sports Day



The Spuds and Spoons that got past Mr Gurhy who had none for his dinner!!

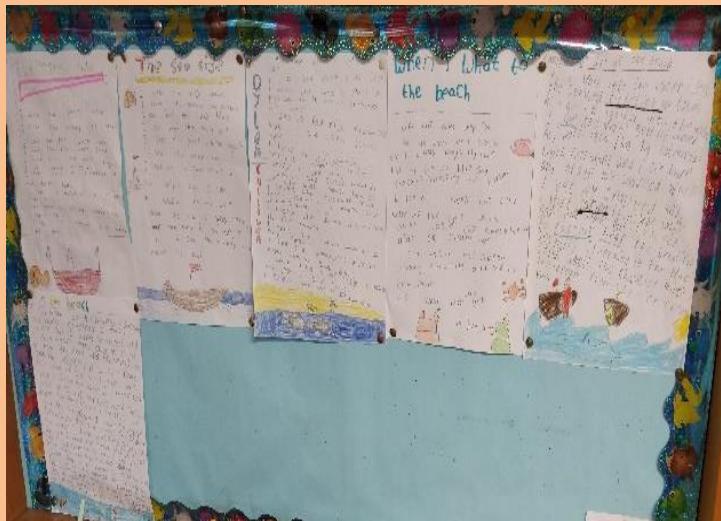


Basketball League Final supporters

Thank you, Mrs Keogan

First and Second Class News:

We've had a very busy month in 1st and 2nd class. We were very lucky to have Ms. King in teaching in our room. We learned lots about the seas and oceans. We got to see some real tadpoles and also a newt! We also had a talk from Mr. Burnett from the Inland Fisheries. He told us lots about his job and how to look after the fish that live there. We did some lovely underwater pictures too.



The Parents' Association were very good to us and we all got ice-creams out on the pitch. Thank you very much for such a lovely treat!

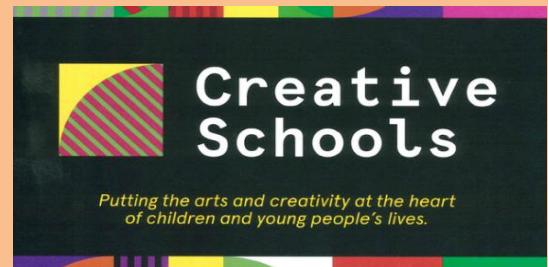


The basketball league finals were also held this month. It was end to end stuff and the matches were really exciting! Well done to all the teams involved! This year sports day was a little bit different as we couldn't all mix together but we still had lots of fun running races and doing different challenges! We were lucky with the weather too. We're hoping to have our teddy bears picnic before the end of the school year. Fingers crossed the weather stays dry. We would like to thank all the big people in our lives that helped us out this year especially over the lockdown. We're all ready for a break this summer. Best of luck to 2nd class who will be heading in to Mrs O'Reilly in 3rd class and looking forward to seeing 1st class back again as 2nd class in September. We're looking forward to welcoming our new 1st class then too. Enjoy the summer break!



Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

Creative Schools: Crosskeys National School applied to take part in the "Creative Schools" initiative in early June. Successful schools receive €4000 in funding for the scheme and also work with a Creative Associate or Artist over a 2 year period. We are hopeful of a successful outcome.



Farm Safe School

We are delighted to announce the Crosskeys National School is an accredited "Superstar Farm Safe School." Well done to all of the boys and girls for their hard work from April to early June. Thank you to all of the class teachers for organising the initiative.



Summer Improvements to school yard:

The Board of Management have arranged for a number of improvements to the school yard over the summer holidays. The boundary fence next to the parish field will be replaced with child friendly sports fencing. The large non-native trees and hedging will also be removed for safety reasons. This will make for a safer playing space for the children. The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents' Association, as well as current and previous PA Committees for all your excellent fundraising in recent years. A cheque for €8,000 was recently presented by the PA to the school. These funds will now go towards the new sports fencing. The Emergency Works Scheme will also allow some of the yard to be resurfaced as well as drainage works to be carried out. Hopefully we get some good news on our pending CLÁR application which will enable even more work on the school yard. It is expected that work will begin in mid-August and last until the school reopens on Tuesday 31st August.



P.E. Uniform: The new P.E. uniform will be available from QuickPick Uniforms in Ballyjamesduff in July. The only children who will be expected to purchase the new P.E. uniform will be children enrolling in the school from September 2021. Should any other parents wish to purchase the new uniform for P.E. days they may do so. All other children will be expected to wear the 'old' P.E. uniform on P.E. days.



Basketball Leagues:

The finals of the Junior and Senior Basketball Leagues were played in late June. All of the boys and girls deserve great credit for their efforts over the last few weeks. The league created great excitement around the school. The games were all played to a very high standard and were very entertaining for all classes. Thank you to teachers for taking time out of their lunch break to referee games. Some of our junior classes made lovely posters for the finals to show their support. The finalists are pictured below.





3rd and 4th Class News:

June has been a very busy and enjoyable month for 3rd and 4th class. One of the highlights has been the Junior Basketball Final where The Gliders defeated The Bully Gullies in an intense game. The Gliders team consisted of Georgia, Peter, Thomas, Séan and Jason. Unfortunately due to a football injury, Peter was unable to play in the final but Cormac stood in for him and did him proud. The Bully Gullies team consisted of Daniel, Aaron, Dylan, Robert and Eimear. Everyone who played in the final was awarded a lovely trophy, as well as Ellen, Sarah and Rían earning special trophies also. In other news we all really enjoyed our sports day on Monday 14th June and a Teddy Bears' Picnic/Show and Tell day on Thurs 17th June. On Fri 18th June we really enjoyed getting ice cream from the ice cream van thanks to the Parents' Association. In June we also made pinch pots using clay and painted them and we played some fun drama games outside. We are all looking forward to the summer break and we wish 6th class all the best as they head off to secondary school.

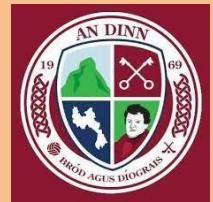


Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly



June Jog:

The 'Mile a Day in May' turned into the 'June Jog!' Well-done to all classes that took part and really built up their fitness in May and June. Hopefully we will see some of them getting involved with Denn Running Club in the future.



The whole school community is very thankful to Denn GFC to have the use of such a wonderful facility on our doorstep. We especially thank them for the use of their facilities.

Board of Management: The BoM met in June via Zoom. A number of topics were discussed, including works on the school yard during the summer. The Board will meet again during the summer to hopefully agree on a contractor to carry out the works on the school yard.

Crosskeys N.S. on social media:

Crosskeys National School started using Twitter and Instagram recently. Thank you to all of those who have started following our accounts. Please try to have a look at our Twitter feed and Instagram page. We will add to these over time. Search 'Crosskeys National School' on Twitter or search our username, '@Ckeysns.' On Instagram, search Crosskeys National School or by our username, crosskeysnat_school. The accounts will share useful teaching ideas, resources, school updates and the children's work.



5th and 6th Class News

Sixth and Fifth Class had a great Basketball League with lots of great games. The final between the Chuckorscrats and the Ollieballers was very exciting. We enjoyed watching the Junior Basketball League games. Sports Day was great fun. Sixth Class are looking forward to Confirmation on Sat 3rd July. Sixth Class were presented with maroon Graduation Hoodies by the P.A. and appreciate this lovely gift. They also received their Graduation Certs. Sixth Class are looking forward to going to Secondary School in September and Fifth Class wish them well.

Thank you, Mrs McCabe



Very best wishes to 6th class who leave Crosskeys National School this week after 8 years in the school. We would like to wish them every success in secondary school in September and may all their dreams come through in life. The very best of luck.

Parents Association

A message from the Parents' Association

Congratulations to all the boys & girls who were able to remain in school and see this term out amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you to their parents/guardians who assisted them in keeping safe & healthy. Thank you to everyone who donated to our Used Clothes Collection Fundraiser, which was a great success, raising €820 for the school.

Best of luck to all the 6th Class children leaving Crosskeys NS this week and starting new schools in September. To mark this occasion the PA presented beautiful hoodies to them on Friday 18th. We also organized an ice-cream van to hand out cones to all the children to their absolute delight with some quoting 'best day ever'. We didn't forget the teachers/staff, so everyone enjoyed an ice-cream in the sunshine. The PA presented a cheque of €8,000 to Mr. Gurhy on behalf of the school for a project to be undertaken this summer on the play yard. Once again thank you to everyone who donated to our fundraisers over the years as above would not have been possible. We will be having fundraisers every year & your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all the children who are making their 1st Holy Communion & Confirmation on Sat 3rd July and to Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. McCabe and Fr. Kilduff who have prepared them for this special day.

Anyone wishing to be part or interested in becoming part of the new PA committee next year please contact any of the committee. The PA has had a busy year but an enjoyable one. We acknowledge that Mr. Gurhy has settled in well at Crosskeys NS and wish him continued success in his role as Principal.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, enjoyable and well-earned rest for the summer holidays ahead.

Best wishes,

Alva Farrelly- Chairperson Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

Before/After school childcare: School management attended a meeting with the Playschool Committee and members of Denn Development in June. The need for an afterschool facility was discussed and there was broad agreement that it would benefit the community greatly. Hopefully this is something that becomes a reality in the not too distant future.



Enrolment 2021-2022:

Anyone wishing to enrol their child in Crosskeys National School during the summer closure, please email crosskeysns@gmail.com for it to be arranged. Please spread the word.



We wish our whole school community a fun and enjoyable summer, hopefully with lots of good weather along the way.

We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful boys and girls on Tuesday 31st August, take care everyone!

From all the Staff in Crosskeys National School.

22nd June 2021