



Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 21st December 2023



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our November/December Newsletter. It has been a busy and enjoyable few weeks in Crosskeys National School. Our Christmas Performance has been the real highlight!

Some Quick Reminders:

Christmas Holidays: Friday 22nd December at 12 noon. School re-opens on Monday 8th January 2024.

Communion: Saturday 27th April @ 11am

Confirmation: Saturday 4th May @ 11am

Punctuality: Overall punctuality is excellent in Crosskeys N.S. Please ensure that your child is on time for school each morning. We know anyone can be late occasionally but regular late arrivals are disruptive for all concerned and learning time is lost.

Enrolment 2024/2025: Crosskeys National School welcomes the enrolment of Junior Infant pupils for the 2024-2025 school year from January 8th. To get an Admission Application Form please email enrolment@crosskeysns.ie or call the school office on 0494336704 between 10am and 2pm any day to arrange. Please spread the word ☺



Junior and Senior Infant News:

We've had a very busy few months in the Junior and Senior Infant room. We have continued with literacy stations with Mr. Gurhy, Patricia and Yvonne. We've also put a lot of time and effort into learning our Christmas play called Busy, Busy Bethlehem. I'm so proud of how they all performed on the day. They were just brilliant and thanks to all the parents for helping them learn their parts and coming to see them perform. We were all wrecked after it! The excitement is really building for next week and we had an important visitor to the school on Tuesday. We were lucky enough to have Santa come to visit us on the Fire Engine and he brought us all selection boxes too! Earlier on in the month we had the Garda and the Garda Armed Support unit visit the school. The class were so excited to hear about all the things they do and to get a go putting the siren on in the Garda car. We also made fabulous snowmen from Clayotic Clay with Louise Swords. We did lots of other wonderful art in school too. Mrs O'Reilly organised 'Remember in November' and Advent prayer service for us all to take part in which was lovely. We are all really looking forward to the Christmas break now. Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all from Junior and Senior Infants. See you all again in 2024!

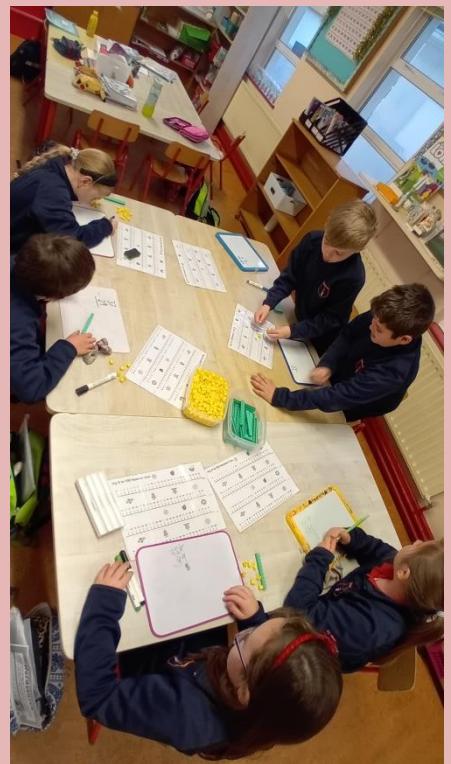
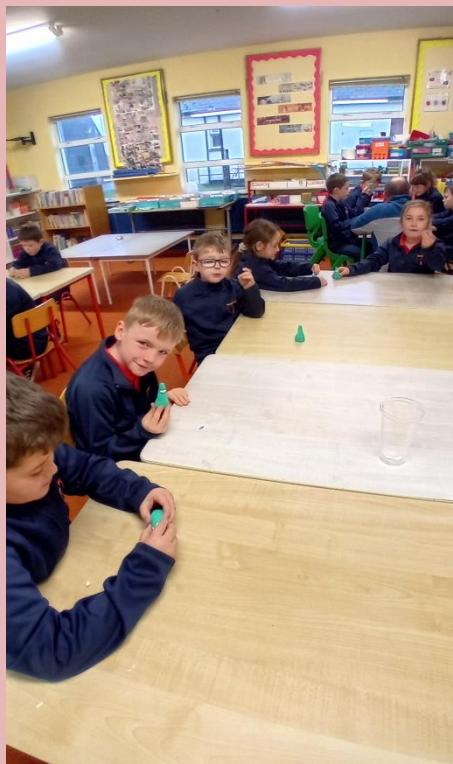




Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

First and Second Class News: The last 2 months have been so busy here in 1st and 2nd class. In November, we started the Picker Pals Programme. We are really enjoying seeing who is picked out each Friday to bring home the Picker Pals pack and we enjoy listening to their adventures every Monday. We also celebrated Science Week in November where we worked in groups with other classes to carry out various experiments and tasks. We attended prayer services in November where we prayed for people who have died and we made leaves to put on our Remembrance Tree. On 24th November we enjoyed the Early Early Toy Show in Crosskeys N.S where we brought in our favourite toys/games and told the class all about them. Since the beginning of December we have been working hard getting ready for our Christmas performances. Our class have learned a dance to the song 'Run Run Rudolph' and 'This Little Light of Mine'. We have also learned the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' and have been taking part in choir practice also. We have been enjoying a weekly prayer service for Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. We were so lucky to have Louise from Clayotic come to our school and help us make Christmas decorations out of really soft, mess-free clay. The Gardaí called to see us on 11th December and we enjoyed looking at the Armed Support Unit jeep and asking questions about being a Garda. One of the children in 1st class was PARTICULARLY excited to see the Gardaí at our school. We are looking forward to our Christmas holidays and we hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas.





Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

3rd and 4th Class News: The pupils in 3rd and 4th class took part in the Steps Young Engineer's Award Project. They presented their 6 Engineering Projects to the school. Science Week was a great success and the pupils selected their favourite Scientist. 3rd and 4th class made Clayotic penguins with Louise Swords. We had a visit from Gardaí Jim, Jeff and Dwayne with their 2 squad cars. 3rd and 4th class enjoyed the Early, Early Toy Show Presentation. There was a great response to the Hope Shoe Box and St Vincent de Paul food appeals. The 3rd and 4th class took part in the School Christmas Performance which was a very enjoyable experience. The pupils also had a visit from Santa Claus who gave them a selection box.



Thank you, Mrs McCabe

Advent Prayer Service:

Throughout the season of Advent, a weekly prayer service has taken place in Crosskeys National School. It has been a nice way to bring the whole school together. The prayer service involves readers from every class each week. Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly for organising.



Hot School Meals:

Crosskeys National School has been successful in its application to take part in the hot school meals programme. It is hoped the programme will commence in April 2024. Some members of the Student Council sampled some lunches in recent weeks. They look forward to sampling some more in January!!



Board of Management Report: The new Board of Management held its first meeting on **Wednesday 13th December.**

This meeting was an opportunity for new Board Members to meet for the first time as well as a chance to discuss the appointment of two Community Nominees to the Board; these will be formally appointed on 18th January, completing the 8 members of the BOM. The Board's next meeting is on **Thursday 18th January at 7pm.**

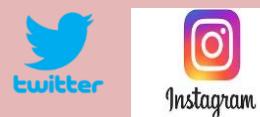
Members of the 2023-2024 BOM:

Fr Donal Kilduff - Chairperson
Niall Gurhy - Principal/Secretary to the BOM
Cian Donohoe - Teacher Nominee
Aisling Tobin - Parent Nominee
Ronan Kiernan - Parent Nominee
Evelyn Callaghan - Patron Nominee



Crosskeys N.S. on social media:

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Search 'Crosskeys National School' on Twitter or search our username, '@Ckeysns.' On Instagram, search Crosskeys National School or by our username, crosskeysnat_school. Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly for all her work on the social media accounts.



Primary Languages Sampler Module:

French lessons in 3rd-6th class have concluded after 8 really enjoyable weeks. Marie O'Shea, former French teacher in St. Patrick's College, Cavan, once again provided the tuition. It's been a great experience for the children.



Student Council: Well-done to our Student Council who organised a food collection for our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul. The Council have been kept busy in recent weeks. In January they will play an important role in selecting the provider of our Hot School Meals Service!!! ☺



5th and 6th Class News: We had a very busy November and December in the 5th and 6th Classroom. Science week was a fantastic experience for all we got to participate in a range of experience and share our learning with the younger classes. We also used our school devices to carry out research on scientists and took part in a quiz about scientists and their inventions. Brendan Scott, a local historian, also visited our class and gave us a very insightful presentation outlining the lives of school children years ago. David from Water Safety Ireland came to talk to us about the benefits and dangers of water, and what to do if we encounter difficulty, or see somebody else in difficulty. We got to create our own clayotic Christmas decorations, which was a very enjoyable afternoon. The following week, An Garda Síochána came to Crosskeys NS and showed us how their vehicles worked. Two members of the Armed Response Unit also filled us in on their roles. Our Student Council were heavily involved in gathering donated food for SVP. We are very proud to be a part of such a generous community.



Thank you, Mr Donohoe

Christmas Performances: Well-done to all the children of Crosskeys N.S. who put on 2 amazing performances on Monday 18th December in our school hall. It really was the highlight of this term! The boys and girls put a tremendous amount of work into this. A huge thank you to our amazing, dedicated staff for making this all possible. Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful audience for taking the time to come in and see us perform!!!

To the right children are pictured during rehearsals.



Parents Association

A message from the Parents' Association

The Parents' Association wish to thank all families for their generous support towards our Christmas Jumper Fundraiser. In total the children raised €459.60 for school initiatives. Wishing all the staff, students and families in the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Aisling Kiernan

Chairperson - Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

Visit from Garda Jim and the Armed Support Unit: We had a really interesting visit from the Garda Armed Support Unit in early December.



Special Visitor to Crosskeys National School:

On Tuesday 19th December we had a special visit from Santa in Crosskeys National School. Thanks to our Parents' Association Committee for organizing this. The children really loved it.



Clayotic: A huge thank you to Louise Swords for giving a fantastic art workshop to all the boys and girls, using her product Clayotic (Non-messy air drying modelling clay). All the children thoroughly enjoyed creating Christmas decorations, learning lots of new skills while doing so. Well-done to all the boys and girls! More pictures on our Instagram account.



A message from Denn Toddler Playgroup:

Denn Toddler Playgroup & Afterschool Committee would like to personally thank the children and their families and the wider community who are always so good to support us. We would like to extend our thanks to Crosskeys National school for your continual support in getting our afterschool service up and running. We hope to continue working together in the future to continue to improve the facilities for families of the Denn area. We would also like to thank our wonderful staff we are so grateful for all your hard work. We wish you all a Magical Christmas. It's time for us to relax and put our feet up and wait for Santa's arrival.

Stay safe & Take care

Denn Toddler Playgroup & Afterschool Committee



School choir:

The school choir continues to meet every Wednesday in the 5th/6th classroom.

Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly and Mr Donohoe for organising.



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Learning Grant for Schools:

Our school was 1 of 2700 that applied for the above grant in November. We were recently informed that our application was unsuccessful. Only 9 schools in County Cavan were selected.



School community:

A final word of thanks to all families in our school community, your patience, support and co-operation has been fantastic once again this term.

As principal, I would like to commend the children in Crosskeys National School who have been wonderful since September. Finally to the staff of our school, I would like to say a special word of thanks and well-done to them for their continued hard-work and dedication. Each and every member of staff continues to put the best interests of our children front and centre.

It's been a busy but very enjoyable first term of the 2023-2024 school year. I hope that everyone enjoys the quiet time over Christmas and we will all be ready to go in 2024!

Best wishes, Mr Gurhy.



That's all the school news for now, take care everyone! Have a safe and Happy Christmas!

From all the Staff in Crosskeys National School - 21st December 2023