



Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 21st December 2021

DECEMBER



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our December Newsletter. December has been a busy and enjoyable month in Crosskeys National School. ****REMINDER****: School closes on Wednesday, 22nd December at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays and re-opens on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Enrolment 2022/2023: Crosskeys National School welcomes the enrolment of Junior Infant pupils for the 2022-2023 school year from January 6th. To get an Admission Application Form please email enrolment@crosskeysns.ie or call the school office on [0494336704](tel:0494336704) between 10am and 2pm any day to arrange. Please spread the word ☺

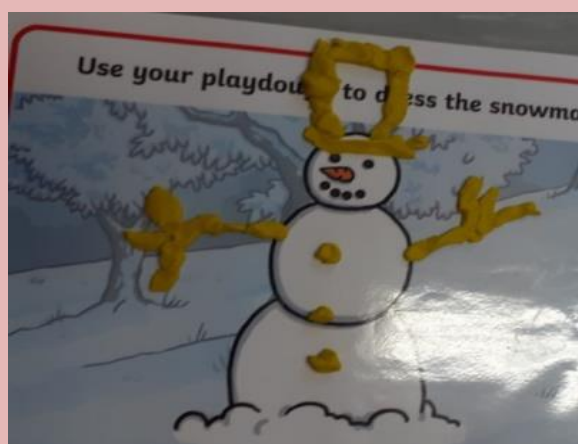
NOW ENROLLING



Junior and Senior Infant News:



Each child's named candle remembering the dead in November lined the hallway.



The Infant room was busy in December making decorations.



Congratulations to all children and parents for all the hard work learning lines for our Christmas Play this year. It's a pity parents couldn't see the very lively performance live. Clips on Seesaw will have to do!



We were also busy with the blue bots in the hall, preprogramming them to move forward, backwards, turning to the left and right and reaching their destinations. Each week of advent we lit an extra candle in our room and remembered that this is the season of Advent which means preparing for Jesus' birthday.



Thank you, Mrs Keogan

First and Second Class News:

In first and second class we've had a very busy December. It has just flown by.





We all joined in the Advent prayer service organised by Mrs Keogan. We also started our Christmas play 'Lights, Camel, Action'. The children were absolutely brilliant. They learned their lines, sang their songs and of course looked absolutely fabulous in their costumes. We sang lots of Christmas songs and made some beautiful art.



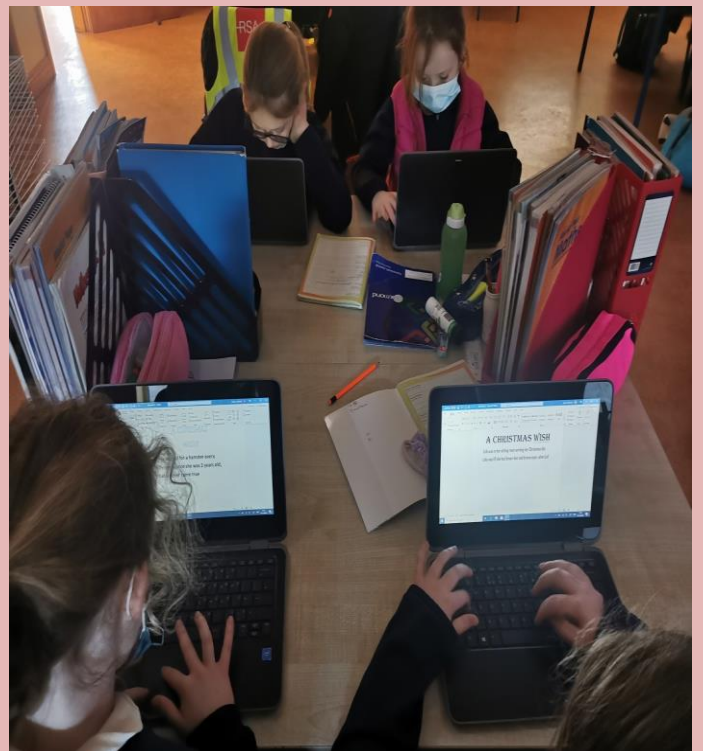
The Denn football team kicked the Christmas season off to a great early start when they won AIB GAA Ulster Club 2021 Junior Football Championship Final against CLG Na Dunaibh. We were lucky enough to have another visit from the team. They are a credit to the parish and we are so lucky to have them come to see us. A great lift for the school and the parish. As luck would have it, we also had a visit from another very important man on the same day...Santa came around with selection boxes for everyone. Many thanks to the P.A. for organising this special visit. The Christmas mugs were also another great hit in our classroom this month.



Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

3rd and 4th Class News:

The month of December flew by for us in 3rd and 4th Class and we are really looking forward to our Christmas holidays. We finally finished our STEPS Young Engineer Projects and we submitted them to the judging panel. As a reward we took part in a Zoom Christmas party which we really enjoyed. We did some nice art work during the month and we took part in a weekly Advent prayer service through Zoom which Mrs Keogan kindly organised. We used the laptops to type a story called 'The Christmas Wish' and we played some Kahoot games. We learned off a really long poem called 'A Special Message' as well as Silent Night in Irish and The 12 Days of Christmas and Miss Leddy helped us record our performance. We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and we hope Santa is kind to everyone 😊





Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

Advent Prayer Service:

Throughout the season of Advent, a weekly prayer service has taken place in Crosskeys National School via Zoom. It has been a nice way to bring the whole school together. During the first week of Advent, the infant class blessed our Advent Wreath. The prayer service involves readers from every class each week. Thanks to Mrs Keogan for organising.



The Amber Flag: to date, the Amber Flag initiative in Crosskeys N.S. has involved classes taking part in Anti-Bullying Week and making anti-bullying posters. 5th and 6th class have completed "A Lust for Life" also. All other classes have been working on the 'Stay Safe' Programme earlier in the year than normal. 3rd and 4th class will be taking part in a level appropriate version of "A Lust for Life" after Christmas. A well-being initiative is planned for the month of February with small, daily activities, along with a "well-being" week. Further activities are planned.



Student Council:

Unfortunately due to a number of Covid-19 cases spread across different classes, the Student Council have been unable to meet to date. It is hoped that they will begin their weekly Thursday meetings from January.



Board of Management: The Board of Management met on Tuesday 14th December. The Board ratified the updated Anti-Bullying Policy as well as the updated Child Safeguarding Statement. The Board discussed the need for a number of ICT upgrades in the school. Further yard development is planned for 2022 under the CLÁR Programme administered by the Department of Rural Affairs. Under CLÁR to date, tree removal has taken place along with the installation of child friendly fencing.



There is further yard resurfacing planned for 2022 as well as a biodiversity area. The next meeting of the Board of Management will be held on 24th February 2022 at 7.30pm.

Crosskeys N.S. on social media:

Follow us on social media. Search 'Crosskeys National School' on Twitter or search our username, '@Ckeysns.' On Instagram, search Crosskeys National School or by our username, crosskeysnat_school.



5th and 6th Class News

Fifth and Sixth Class took part in the School Advent Prayer Service. We made Christmas cards for our families and decorated a wreath for the Christmas Tree. Sadly due to Covid 19, once again we decided not to put on plays in the Hall. However, wearing our Christmas jumpers, we recorded our Christmas Performance and sent it to the other classes to watch. We sang "Feliz Navidad", a Spanish Christmas Carol and we said "Adios" to Gonzalo and Almudena who went back to Madrid for Christmas. Our class have also been predicting the scores for the Denn football games. We wrote our New Year's wish for the Denn Community Christmas Tree. Due to Covid-19 we have also started to wear Masks. We hope that 2022 will be a happy and healthy year for everyone.

Thank you, Mrs McCabe



Denn in the Ulster Club Final:



Some members of 5th/6th class pictured. Children wore their Denn GAA gear to school on Friday 17th December in the build up to the Ulster Club Final. Thank you to the Denn team who took the time to come into the school on Tuesday 21st and have a chat with the children. Each child received a selection box from the Ulster Champions!!!

Parents' Association Fundraiser:



Children in Crosskeys N.S. raised almost €240 for future Parents' Association initiatives with a Christmas Jumper Day on Monday 20th December. Well-done everyone!

Parents Association

A message from the Parents' Association

The Parents' Association would like to say a big thank you to all the families who purchased our Christmas Mugs. The fundraiser was very well supported and the money raised will go towards resources for the children in the school. The wider community also greatly supported our other fundraiser of Denn Junior Champions mugs and slates. Again, thank you all very much. A massive congratulations to the Denn football team on winning the Ulster final on Sunday, it was a fantastic game and an amazing achievement for all involved. Santa was blown away by the good behaviour of all the children when he visited the school today, well-done everyone.

The Parents' Association hope to hold a meeting in the school in January to keep everyone updated on our work. We wish all the staff and children a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, enjoy your Christmas holidays.

Kind regards,

Sharon Ivers

Chairperson - Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

Special Visitor to Crosskeys National School:



On Tuesday 21st December we had a Special visit from Santa in Crosskeys National School. All children received a selection box from Santa. Thanks to our Parents' Association Committee for organizing this. The children really loved it.

School community:

A final word of thanks to all families in our whole school community, your patience, support and co-operation has been exceptional during challenging times.

Also, a special word of thanks to all our school staff, to Jo in the school office who keeps the place ticking, Eileen, our cleaner who has kept the school a clean and safe environment and Patricia our SNA for her amazing work. When looking at this newsletter, it strikes me how normal (within reason!) and enjoyable all teachers have made school for the children despite the significant challenges of this first term. Teachers have always done this with a smile on their faces and ensured to put the best interests of the children first. This of course is made possible with the kind support of our families. Thank you all.



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 2021