



# Crosskeys National School

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## NUACHTLITIR

Dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022



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:

School closes on **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12 noon** for Christmas Holidays and re-opens on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Enrolment 2023/2024:** Crosskeys National School welcomes the enrolment of Junior Infant pupils for the 2023-2024 school year from January 5<sup>th</sup>. To get an Admission 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:

The Crosskeys N.S. Infant 'Green Room' where we completed jigsaws to calm our nerves before going 'on stage' three times for the big Christmas Performance!



Rehearsals in full swing!



More rehearsing!!!



We were very good using FULL SENTENCES describing our toy during the 'Early, Early Toy Show.'





Very creative Senior Infant boys using felt!

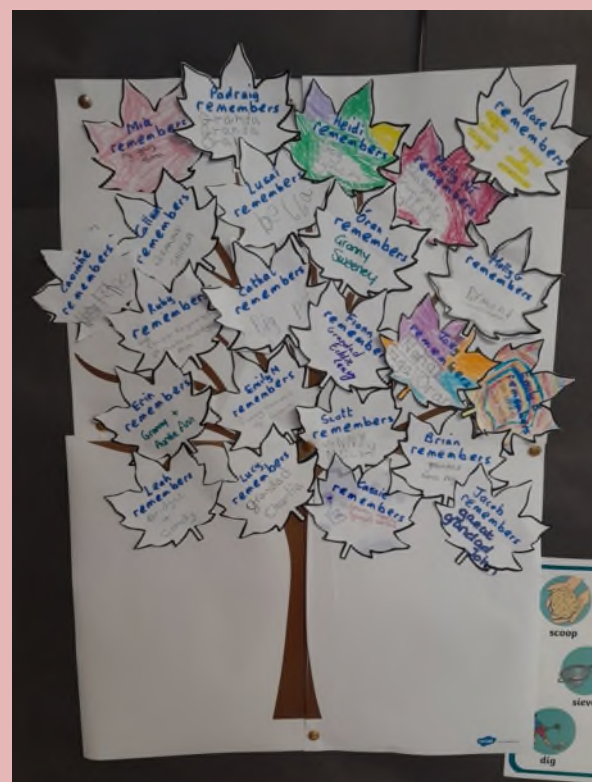
Pressure on measuring in front of the whole school during Science Week!!! Thank you to Mrs McCabe, Mrs O'Reilly and Mrs Armstrong for setting up such wonderful experiments! Senior Classes supporting Infants in their learning...integration and co-operation at its best!



We all helped out setting up an experiment to watch coloured water travelling!



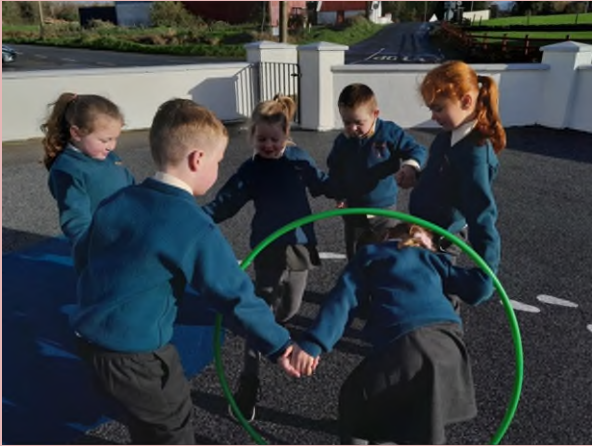
Little Miss Muffet's Whey , after the curd was taken out by Mrs McGrath as we watched.



Our Infants Remembrance Tree for November



During the warmer, earlier November days we threaded ourselves through hoops without breaking the chains!



The old playground games are still the best!!! 'Ring a Ring a Rosy'



Striking a Pose!

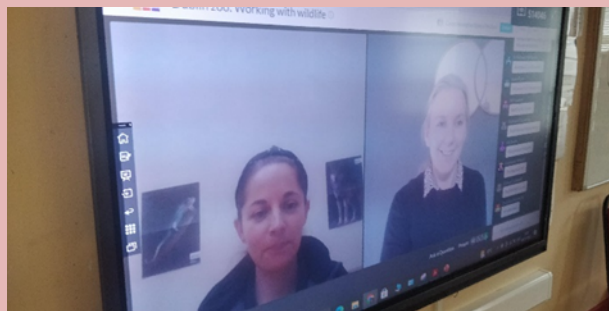
*Thank you, Mrs Keogan*

### **First and Second Class News:**

First and second class have had a very busy term since coming back after the Halloween holidays. Dan finished up with his football coaching. We'll really miss him. We took part in science week. We made butter out of cream; we listened to a woman from the zoo, a dinosaur bone man and some other interesting science week TV.



We were very lucky to get together with the rest of the school and everyone got to take part in lots of different experiments. It was really great fun. We continued to do choir as well. We really enjoy it. Mary Farrelly our Creative Schools associate helped us to plan our Christmas show. We had to practice lots and the whole school took part. It was great to be able to perform for all the parents again this year. We had to put on 3 shows. It was great fun but we were exhausted after it. We're really looking forward to the Christmas holidays now and we have our fingers, toes and everything else crossed that Santa will come on the 25th! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll be back to school in 2023!



*Thank you, Mrs Armstrong*

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

We have had a very busy 2 months in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class with so many fun activities taking place. We really enjoyed Science Week which took place in November. The highlight of Science Week was when the whole school came together in Mrs McCabe's room and we carried out a number of fun experiments in groups. We also worked with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class and our goal was to make a car that would move, which turned out to be far more challenging than we had imagined, but still good fun. In conjunction with Science Week we had a visit from Marine Biologist Benny Joyce who taught us all about our changing oceans and we learned how to make Secchi disks.



We have also worked extremely hard on our STEPS Young Engineers Projects. We were split into groups and we had to work together in teams to come up with a solution to an everyday problem. Together we designed The Handy Bin, The Sensored Scarecrow, A Light Sensored Door and The Portable Fridge. We had so much fun working together on our designs and we learned a lot about problem solving along the way, as well as evaluating our projects at the end. In December a new boy joined 4<sup>th</sup> class and we are making him feel very welcome and helping him to settle in. In December we also had our Christmas performances for our parents. We worked very hard with Mary Farrelly and with our teacher to practice 'It's the Hard Knock Life', 'Maybe' and 'Here Comes Santa Clause'. We also performed two of our choir songs for the parents, which was very enjoyable. We are all really looking forward to our Christmas holidays and we hope that Santa comes to all the boys and girls.



*Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly*

#### **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 Keogan for organising.



### **Student Council:**

Pictured are members of our Student Council promoting Science Week in November. Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly & Mrs McCabe for Their work with the Student Council.



**Board of Management Report:** The December Board of Management Meeting was cancelled due to an orange weather warning. The Board will have their next full meeting in February. The Board's application for the Emergency Works Scheme for funding to repair the school roof/façade at the front of the school was successful in November. The school will move through the necessary steps to get works underway as soon as realistically possible. The updated Healthy Eating Policy will be put into action from January, it is hoped that the Board will approve this policy at its next meeting.



### **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 her work on the social media accounts.



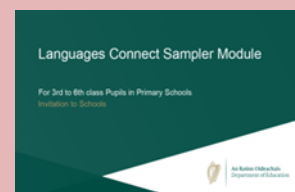
### **Christmas Mass:**

Thank you to Fr Kilduff for celebrating Christmas Mass with us in the school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The school choir provided beautiful music on the day.



### **Primary Languages Sampler Module:**

French lessons in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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. Marie brought a French exchange student in to visit the classes during her last session. It's been a great experience for the children.



### **BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students**

**& Teachers):** In September the school made an application to work with an artist as part of the BLAST programme. The theme of our application is 'Well-being.' We were recently informed that our application has been successful. The school will receive €1,000 to fund this project in the New Year. Thanks to all staff for their efforts with the application.





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

Fifth and Sixth Class welcomed 3 new pupils in December. They arrived in time to see our Christmas Performance "Greased Lightning" and "Jingle Bells Rock." Mary Farrelly taught Fifth and Sixth Class the dances and they were then practised in class. We had "The Early Early Toy Show" and wrote our "Wish for 2023" for the Denn Christmas Tree. Benny Joyce a Marine Biologist came to speak to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class about "Changing Oceans" and water quality. It was very interesting. We had our last French lesson on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> with Marie and she brought a French student called Marian into see us. Marian did a French lesson on the World Cup. We sang "Allez les Bleus" and "Champs Elysees" for them. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class have been following teams in the World Cup and 4 pupils picked the winning team Argentina. We had a weekly Advent School Prayer Service in our room led by Mrs Keoghan reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas.



Christmas Jumper Day for our Parents' Association

*Thank you, Mrs McCabe*



**Christmas Performances:** Well-done to all the children of Crosskeys N.S. who put on 3 amazing performances on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December in our school hall. It really was the highlight of this term! A massive thank you to Mary Farrelly, from the Arts Council for her work and to Mrs Keogan for organising the Creative Schools. The boys and girls, along with their teachers put a tremendous amount of work into this. Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful audience for taking the time to come in and see us perform live!!!



# Parents Association

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

We would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome to the new students in the school who have come from Ukraine; we hope you are settling in well. Also, a massive thank you to all the families who attended our movie night last Friday, it was a huge success and we hope you all enjoyed it. The Parents' Association have plans for some great fundraisers in 2023 and we look forward to sharing these with you all in the New Year. Wishing all the staff, students and families in the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

*Sharon Ivers*

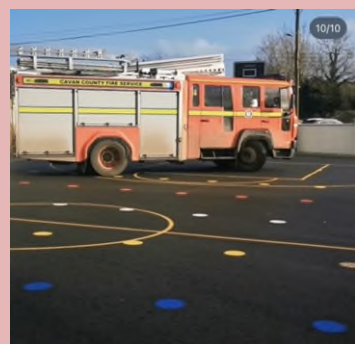
Chairperson - Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

## **Special Visitor to Crosskeys National School:**



On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.





**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 this term. 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 2022-2023 school year. I hope that everyone enjoys the quiet time over Christmas and we will all be ready to go in 2023!

*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 - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022*