

Crosskeys National School
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NUACHTLITIR

Dated 18th December 2025



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 19th December at 12 noon. School re-opens on Monday 5th January 2026.

Confirmation: Friday 24th April 2026 @ 6pm in St. Matthew's Church, Crosskeys

Communion: Saturday 9th May 2026 @ 11am in St. Matthew'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.

Enrolment 2026/2027: Crosskeys National School welcomes the enrolment of Junior Infant pupils for the 2026-2027-2026 school year. A link to an Admission Application Form will be available on the school website.

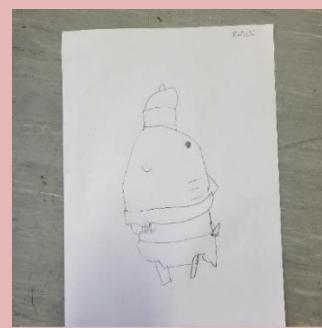
Contact the school office on [0494336704](tel:0494336704) between 10am and 2pm any day for further information. Please spread the word ☺



Junior Infant News:

What a very busy and exciting term we have had in Junior Infants! The children have worked so hard and we are very proud of them. We created lovely penguin pictures and beautiful Christmas trees, and we have been busy practising for our Christmas play *Straw and Order*. The children are really looking forward to performing and singing Christmas carols for their parents in the church on Wednesday. During Science Week in November. We had the Early Early Toy show and everyone was excellent at coming up to talk about their toys in front of the class. We also had great fun making clay ornaments with Louise Swords from Clayotic. There has also been lots of excellent work done on handwriting and letter recognition. We are all very excited for the holidays and, of course, for Santa to arrive!!





Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

Senior Infant and 1st Class News

From Halloween to Christmas Senior Infants and First Class had a very happy, busy, and exciting few weeks. We had great fun practising for the school play 'Straw and Order'. We loved being creative during art time, especially when things got a little *Clayotic* while making our Sheep Christmas decorations. The children also did a fantastic job taking part in a maths quiz and celebrating Science Week, where we learned lots of interesting facts about space, including planets, stars, and astronauts. A big thank you to Mr Donohue along with 5th and 6th Class for their brilliant science experiment display. The class have been working super hard on Reading Eggs and were delighted to earn their certificates. We shopped till we dropped and loved getting a chance to buy new Christmas jumpers as part of a wonderful fundraiser organised by the Student Council. We finished the term with our Early Early Toy Show, where everyone proudly brought in one special toy to talk about and share with their friends. The children have been a pleasure to teach and should be extremely proud of how hard they have worked and how kind and caring they have been. Happy Christmas from all the boys and girls in Senior Infants and First Class.



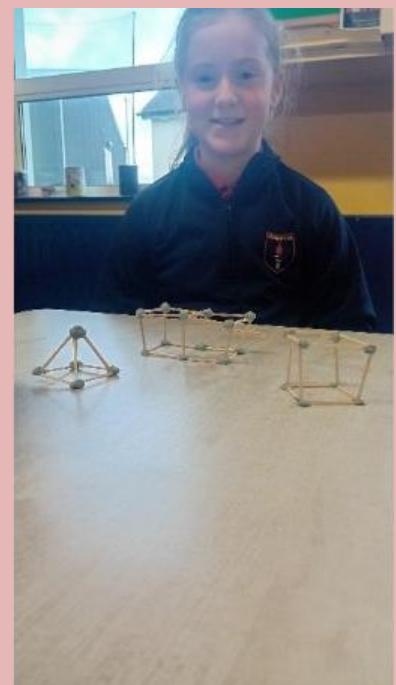


Thank you, Ms Campbell

Second Class News:

We have had a busy time in 2nd class since the Halloween break. We were so proud of our school camogie team when they won the Division 3 Cumann na mBunscol Camogie final. We enjoyed weekly prayer services in the hall in November where we prayed for people who have sadly passed away. We enjoyed many fun activities during Science Week and we had fun making 3-D shapes using matchsticks and blu-tac. We have been enjoying using Reading Eggs as part of our homework and some of us have earned certificates for our efforts. We were glad to take part in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal again this year and it made us feel so happy when we saw how many boxes our school donated. We really enjoyed the Early Early Toyshow on Dec. 5th and most of us stayed awake for the Late Late Toy Show that night also. We have put a lot of hard work into the preparations for our Christmas play and we are so excited to perform it in the church on the 17th December. We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas.







Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

3rd and 4th Class News:

This has been a very busy November and December for Third and Fourth Class. For "Remember in November" we remembered our loved ones by writing their names on clouds which are on display in the School Hall. 3rd and 4th class watched the Presidential Inauguration of our new President Catherine Connolly. We enjoyed practising for the "Straw and Order" Christmas Play with the other classes in the hall and in the church. We will be performing this play for our parents in St Matthews Church, Crosskeys on Wednesday 17th December. Third and Fourth Class brought in their favourite toys for the Early Early Toy Show. It was great taking part in the Clayotic workshop with Louise Swords. We made a Christmas Sheep decoration. Third and Fourth class did a lot of lovely Artwork during this term. We designed Christmas cards and a mobile for our family Christmas Tree. We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and 2026.





05/12/2025



12/12/2025



04/12/2025

Thank you, Mrs McCabe

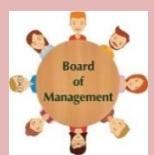
Advent Prayer Service:

During the season of Advent, we held a prayer service in St Matthew's Church, Crosskeys.

It was a nice way to bring the whole school together. The prayer service had readers from every class. Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly for organising and to Fr Kilduff for attending and leading.



Board of Management Report: The Board of Management's next meeting will take place in late January.



Crosskeys N.S. on social media:

Follow us on Instagram. Search Crosskeys National School or by our username, crosskeysnat_school.

Thanks to Mrs O'Reilly for all her work on the school's Instagram account.



5th and 6th Class News:

We had a very busy 2nd half to the term in the 5th and 6th Classroom. The half-term started with some great success on the camogie field as our Cumann na mBunscol team were victorious in their final on the 3G. We were very proud of all the girls. Well done to Mrs McCabe, Mrs O'Reilly and Maria Murphy for all of their work. Science week was a fantastic experience for all. The 5th and 6th classes hosted the younger classes in the hall and taught them about a range of areas through experiments. This was something that everybody really enjoyed. In December, the Student Council ran their first Christmas Jumper donation/sale. This was a very successful campaign, providing families with

good quality, second hand jumpers for a reasonable price, as well as raising some funds. Well done to the student council. Children also brought in some of their treasured belongings for the Early Early Toy Show. All children spoke very well when describing their belonging. We also got to create our own Clayotic Christmas decorations, with Louise Swords, which was a very enjoyable afternoon. We have also been busy preparing for our Christmas performance "Straw and Order". This is something that the children are all really looking forward to and have put in such a huge effort for. We are really looking forward to the performance, 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,

The Parents' Association would like to thank all the families for their generous support with all our fundraising initiatives; these funds will help us to support the students and the school with various activities. To add a little Christmas sparkle the PA organised a very special visit from Santa to the school with treats for all the children. The PA would like to wish the staff, students and their families a very Merry Christmas and very best wishes for a happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Caroline McPhillips

Chairperson

Crosskeys National School Parents' Association Committee

Special Visitor to Crosskeys National School:

On Thursday 18th December we had a Special visit from Santa in Crosskeys National School. Thanks to our Parents' Association Committee for organising 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 partly subsidised by our Parents' Association.



School choir:

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



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 2025-2026 school year. I hope that everyone enjoys the quiet time over Christmas and we will all be ready to go in 2026!

Best wishes, Mr Gurhys.



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 - 18th December 2025