



Telephone: 091-844510 / 091-844029

Email: office@athenryprimaryschool.ie / campusb@athenryprimaryschool.ie



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Dear Parents and Families,

A warm welcome back to you all and every good wish for the New Year ahead. I am delighted to introduce myself as the Acting Principal of Athenry Primary School and feel privileged to be afforded the opportunity to work with such a wonderful school community. I want to assure you that the safety, growth, and wellbeing of your children will always be my top priority. I encourage open communication and collaboration between home and school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. In partnership, we can continue to create an enriching educational experience for all the pupils of our school. I look forward to getting to know you better and working together to make this school year a success.

Warm regards,
Cathriona Cronin

Important Dates to note

- **Monday January 20th: School closed for staff training on new Primary Maths Curriculum**
- Wednesday January 22nd: **GRANDPARENTS DAY** (10.45am – 12 noon)
- Monday February 3rd: ***St Brigid's Day bank holiday***
- Monday February 17th until Friday February 21st: ***February Mid-term Break***
- Tuesday February 25th: ***School Photographer***
- Sunday March 2nd: ***Peace Proms performance in University of Limerick***
- Monday March 17th: ***St Patrick's Day bank holiday***
- Friday April 11th: ***school closes at 12 noon for Easter Holidays***
- Monday April 14th to Sunday April 27th: ***Easter Holidays***

Presentation College Athenry

Information for 6th class girls who have been accepted to Presentation College Athenry for September 2025:

- ***Transition assessments*** will be held on Saturday Jan 25th
- The ***CAT4 assessment*** will be held on Friday Feb 14th
- ***Subject Taster day*** will be held on Thursday Mar 6th

Christmas Fundraisers

- Sincere thanks to all the parents and pupils for their incredible support and generosity in donating 92 prizes to our amazing Christmas Raffle spearheaded by Parents Council. We raised €5,015 which will go towards the purchase of Chrome books for our pupils. A special word of thanks to our incredible Parents council members: Ursula Brady, Rachel Moore, Eiranne Heffernan and Melanie Gore who co-ordinated the raffle on the day.
- The school held a **Christmas Jumper** fundraiser on Thursday December 19th in aid of the Athenry Christmas Lights Committee. We raised €705 for the committee and they were so grateful for our contribution. Sincere thanks to everyone who donated.

Attendance

- Congratulations to Miss Curran's 3rd class who had the best attendance for the month of December!

Grandparents Day

- Catholic Schools Week is from January 19th to 25th. The theme this year is "Alive in Christ".
- We will celebrate Grandparents' Day on **Wednesday January 22nd** this year in both campus A and B. We want to honour and celebrate grandparents for the important part they play in the community and most significantly in the lives of their grandchildren.
- Grandparents are invited to visit either or both campuses on ***Grandparents' Day*** from 10.45am - 12.00pm. (*If grandparents are unable to come then a parent is very welcome to come in their stead*).
- Grandparents are invited to visit their grandchildren's classrooms and refreshments will be provided in the hall afterwards.

Enrolments for September 2025

- We will start accepting admissions for next school year (Sept 2025) from tomorrow **January 16th**.
- Admission forms for pupils due to start school in September 2025 are available to download from the website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie or can be requested from the office.
- Parents of children due to start school in Sept 2025 are invited to an Open night on Wednesday, January 29th at 8pm in the school hall.
- The closing date for receipt of completed forms is Monday, February 24th 2025.
- Due to the high interest for places, please ensure any siblings who are due to start in September 2025 have submitted their completed admissions form on time.

Board of Management Nominations:

We are beginning the process to appoint the Board of Management for Athenry Primary School.

The Board of Management is made up of:

- 2 representatives who are appointed by our Patron (Archbishop Francis Duffy)
- 2 representatives from the school staff
- 2 representatives from the local community
- 2 representatives from the parent body – one mother & one father, chosen by parents.

A letter will be sent to all parents this week explaining how we will elect the 2 representatives from the parent body and asking parents to nominate a Mother & a Father to be put forward for election to the Board of Management. The nominees must be a parent of a child enrolled in the school.

Nomination forms should be completed asap and returned to the school no later than Wednesday of next week (January 22nd).

Table Quiz:

- The annual Kilchreest Table quiz will take place in the gym of St Brigid's secondary school, Loughrea on Thursday January 23rd 2025 at 7pm

- Mr Duffy is coaching and selecting a team from those pupils who are interested in representing the school (and whose parents are in a position to bring their child to and from the venue on the night).

Band:

- Band practice has recommenced this week as we prepare for the St. Patrick's day parade on Monday March 17th
- Please remind your child to practice their tunes daily as part of their homework!

Accelerated Reading Programme:

- We have approximately 330 children engaging with Accelerated Reader and need to supplement our AR library. If you have any suitable books that you would be willing to donate, please send them in with your child or drop them into the office at either Campus A or Campus B. We are looking for books suitable for children from 4th to 6th class in particular. We would be very appreciative.

Peace Proms:

- Pupils from Mrs Grealley's 5th class, Mr Duffy's 6th class and Mrs Morrissey's 6th class will be performing at the Peace Proms concert at the University of Limerick on Sunday March 2nd at 1pm
- Children need to be at the venue at 10.30am on the day for a final rehearsal before their big performance
- Choir Uniform is plain white T-shirt / shirt / blouse (no logos) and dark bottoms (skirt & tights or trousers / leggings)
- More information to follow closer to the time

Confirmation Programme:

- Mike Dunne (Confirmation Co-ordinator for Athenry Parish) will commence the Confirmation programme with the boys and girls in 6th class on Campus B in early February.
- Mass in Athenry Church on Saturday January 25th at 6.30pm will be a Confirmation Enrolment Mass
- The 6th class children will be attending a retreat in Knock on Wednesday April 9th

Green School:

- The Green School Committee led by Mr Kelly's 6th class have made "Battery Recycling" a New Year's Resolution for Athenry Primary School. They have entered the school into a competition where we have the chance to win a €2,000 Sports Equipment voucher for the school. So the more batteries we can recycle, the better our chances!
- If you have old used batteries lying around the house, don't put them in a drawer and don't put them in the bin! Send those used batteries into school and we will recycle them for the WEEE Ireland Schools Battery Recycling competition.

Chess:

- Mr Kelly has entered 3 teams of 8 (24 children) into the Ficheall Chess Tournament which is taking place on Tuesday February 11th in Lisheenkyle National School.

Soccer:

- The school has entered a boys and a girls team to represent the school in the FAI 5s soccer competition.
- Training and selection of the panel of players will commence once the weather improves
- The boys FAI 5s soccer competition will be on Thursday 27th February in Salthill
- The girls FAI 5s soccer competition will be on Friday 28th February in Salthill