



March

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

🌸 Welcome to the latest edition of the St. Cronan's Junior National School Newsletter! 🌻. As we bid farewell to the chilly winds of winter, we warmly embrace the signs of spring that surround us. With the Easter holidays just around the corner, it's the perfect time to reflect on our achievements, celebrate our successes, and look ahead to an exciting final term.

In this edition, we'll highlight the blossoming talents of our students, share updates on recent events, and provide a sneak peek into the wonderful activities planned for the upcoming term. From creative endeavours to academic milestones, there's plenty to celebrate!

As always, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and enthusiastic students for their unwavering commitment to learning and growth. Together, we've created a vibrant community where every child is nurtured and inspired to reach their full potential.

Wishing you all a joyous Easter break filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones. Let's embark on the final term with enthusiasm and determination, ready to make it truly fantastic!

Warm regards,
Edel Blake
Principal,

Teamwork makes the dream work.

Music

Following on from the successful Drumming Workshop in Junior and Senior Infants our 5 first classes have started working with a music teacher called Taylor from the Mobile School of Music. This fantastic initiative is funded by Fingal County Council. The first classes will showcase their new learning for their parents in the final term.



Hot Meals

We are getting so close to beginning Hot Meals in St. Cronan's Junior National School. Our final step was to collect tenders from perspective companies and e-tenders and evaluate them thoroughly under the procurement headings. 1 company with the highest points was selected. We will be letting all our families know the name of this company on Thursday 21st March when the standstill period is complete. Thank you to all parents/guardians/children who helped with this process. We are very excited to begin enjoying Hot Meals in Term 3.



Spaces in Senior Infants - 2nd Class

Due to some children moving away we have a small number of places in Senior Infants, First Class & Second Class. If you know of anyone who would like to join our lovely school community please spread the word.

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Fundraising

Last June we received a very generous cheque from the Parent's Association. This money was used to fund a number of projects including:

- 1) 450 Cronan Bear's for new Junior Infants in 2022, 2023 and 2024
- 2) Buy 15 x android tablets and 2 x i-pad

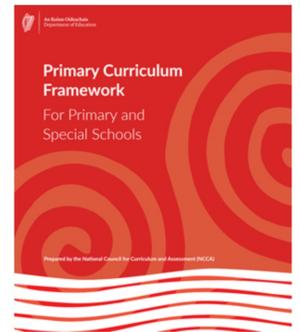
The rest of it will be put towards a new sensory wall in the school.

The Voluntary contributions and the money collected at the door of the Christmas concert has all been put towards our IT costs. In a school as large as ours the monthly maintenance for IT is high and we have not received a grant for I.T. for a number of years now.

The Parents Association donation for 2024 and fundraising for the rest of this year will be going towards updating our library catalogue as we continue to refurbish and redesign the library.

New Curriculum

The current Primary School Curriculum was introduced in 1999. It is now being updated by the NCCA - National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. The Primary Language Curriculum has just been introduced (you may remember some school closures last year), the Primary Maths Curriculum is next - this is why we have school closure for staff training on the 9th May. The rest of the subjects will follow. The NCCA are now collecting feedback from all members of the school community about this. This is the curriculum are children will be using - it is so important we have a say about it. As an educator and a Parent I am concerned about the proposed reduction in time dedicated to literacy which I consider a foundational skill. You can view the draft curriculum and give feedback here: [Click here](#)



Mobile Phones

The Department of Education have released a document called 'Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free'. They are asking parents to sign a voluntary code to commit to not giving their child a smart phone while in Primary School. Thankfully most of our children don't have smartphones so we don't feel the need to introduce the voluntary code. This is a project our friends in the Senior School will be working on. We are fully supportive of Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free.



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Seachtain Na Gaeilge

We have just finished 2 fantastic weeks celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge. Well done to Mrs. O'Neill and her team for all their hard work. During the 2 weeks we enjoyed; Irish Dancing lessons and a Ceili Mor. We had a small concert for the classes, the corridors were decorated in lots of shamrocks and green, white and orange, The highlight was the parade last Friday. It was a fantastic, noisy, happy parade of St. Cronan's Junior National School children and staff parading proudly together. The children behaved beautifully and I was so, so proud of everyone. Well done to all!

Child Safeguarding Review

March is an important month as we review our Child Safeguarding Statement. I have attached the statement and links to a survey for Parents/Guardians and Children to complete. It is important that everyone gets to have a purposeful voice.



Assessment of Needs

This RTE article ([Click Here](#)) highlights that almost 9000 children are awaiting an assessment of need. Many more children are awaiting services. Please highlight this issue with any politician who knocks on your door in the coming weeks and if you think any of your children may need an assessment please put their name down as soon as possible.

2nd Class Graduation - Important

The 2nd class Graduation for 1A-2A-3A was originally scheduled for Monday 24th June. This has to change due to School Tour Venue availability. The Graduations will now be on Wednesday 26th June. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Upcoming Events

School closes on Friday for Easter holidays. Junior and Senior infants will finish at 11:45 and 1st and 2nd Class will finish at 11:55. We have been told that the school will be used as an Election Centre on the 7th June so there will be no school on this day.



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