



Crosskeys National School

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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 19th December 2024



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our Christmas 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:

Christmas Holidays: Friday 20th December at 12 noon. School re-opens on Monday 6th January 2025.

Confirmation: Friday 2nd May 2025 @ 6pm in St. Matthew's Church, Drumavaddy

Communion: Saturday 10th May 2025 @ 11am in St. Matthew's Church, Drumavaddy

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.*

Enrolment 2025/2026: Crosskeys National School welcomes the enrolment of Junior Infant pupils for the 2025-2026 school year from January 6th. A link to an Admission Application Form will be available on the school website from January 6th. Contact the school office on [0494336704](tel:0494336704) between 10am and 2pm any day for further information. Please spread the word ☺



Junior and Senior Infant News:

Everyone in Junior and Senior Infants has had a very busy term in Crosskeys N.S. We started the month off with Science Week. We were very lucky to do lots of experiments with 1st and 2nd class and also 5th and 6th class organised some amazing experiments for us to do in their room. We had 'Remember in November' too. We made beautiful butterflies and were joined by Fr. Kilduff each week for prayer services to remember all of those close to us who have died. We started doing our active breaks challenges in the classroom. We really love those and we've also had to come up with an Active Schools slogan. We had great fun helping to come up with these ideas.

In December, we've been very busy practicing our Christmas play. We've really enjoyed doing it. We also took part in the Advent prayer services in the hall with the other classes. We have gotten back to Reading Eggs too and it's been brilliant. One of the highlights of December has been the Early Early Toy show where we got to talk about our favourite toys. We really enjoyed it. We're all getting very excited for Santa to come and can't wait to see what he brings! Looking forward to having a nice relaxing Christmas and wishing you all the best for the start of 2025!!





Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

First and Second Class News:

We have been very busy in First and Second Class between Halloween and Christmas. In November we had weekly prayer services where we remembered people who have died. We made up lovely shoe boxes full of treats and essentials for children less well off than ourselves. We have been having lots of fun taking part in the Active Breaks Challenge which is part of the Active School Flag process. During Science Week we took part in many fun activities including Lego Spike with Ms. Vaughan, experiments with Mrs Armstrong's class and Mr Donohoe's class, a talk with Mark Conaty all about water and much more. We began our literacy stations in November and we have really been enjoying the various activities that our teachers have planned for that. We were so proud of our 1st class classmate for winning a prize in the Credit Union Art Competition and she was so thrilled when Julie from Cavan Credit Union came out to the school to present her with her prize. We have been attending an Advent prayer service weekly throughout December and we feel it's important to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas during this time. On 6th December we enjoyed the Early Early Toy Show where we brought in one of our favourite toys and we spoke about it in front of our classmates. We really enjoyed looking at everyone's toys and getting a chance to play with them in the afternoon. We were delighted to receive our Picker Pals Pack and we look forward to getting started on our Picker Pals journey in January. Finally we have been very busy practicing for our Christmas performances and we hope our parents will be very proud of our efforts.

Happy Christmas to all and enjoy the holidays, from everyone in 1st and 2nd class.





Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

3rd and 4th Class News:

3rd and 4th Class have had a very busy November and December. We went to visit a Galetch Windfarm during Science Week which was a very educational experience.

Ms Mc Cann finished her 5 weeks teaching practice with us, we really enjoyed doing Drama. For "Remember in November" we decorated butterflies, on which we had written the names of our loved ones for a school display. Now we are having a weekly Advent Prayer Service with Fr Donal. We had 4 weeks of daily Active Breaks activities which were great fun. 3rd and 4th Class made 2 Clayotic Christmas decorations - a Santa and a snowman.

We had 10 French lessons with Marie. We made 2 Lego Creations using Lego Spike. Olly the GAA Coach was back for 2 coaching sessions. We had our Early Early Toy Show in the classroom and we made Christmas Cards. Our class enjoyed singing "Do you hear what I hear?" "The Happiest Christmas Tree" and the Choir Carols for the Parents at the Christmas Performance. It was great watching the other classes at the rehearsals.



Thank you, Mrs McCabe

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 O'Reilly for organising.



Board of Management Report: The Board of Management held its second meeting of this school year on Tuesday evening at 7pm. The Board approved the school's annual accounts for submission to the Department of Education's, Financial Support Services Unit. The Board were also given a Principal's Report and updated regarding recent events and activities in the school. The Board was informed that it is hoped to install PV panels (solar panels) on the school roof in the coming months. The Board of Management commended school staff for their ongoing hard work and dedication. The strong links between our Parents' Association and the school were also praised by members. The Board of Management will meet again in February.



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 all her work on the social media accounts.



Primary Languages Sampler Module:

French lessons in 3rd-6th class have concluded after 10 really enjoyable weeks. Marie O'Shea, former French teacher in St. Patrick's College, Cavan, once again provided the tuition. It's been a great experience for the children.



5th and 6th Class News:

We had a very busy 2nd half to the term in the 5th and 6th Classroom. Science week was a fantastic experience for all. The 5th and 6th classes hosted the younger classrooms and taught them about a range of areas through experiments. Ms Vaughan did Robotic Lego with our class during Science Week, which was something that we all really enjoyed. Thank you very much to her for that. We also had a visit from Mark Conaty from Uisce Éireann who talked us through all the uses of water, how it gets to our homes and how we can best preserve it. 3rd - 6th Class were all lucky enough to visit the Mountain Lodge windfarm, where our instructor Marcus talked us through how the wind turbines operate on a day-to-day basis. This was a fantastic experience for all. Thank you very much to Georgina Quigley for helping to organise. In December, we got to create our own Claytonic Christmas decorations, with Louise Swords, which was a very enjoyable afternoon. Our GAA coach, Ollie, also began his sessions with us this month, which are always an enjoyable experience. We look forward to having him again in the second term. Everybody in 5th and 6th Class would like to wish the whole school community a very Happy Christmas and New Year!





Thank you, Mr Donohoe

Parents Association

A message from the Parents' Association

Dear Parents & Guardians,

It has been a busy few months for the Parents' Association. We had a number of very successful fundraising initiatives and a heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported them in any way.

These initiatives have enabled us to support the school and the students with various extracurricular activities that would not have been possible otherwise. To wrap up 2024 the PA organized a special visit from Santa, complete with treats for all the Children!

On behalf of the PA I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. Enjoy the festive celebrations with your family and friends and every good wish for 2025.

Kind regards,

Crosskeys National School Parents' Association Committee

Special Visitor to Crosskeys National School:

On Wednesday 18th 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.

Clayotic: A huge thank you to Louise Swords for giving a fantastic art workshop to all the boys and girls, using her product Clayotic (Non-messy air drying modelling clay). All the children thoroughly enjoyed creating Christmas decorations, learning lots of new skills while doing so. Well-done to all the boys and girls! This has been kindly partly subsidised by our Parents' Association.



A message from Denn Toddler Playgroup:

Staff and Committee of Denn Toddler Playgroup would like to wish all the families a lovely Christmas & Happy New Year. We thank you for all your continued support in 2024. We look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Stay safe & Take care

Denn Toddler Playgroup & Afterschool Committee



School choir:

The school choir continues to meet weekly. Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly and Mr Donohoe for organising.



Active Schools:

Crosskeys N.S is currently working towards earning our first Active School Flag and our Active School Committee have been working hard on this with Mrs O'Reilly and Ms Vaughan. All classes took part in a 4 week Active Breaks Challenge which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

A survey was carried out with the pupils from 3rd to 6th class to get their views on how we can make yard time more enjoyable and inclusive for all. The Active Committee read through all the suggestions and are currently working on a few ideas for the new year. Our Active School Slogan has also been chosen and we are very happy with it. 'DREAMS ARE NOT MEANT TO STAY ON PILLOWS.'



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 since September. 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 2024-2025 school year. I hope that everyone enjoys the quiet time over Christmas and we will all be ready to go in 2025!

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 - 19th December 2024