



Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 27th November 2020



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our November

Newsletter. We are all aware of the ongoing need to implement Covid-19 safety practices in school and in the community to reduce the current high rates of transmission of the virus. This will help to keep schools open over the coming months. In Crosskeys National School, staff and pupils are continuing to implement necessary Covid-19 response procedures so that everyone can be as safe as possible whilst at school. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are reminded **NOT to send your child to school if they are unwell or display any Covid-19 related symptoms**. Thank you for your co-operation with this requirement to date.



Junior and Senior Infant News

We have all settled back into the school routine very well after the Halloween break. 'We remember in November' is one of our mantras this month. The Infant room started the ball rolling leading a weekly prayer service with the whole school via Zoom to remember those close to us who have died.

We also engaged actively with Science Week. We logged into "Cavan County Council & AgriKids Farm Safe & Story Time" and listened to Alma Jordan highlighting dangers on the farm and the meanings of some associated safety signage. We discussed the effects of exercise on our heart beats by being aware of our hearts before and after some in-classroom exercises. We tried to locate our pulses. Teacher tried to reassure some children who couldn't find a pulse that their hearts were still beating!!

We watched Operation Ouch- The Diaphragm/ Science for Kids on YouTube. Experiment: Mixing colours...We watched the mixing of blue and red to create purple, using blue and red food colouring, water and tissue paper.

Science Week: We celebrated 'Science Week' in Crosskeys National School during the week of November 9th-13th. There was great interest and excitement as children in all classes conducted in class experiments and were involved with online science seminars and tutorials. The Johnston Central Library in Cavan organised some 'MakerMeet' science events for the week which the school took part in. A big thank you to Cavan County Library for making this possible!

First and Second Class News: This month first and second class have been very busy. It was 'Science Week' in the middle of the month and we got very busy experimenting. We got to make an electrical paper circuit with an in-built switch which could light up our lighthouse. We even got to bring them home. We also made lava lamps using oil, water, food colouring and an alka seltzer tablet. We saw water soluble colours creep up filter paper also. We were lucky enough to get some of our class questions answered by Joanna Donnelly, an Irish meteorologist who forecasts the weather for RTÉ too. We're looking forward to December now and learning some new songs and maybe even a Christmas play, which will all be a little different this year!

Blue Day

There was great excitement in Crosskeys National School on Friday 20th November as children dressed in blue to celebrate the build up to the Ulster Final against Donegal.

There was a great atmosphere in the school on the day and many predicted the outcome!!

There was an even greater buzz in the school on Monday 23rd after Cavan's tremendous

victory over Donegal which was topped off with a homework pass for all pupils to mark the occasion!!



GAA: Coaching continues in the school on a fortnightly basis with our visiting GAA Coach, Dan Wharton. The sessions take place in the school yard and continue to provide great enjoyment for all. The school wishes to thank Dan Wharton for his great work.

3rd and 4th Class News

The children in 3rd and 4th class have had a busy and fun month. The highlight of the month was definitely 'Science Week'. We tuned into some online events and we did lots of experiments of our own. Teacher brought in sweets for us to test out our sense of taste, it was a nice treat. We carried out various experiments on water and it got rather messy! We also found out that we could blow up a balloon using the CO₂ produced by vinegar and bread soda.



In SPHE, we are focussing on identifying reasons to be proud of ourselves and one day we had to pay each other compliments. We really have a lot of good qualities to be proud of. In History, we are looking at the history of Denn which is very interesting and enjoyable. We will be using the laptops to type up our findings. We had an afternoon using the Bluebots and that was lots of fun as we had to work in groups to create a routine for two Bluebots to do at the same time, without them crashing into each other.



Parent/Teacher Meetings 2020/21: This year it has not been possible to hold our Parent/Teacher meetings up to this point due to Covid-19 restrictions. The school will update parents/guardians in relation to planned dates for Parent/Teacher meetings after Christmas.

Aladdin Schools: The school is now using the Aladdin Schools online management system. This is a widely used platform by schools all over the country. This will make the administration of the school more straight forward in the years ahead as we utilise the system more. Aladdin uses state of the art security to safeguard information entered by the school and data is stored and processed in strict compliance with Irish Data Protection laws.

Board of Management: The next Board of Management meeting takes place on Tuesday 8th December.

5th and 6th Class News

During the month of November, the pupils remembered their loved ones who died by writing their names on an illustrated leaf which they placed on the Class Remembrance Tree. 5th and 6th Class pupils went on virtual tours of Loreto College, St Patrick's College, Breifne College and St Clare's College. It was very interesting seeing inside the four schools and seeing several past pupils of Crosskeys NS. Loreto organised a video call for the pupils who intend going there which was very informative. For Science Week, 6th class built a Geodesic Dome following instructions from Chris at the MakerMeet Workshop. Both classes watched Zoology from Belfast Zoo and Science of the Weather with Met Eireann's Joanna Donnelly. 5th and 6th classes used the IT tablets to produce mini projects on one of 4 topics: The Great Wall of China, The Grand Canyon, Native Americans or Mt Vesuvius. They presented their findings to the class. All pupils happily illustrated a poster for the Ulster Final game Cavan v Donegal with some of them correctly predicting a win for Cavan. We now have an All-Ireland semi-final to look forward to. Both classes also watched a fantastic insight into the world of Dave Rudden, award winning author from Cavan Library Service.

November: Month of the Holy Souls: During the month of November the whole school took part in a weekly prayer service using Zoom. Each week a different class led the prayer service. It was a nice way for us all to remember loved ones who are no longer with us as well as being a nice way to bring the whole school together for an activity. Thank you to teachers for organising this each week.

Credit Union Art Competition Winners: A number of pupils from Crosskeys National School won prizes in a recent Cavan Credit Union art competition. Well-done to all!

A message from the Parents' Association: Congratulations to Mr Gurhy on his new position as principal and we wish him every success in this role. We look forward to working with him and all the staff at Crosskeys NS. The PA is active within the school and we take steps in assisting the school make our children's school life at Crosskeys NS an enjoyable one. Previously our meetings were held at the school however with the current situation this is not an option so we are scheduled to have our first Zoom PA meeting on **Tuesday 1st Dec at 8.30pm**. Hoping it goes well! Nevertheless, all the officers have been very active in planning & organising various things in the background and have had numerous zoom calls. We are proud of our achievements i.e. hoodies for previous 6th Class, party bags, gifts and flowers for both Confirmation and First Holy Communion, organising the photographer for these

ceremonies and most recently the Christmas Cards. It is thanks to all the parents who help make this happen through our fundraising events and we look forward to your continued support. Kind Regards, *Alva*, Chairperson Crosskeys PA.

The Crosskeys National School Toy Show

We finished the last full week of November with the very first Crosskeys National School Toy Show. Delighted boys and girls from classes throughout the school brought in their favourite toy or something else that they hold special. It was great to hear everyone talk and share about their toy with the whole class. Everybody is now well set for the real Toy Show this evening.



That's all the school news for now, take care everyone!

Niall Gurhys, Principal & Louise Armstrong, Deputy Principal

27th November 2020