



Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 23rd October 2025



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our Halloween Newsletter. It has been a busy and enjoyable start to the new school year in Crosskeys National School. October finished up with a really spooky Fancy Dress on Thursday 23rd. Have a look at some of the pictures later in the Newsletter and on our Instagram!

Important Dates:

Parent/Teacher Meetings: will take place on Thursday 13th November

Communion: Saturday 9th May @ 11am - St. Matthew's Church, Crosskeys

Confirmation: Friday 24th April @ 6pm - St. Mathew's Church, Crosskeys

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.



Junior Infant News:



September and October have been extremely busy months in the Junior Infant classroom. With 24 children the room is full, but everyone has settled into school life so well. Lots of smiles coming in in the morning and lots of learning being done too. We're busy working on rhymes and starting sounds and have already started our Jolly phonics letters s, a, t and i. We're also working on pencil grip, colouring and patterns. Our cutting skills are coming along nicely too, even though it's very hard work to try and cut along the lines.



We were very lucky to take part also in European Week of Sport and Mr Donohoe and his class ran some super games outside for us all to join in with. We are also taking part in the 'Skip around the World' at the minute. We've really been enjoying going out with Ms Campbell's class who have been helping us to get better at skipping by showing us their fantastic skills! The parents gathered together some lovely toys and donated them to the school. We had great fun trying to make them together in our groups.



Maths week has been very busy in the classroom too. We had our first go with the Bluebots and our first chance to work at computer coding with them. It was hard but great fun! We did lots of other fun activities in the classroom too. We're all very much looking forward to the Halloween Fancy Dress next week, and of course the Halloween holidays to follow that.



Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

Senior Infant and First Class News:

The first two months of school in Senior Infants and First Class have been a busy and exciting time! The children have settled in wonderfully and enjoyed getting back into routine. First Class have done a fantastic job adjusting to the longer school day and are really enjoying all the new activities and learning opportunities it brings. We've been hard at work learning new things, especially during Maths Week, where we explored fun games and used the Bluebots in the hall with Junior Infants. We completed a whole school Maths Trail where we were in groups with boys and girls from other classes investigating the maths all around us. We have been learning lots of lovely songs in Gaeilge & English and using lots of Gaeilge in the classroom. Everyone showed great creativity taking part in the Credit Union Art Competition and in our art lessons when we painted autumn trees. Our Friday afternoons have been a highlight thanks to our GAA coach Michael, who keeps us active and having fun. We've also loved taking part in the *Skipping Around the World*, building fitness and teamwork while hopping our way across different countries. A big thank you to Mr Donohoe and 5th and 6th Class, who were a great help showing us how to use the devices and who brought us out during European Week of Sport — we had a fantastic day enjoying all the fun stations they had set up! In class, we've been working together to earn our class rewards by collecting marbles for good behaviour, teamwork, and kindness — and the jar is filling up fast! We would also like to thank Fr. Donal for celebrating our Back to School Prayer Service, where we reflected on the importance of gratitude and taking time to appreciate the people and experiences that make our school so special.





Thank you, Ms Campbell

Second Class News:

Here in 2nd class we have had such a fun time since coming back to school. We welcomed our new SNA Andrea to our school and we are so lucky to have her, along with Patricia and Yvonne. We got a new reading corner in our classroom with a comfy rug, some nice cushions and some teddies. We love when our name is chosen to spend some time in the reading corner. We enjoyed some fun sporting activities during European Week of Sport and we have just enjoyed our Maths Week 2025. Thanks to parents who donated unwanted toys and jigsaws, we now have lots of choices when it comes to using our Friday toys - we really appreciate the donations. As well as setting up a reading corner, we set up a nature shelf and we enjoy bringing in things to put on the shelf. We picked some tasty tomatoes from the polytunnel and most of us had a taste - some of us liked them more than others. We are enjoying our Skip Around the World challenge and we were very proud of our classmate for bringing in his All-Star medal. We enjoyed a lovely beginning of year mass in the hall and we are looking forward to dressing up for Halloween.





Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

Crosskeys N.S. on social media:

Crosskeys National School is on Instagram. 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.



School Lunches: remember our Healthy Eating Policy!! Please note that **NUT BASED FOODS** are **NOT allowed** as there are children in the school who have allergies related to nuts.



Board of Management Report: The Board met on Wednesday 22nd October. The Board conducted an annual review of the BÍ Cineálta Policy and its implementation as well as reviewing the Child Safeguarding Statement. Both updated policies and the Annual Admissions Notice can be viewed at www.crosskeysns.ie Enrolments for the 2025-2026 school year will begin from December 1st 2025. Admission Application forms will be on the school website. The Board of Management also approved a number of Parents' Association fundraisers for the year ahead. The next Board of Management meeting will take place in December.

Third and Fourth Class News

Third and Fourth Class took part in the European Week of Sport and played games organised by 5th and 6th class. We had lots of fun skipping "Around the World". We started the new school year with a Mass celebrated by Fr Donal. Third and Fourth Class did lots of lovely Art work. We took part in the Credit Union Art competition. We had GAA coaching with Michael. 3rd and 4th class decorated Denn flags to wish the Senior Denn Camogie team luck in the County Final. The girls Camogie team is in the Cumann na mBunscol final on Tuesday November 4th. We hope they win. Boys and girls from 4th class took part in the Cross Country running. Third and Fourth class are learning about the counties in Ireland and famous waterfalls. Some day we may travel to see these lovely sights. Third and Fourth class are looking forward to dressing up for Halloween.





Thank you, Mrs McCabe

Student Council:

Congratulations to our new Student Council who were elected in recent weeks. The Council received their Badges of Office and we wish them the very best of luck in the year ahead. Thanks to Mrs McCabe and Mr Donohoe for organising.



Cumann na mBunscol Camogie:

Well-done to our camogie team who have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol final which will take place on 4th Nov. The girls beat Ballinamoney N.S, Kill N.S and last year's winners Dernakesh N.S to reach the final. We wish the girls the very best in the final. A huge thank you to Maria from Denn Camogie Club for all of her help and support in training the girls. Thanks to Mrs McCabe and Mrs O'Reilly for organising.



5th and 6th Class News

A very busy first term in the 5th and 6th Classroom. Firstly, on behalf of 5th and 6th Class, I would like to welcome the new Junior Infants, the new students throughout the school and the new staff members to Crosskeys NS. Early in the term, we took part in the European Week of Sport. The 5th and 6th Class did a fantastic job in mentoring and supporting the younger classes throughout many of these activities, including our Active Walks and Active Stations outside.

Our New Student Council was elected in September. Well-done to all who put their names forward and congratulations to those that were nominated. We were also very lucky to have Fr Kilduff come in to celebrate a beginning of year mass, with students reading extremely well on the day. October also marked the beginning of the 'Skip Around the World' challenge. This is something that the children have been really enjoying and their skills from last year are clear to be seen. Thank you to Mrs O'Reilly for organising this.

Our Cumann na mBunscol camogie team had a fantastic performance, coming out on top in their group. They now have a final to look forward to after the Hallowe'en break. A big thank you to all who looked after the team and to the parents that provided lifts.

October also marked the first time that the school participated in the Primary School's Cross Country competition in Killinkere. As there were so many children keen to participate, trials were held to select teams. We entered both boys and girls teams into the Senior and Intermediate categories. All of the students ran extremely well, on what was a challenging course. They did themselves and the school proud. A huge thank you to all of the parents who provided lifts on the day.

Maths Week also took place during this term. The 5th and 6th Class were group leaders as the whole school participated in a Maths Trail. This was something that was challenging and enjoyable for all. 5th and 6th Class also played some Maths card games throughout the week.

The first term has also marked the beginning of some thinking time for 6th Class. We had visitors from most of the local secondary schools, as well as the 6th Class boys attending in St Patricks College for an Open Day. The students also attending Open Evenings in many of the schools. These are exciting times ahead for our 6th Class Students.





Thnak you, Mr Donohoe

Athletics

Well done to our Cross Country teams who took part in the School's Cross Country races in Killinkere on 15th October. It was the first time our school participated in this event and the children did themselves and the school very proud. Huge thank you to the parents who provided lifts and to Mr Donohoe for organising it. Also thank you to Mr Donohoe and Mrs Armstrong for accompanying the children on the day.



Active Schools Flag:

Crosskeys National School achieved our first Active School Flag last year, and this is something we are extremely proud of. We will continue to take part in Active School Initiatives throughout the year, the first of which we have just finished. Each class took part in the 'Skip Around the World' challenge which took place between 6th Oct - 23rd Oct. The children thoroughly enjoyed their daily breaks from the classroom, getting outside to complete their skipping. Thank you to Mrs O'Reilly and Ms Vaughan for organising. The school also participated in 'European Week of Sport' which was enjoyed by all the children.



Reading Eggs

Children in Senior Infants, 1st Class and 2nd Class are continuing to use Reading Eggs at school and at home. We hope to get Junior Infants up and running with it in the near future. The children love completing Reading Eggs activities and the feedback from both children and parents has been very positive.

Thanks to Mrs Armstrong for organising.



Parents Association

A message from the Parents' Association

The Parents' Association are organising a Halloween Fancy Dress Fundraiser this Thursday 23rd in school. We are also organising a Halloween Fancy Dress disco this Friday 24th of October in The Carraig Springs from 6.30pm-8.30pm. We would like to thank everyone in advance for their help and donations for our first fundraisers as a new committee, the funds raised will go towards benefiting all the children in the school.

We look forward to see everyone in their best fancy dress.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable mid-term.

Caroline McPhillips

Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association Chairperson

Fancy Dress in Crosskeys National School









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

Happy Halloween!!

*From all the Staff in
Crosskeys National School.*

23rd October 2025

