

# Crosskeys National School

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# NUACHTLITIR

Dated 20th June 2023



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are very welcome to our May/June Newsletter. It has been a busy but enjoyable third term in Crosskeys National School.

## \*\*Some Reminders\*\*

- The school will close on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June @ 12pm** for the Summer Holidays
- The school will reopen for pupils on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August**
- The 23-24 School Calendar is available on the school website
- The Annual School charge is payable at any time between now & **22<sup>nd</sup> September**



## Junior and Senior Infant News:

Junior and Senior Infants have been working well right up to the end of the school year. They have learned so much this year, as a result, in no short way, of the effort put in by them and their parents. Hope you all enjoy a well-earned break this summer. I was sorry to have missed six weeks due to a broken wrist but the class continued to make progress under the guiding hand of substitute teachers, in

particular Miss Campbell. Well done to all. May and June have been packed with activities from Sports Day to our school tour in Mellows, to percussion with Peter Crann to dancing with Nicole. Oh and we gave great support to our favourite teams in the finals of the basketball league.





Thank you, Mrs Keogan

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

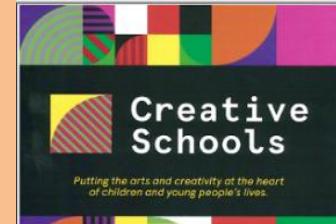
We have had a very busy last term in 1st and 2nd class. 2nd class made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. We had a lovely celebration and were lucky with the weather. The children all did a really good job on the day. We learned about the water cycle. We made toys from recycled materials. We took part in Food Dudes. We got to taste apples, bananas, blueberries, mandarin, tomatoes, carrots, cucumber and courgette. We really enjoyed taking part. We saw the basketball league at lunch time. It was great to watch. The Junior Final was excellent and we really enjoyed the Senior Final too. We had the visiting artist Anna from Poland. We came up with a plan for the wall mural. Anna then painted it on the wall outside. 'You are strong, Just keep going, Never give up'. Peter Crann came to the school and we learned lots about rhythm and drums. It was a fantastic day. We had Sports Day. We were very lucky with the weather. We had a running race, a spud and spoon race and a sack race.

The Student Council set up an obstacle course. The whole school were put on teams and we had great fun. Afterwards we had a rounders competition. We went on our school tour to Mellowes. We played on bouncy castles, played football, go carts, climbing walls/frames, quoits and a poly tunnel. We could relax in the hammocks afterwards. The best part of the tour for some of us was the bus!!! We took part in the Mile a Day in May up at the football pitch and we continued with the Jog in June. We studied the sun in science and spent a sunny day drawing around our shadows and looking at how they move and get shorter and then longer again. We got to have lunch break up on the football pitch. We used the devices and started looking up books to read on getepic.com. We also started learning to type using typing.com. We were also at the 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation. It was lovely. We wish the 6<sup>th</sup> class good luck in their new adventures in secondary school. We hope you all have a lovely summer and we'll see you again on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.



Thank you, Mrs Armstrong

**Creative Schools:** our Creative Schools journey comes to an end this June. It's been a great initiative for the school to take part in. The children have been exposed to some wonderful experiences over the last two years. We were very lucky to be paired with Mary Farrelly of the Arts Council, she has delivered numerous workshops with a focus on dance and drama in the school over the past two years. Other highlights include: Peter Crann percussion workshops, 8 weeks of dance lessons and last year's 6<sup>th</sup> class recording their own song with Darragh Slacke. A special word of thanks to Mrs Keogan for organising these various aspects of the initiative. We hope to continue working with some of the artists we encountered over the past two years.



**BLAST:** children in all classes worked with artist Anna Wiercioch of the Art Flying Academy during May and June to design some mural art around the school. A particular well-done to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who helped Anna create these beautiful murals which really brighten up the school environment.



#### Languages Connect Module:

The school's application to take part in the 'Languages Connect' module has been successful once again. This will be the third year in succession that Crosskeys National School will take part in the module. Children in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class will take part. Over the past two years senior class pupils engaged in 8 weeks of French lessons. We will update families in the new school year.



#### Windfarm Grant Applications:

The Board of Management made applications for funding from the community funds of Bindoo and Carrickallen Windfarms in May & June, we are hopeful of successful outcomes once again.

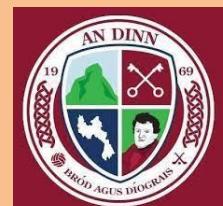
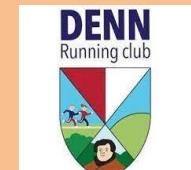


#### Mile-a-Day-in-May and June Jog:

The 'Mile a Day in May' turned into the 'June Jog'!

Well-done to all classes that took part and really built up their fitness in May and June. Hopefully we will see some of them getting involved with Denn Running Club in the future.

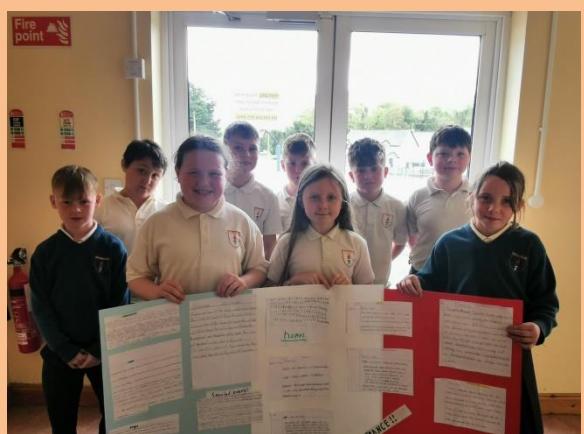
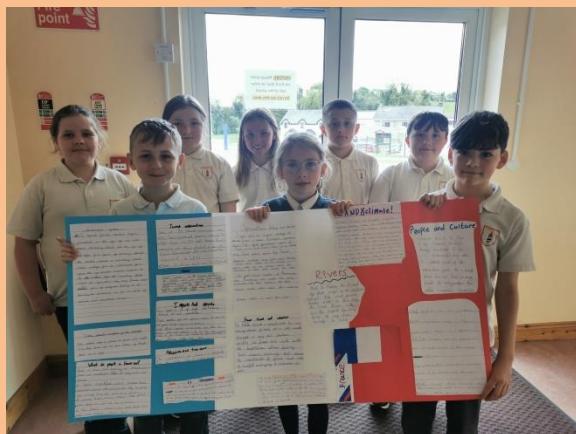
The whole school community is very thankful to Denn GFC to have the use of such a wonderful facility on our doorstep.



### 3rd and 4th Class News:

We had so much fun for the last two months in 3rd and 4th class. We started our Mile a Day in May. Every day we would walk around the pitch. We had Karen the GAA coach for a few sessions and we broke the record for hand passing without dropping the ball! Our time was 2mins 45 seconds. We also completed our Geography projects on France in May. It was lots of fun and very interesting. We went to The Cavan Centre on our school tour on the 11th of May. We did rock climbing, archery and lots more. We replanted the polytunnel with John's help. We had sports day in June and we did a running race, a spud and spoon race and a sack race. We have just finished the basketball league. The Eliminators and The Bumble Ballers made it to the final. It was a very good game. Well done to every team for taking part and a very well done to the winners The Eliminators. Anna the artist came in and we painted murals. Paula O'Connor came in to talk about internet safety. Everyone in 3rd 4th 5th and 6th learned a lot. Peter Crann came in to do a drumming workshop. And we learned some dance moves with creative schools. 3rd and 4th class started to play rounders in the Denn GAA pitch. For the last few weeks we have been able to go to the Denn GAA pitch for big break. At the end of the Mile a Day in May we followed on with the Jog of June. We jog/walk three times around the running track. The 6th class had their graduation and we will all miss them. We tried new fruit and veg for five days with Food Dudes. Big thanks to the teachers and the Student Council for everything they organized. We wish the 6th class a great time in secondary school. We hope everyone has a great summer.

Written by Liam and Jai



Thank you, Mrs O'Reilly

**Board of Management:** The Board of Management met on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.45pm. Items discussed at this meeting included a financial report and various annual reports to the Board regarding school progress. The Board commended our Parents' Association to their contribution to school life as well as the efforts of all school staff during the 22/23 school year. Priorities for summer caretaking and school improvements were also discussed. The Board approved the 2023-2024 School Development Plan as well as the concept of installing CCTV on school grounds. A detailed email on this topic has been sent to all families. The Board invites observations on the school's new draft CCTV Policy and amended Data Protection Policy up to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 5pm to [crosskeysns@gmail.com](mailto:crosskeysns@gmail.com). The Board was also updated on the Emergency Works Project on our school roof. The architect has sent this project to tender. Tenders are due back to the architect in late June. The Board is keen to move this process along as quickly as possible. Our next scheduled meeting will be in October.

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

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class went on their school tour to the Cavan Centre and had a great day. Both classes painted Wellbeing themed murals with Anna. Paula O' Connor spoke to the classes about Internet Safety. Peter Crann gave a percussion workshop. Sports Day was up on the top football pitch. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class took part in the Mile-a-Day-in-May and Jog in June. The Girls and the Boys Football teams took part in the Cumann na mBunscol competition. In Art we completed a Construction Project in pairs which we showed to the whole school. All classes learned a dance routine for "Better when I'm dancing" with Mary and Nicole. 5th and 6th class learned about Farm Safety and Water Safety and we hope that everyone has a lovely safe summer. The Sixth Class had their Graduation Prayer Service with Fr Donal on 12<sup>th</sup> June. It has been a busy time for Sixth Class as they went to an Activity Day to St Clare's College, BJD. Sixth Class painted a football themed mural on the gable wall, compiled their Graduation Booklet and filled in their Student Passport for Secondary School. We wish the Sixth Class pupils well in Secondary School.



Thank you, Mrs McCabe

**6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation:** Well-done to 6<sup>th</sup> class who had their Graduation Ceremony on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Thanks to Fr. Donal who led a beautiful prayer service and to Mrs Keogan, Mrs O'Reilly and the school choir for providing music on the day. The graduating class were presented with Graduation Certificates; the class have also been working on a memory book which will be a nice souvenir of their time in Crosskeys N.S. Thanks to Mrs McCabe for organising it all.



# Parents Association

## A message from the Parents' Association

Time really does fly when you're having fun, and I'm sure all the students in Crosskeys National School will agree. It's hard to believe we've come to the end of another school year, we hope all the staff and students have an amazing summer and have lots of fun. We would also like to wish the 6<sup>th</sup> class students who are moving on to secondary school the very best of luck on the next chapter of their lives.

Our term as the current Parents' Association is also coming to an end, a new committee will be put in place from September onwards. We would encourage parents to put themselves forward to become involved in the Parents' Association, it is very enjoyable and with a good committee in place a lot can be achieved for the school and students. We would like to thank all of the staff and parents for always being supportive of our initiatives and fundraisers, it was very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Sharon Ivers

Chairperson Crosskeys N.S. Parents' Association

## **Acknowledgement from School Staff to our Parents' Association:**

The staff of *Crosskeys National School* wishes to thank our Parents' Association Committee and the wider Parents' Association for their wonderful work and support this year. The strong links between the school and wider community are very important to us in *Crosskeys National School*. The Parents' Association made many wonderful things possible this year. Thank you all!

## **After school Club:**

An After School Club will operate each day from **2pm-6pm** in the Community Centre from September 2023. If parents/guardians have any queries they can contact the Playschool via the following email address: [denntoddlerclq@hotmail.com](mailto:denntoddlerclq@hotmail.com)



We had a special visitor on Monday thanks to our wonderful Parents' Association!



## **School Polytunnel**

There's been lots of gardening taking place around the school in recent times. The polytunnel was planted in late April. Thanks to all the boys and girls for looking after it!



## Basketball leagues

Our Junior and Senior Basketball Leagues concluded in late June. Once again they have proved to be one of the highlights of the school year. Children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class took part. There was great skill and commitment on display throughout the two leagues, culminating in two great finals. Well-done to all. A particular word of thanks to teachers for organising and refereeing games at break times.



*C.K. Hoopers*



*The Bangers*



*The Bumble Ballers*



*The Eliminators*



We wish our whole school community a fun and enjoyable summer,  
hopefully with lots of good weather along the way.

*We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful boys and girls on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, take care everyone!*

*From all the Staff in Crosskeys National School.*

*20<sup>th</sup> June 2023*