



# Crosskeys National School

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## NUACHTLITIR

Dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

DECEMBER

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our December Newsletter. It has been a busy, challenging but overall very enjoyable first term in Crosskeys National School. Over the Christmas holidays we ask parents to ensure their child's school pencil case is replenished. This is to ensure children have sufficient resources and to discourage the sharing of pencils, rubbers etc. thus reducing the potential spread of germs. We would also like to thank parents for all their co-operation with our Covid-19 protocols to date. Please continue to keep your social distance at pick up/drop off times and ensure to wear a face covering.

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays at 12 noon on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We look forward to welcoming the boys and girls back to school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### Junior Infant 2021-2022 Enrolment:

2021 ENROLMENT  
INFORMATION

The teachers of Crosskeys National School welcome the enrolment of junior infant pupils for the 2021-2022 school year from January 6<sup>th</sup>. To get an enrolment application form please email [enrolment@crosskeysns.ie](mailto:enrolment@crosskeysns.ie) or call the school office on [0494336704](tel:0494336704) between 10am and 2pm any day to arrange. Please spread the word.



### Junior and Senior Infant News



Squirrels Pod



Foxes Pod

Junior and Senior Infants really got into the Christmas spirit this year. They did a lot of artwork including; making Christmas trees, doily snowmen, stocking decorating with cutting and pasting, paint printing using Christmas stencils and much more. A lot of Christmas picture drawing and colouring was done also. We were very careful to use a variety of colours and made sure to keep inside the lines! A lot of hard work was done at home with reading and very enjoyable video clips were sent on the Seesaw homework app. The children learned three Christmas poems about Santa, a Snowman and about how well we are all doing in Crosskeys National School and in the community to cope with 'The Virus'. Our Christmas play 'Our First Nativity' was performed in class several times with children managing to dress up, sing, dance, say lines and enjoy themselves while keeping within their pods.... a major achievement for Junior and Senior Infants. Well done!



Hedgehogs Pod



Doves Pod



Blackbirds Pod



Robins Pod

*Thank you, Mrs Keogan.*

### 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 teachers for organising.



### First and Second Class News:



This month we did lots of Christmas art. We made snowmen, snow-globes and Christmas cards. We also helped to decorate the room and windows. We even made a Christmas tree from Baubles we designed! Some of our Whizz Kids designed a Santa from Lego. Amazing creative minds, working together! We made an Advent wreath each, and every Tuesday joined in the Advent Prayer service on Zoom. We also illustrated the Christmas story for our in-class display. We had a Hi-Glo Silver and Seatbelt Sherriff in class competition. The standard was very high and it was very difficult to pick a winner from each class. Well-done to the



winners. Also a big congratulations to the Credit Union Art competition winners from our classroom.

Best of luck to those who's artwork goes on to the next stage of the competition. We used the devices. We learned to search for child friendly websites e.g. National Geographic and Worldbook online. We also spent time using the Bluebots and Bluebot mats. We enjoyed playing a Kahoot (quiz on the devices). We performed our Christmas play and got to watch each other's over zoom. We even made headbands for the play. We also learned a poem written by Mrs. Keogan called The Crosskeys Gang. We are doing Buddy reading with Mr. Gurhy and really enjoying it. We are all looking forward to Christmas and a visit from Santa!

*Thank you, Mrs Armstrong*



### Blue Day

There was great excitement once again in Crosskeys National School on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils throughout the school were decked out in the Breffni blue. There was lots of talk throughout the week about the Camogie All-Ireland Final against Armagh and the Football Semi-Final against Dublin. Lots of Cavan art can be seen decorating the corridors and classrooms in Crosskeys National School. No doubt our county heroes have inspired the children of Crosskeys National School and given us all a great lift over the last few weeks. We are hopeful that we'll see the Anglo Celt Cup in the school before the end of the school year.



### Christmas Jumper/Santa Hats Fundraiser for SVP:

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, pupils in Crosskeys N.S. wore very colourful Christmas jumpers and Santa hats in aid of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Normally, at this time of





year we would have facilitated a food collection instead. This fundraiser proved to be a nice alternative as a result of Covid-19. It is a very worthy cause and much needed this year. All monies raised will now go directly to SVP.

**GAA:** after a short break in the month of December, coaching will resume in the New Year. The school wishes to thank Dan Wharton for his great work this year. We all look forward to seeing him back in Crosskeys National School in the New Year.

### 3rd and 4th Class News

December has been a busy, fun packed month so far for 3rd and 4th class. We spent a few weeks learning new songs and rehearsing lines for our play 'The Night Before Christmas'. We recorded it and will show it to the rest of the school via Zoom. It was very different this year as we had to stay in our seats, but it was still nice to get dressed up and perform in our pods. For art this month we painted winter scenes and made Christmas decorations using flour, salt and water. We baked them in the oven and some children even had a taste of theirs...Yucky!!!

On the laptops we researched a well-known GAA player and we typed up a short presentation about them. Teacher made them into a booklet and we got a copy of our work to bring home also.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas holidays and have been preparing for the birth of Jesus by having a weekly Advent prayer service using Zoom.

*Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly*



### Christmas plays organised by the Ramor Theatre and the Garage Theatre:

Classes from junior infants all the way up to 6<sup>th</sup> class have enjoyed live theatre performances brought right into their classroom this Christmas. The school signed up to this programme funded by Cavan and Monaghan County Councils in late November. The junior classes enjoyed watching 'Rockin' Christmas Rhymes' while the senior end of the school watched an adaptation of Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol.'



**Board of Management:** The Board of Management met on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. At this meeting a number of policies were reviewed and ratified; The Child Safeguarding Statement, the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, the Critical Incident Policy and the Administration of Medicines Policy. The next meeting of the BOM will be held in February 2021.

### **Christmas Tree of Hope:**

Pupils throughout the school helped to make decorations for Denn GAA Club's Christmas Tree of Hope. This is a lovely initiative which the school supported. Our children made beautiful decorations which can be seen hanging from the Christmas tree at the club grounds.

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

This year, for the first time since we started in Junior Infants, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class missed out on the shoebox appeal. We usually bring in the shoeboxes that are full of treats for the less fortunate children in famine or war-stricken countries where Santa cannot visit at Christmas.

Our class predicted the All-Ireland football semifinals and only four people predicted Mayo to play Dublin in the final! It will be an interesting contest. Due to Covid-19 we cannot have a Christmas play which we would be rehearsing for now. We hope to have a few nice events before our final years at CrossKeys come to an end. For the past years we have got a visit from Santa Claus courtesy of the

Ballyjamesduff Fire Brigade and PA. Of course, because of Covid-19 this will also not be going ahead this year. Congratulations to past pupils; Emer Tierney and Shanise Fitzsimons who were part of the Cavan Camogie Junior team who were runners up in the All Ireland Junior Camogie Final and Thomas Edward Donohoe who was part of the Cavan panel who made it to the All-Ireland Senior Football semi-final.

*Thank you, Mrs McCabe*

### **A Visit from Santa:**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, there were smiles all round as boys and girls throughout the school were paid a virtual visit by Santa. The Parents' Association put in a lot of work to organise the visit, and the whole school would like to thank them for this. After watching the video Santa had recorded for the children of Crosskeys N.S. children were given a selection box which Santa had left in the school for them.

### **A message from the Parents' Association:**

December kicked off with our first PA Zoom meeting, thank goodness there was no glitches with technology!!

We made a worthy donation to support our local Denn lads Movember fundraiser for SOSAD Ireland. Well-done to all involved and it's fantastic they topped the €25k mark. We are proud to have donated and be associated in bringing the community the first ever crib that is on display in the GAA grounds. It is beautiful and will be available for many more Christmases to come. In addition to this the Denn Christmas Tree of Hope was well received and looks brilliant holding the children's wishes & decorations.

To close off 2020 the PA organized special treats for all the Children and staff in the school and last but not least, Santa made a visit in a different way this year! It was great to see all the children so excited and delighted which makes it all worthwhile.

On behalf of the PA, I would like to wish everyone a happy & holy Christmas, enjoy the festive celebrations with your family & friends and every good wish, health & happiness for 2021.

Happy Christmas

Alva, Chairperson Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association



*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.*

*18<sup>th</sup> December 2020*