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NEWSLETTER Issue: 07 February 14th 2025

Dear Parents,

January was a difficult month for many families in our school community who experienced lengthy power outages and loss of water supply in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn. It was heartening to see our School Community rallying around those worst affected and supporting one another. Hopefully, the spring will bring brighter days with brighter news. Please note that we have attached a letter from the HSE outlining their School Health Programme for your attention.

Important Dates to note

- **February Mid-term Break:** School closed from the 17th to the 21st
- **School Photographer** is coming on February 25th
- **Term 2 staff meeting:** Thursday February 27th. School closes at 1.15pm for all pupils
- **Peace Proms performance** in University of Limerick: Sunday March 2nd
- **Pres matinee performance of “Grease”.** Sixth class pupils are attending in Kilcornan on March 4th. Details have been sent on Aladdin. Bus is subsidised by our Parents Council.
- **St Patrick’s Day bank holiday;** Monday March 17th:
- **Book Fair with Tara Book Company** will take place in early May

Board of Management Nominations:

Thank you all for your engagement with the process to elect 2 parent representatives for our new Board of Management. I’m delighted to announce that the following persons have been elected:

- Father Representative is Mr Paul Fitzgerald and Mother Representative is Mrs Rachel Moore
- Patron Representatives are Mr Stiofán Ó Moráin (Chairperson) and Fr Charlie McDonnell
- Staff representatives are Mrs Cathriona Cronin and Ms Veronica Murray

The final stage of the formation of the Board of Management is for the 6 representatives to nominate and elect 2 community representatives. It is therefore hopeful that the new Board of Management for Athenry Primary School will be in place by early March.

Attendance

Congratulations to Miss Dolan’s Junior & Senior Infants who had the best attendance for the month of January!

Grandparents Day

Thanks to all the grandparents and relatives who visited the school on Grandparents day. We were so delighted to be able to welcome so many guests on the day. Check out our APS Instagram for some fabulous photos of all the fun that was had! <https://www.instagram.com/athenryprimaryschool/>

Enrolments for September 2025

Enrolment forms for pupils due to start school in September 2025 are available from the office and on our website at www.athenryprimaryschool.ie. The closing date for receipt of completed forms is Monday, February 24th. Due to the high interest for places, please ensure any siblings who are due to start in September 2025 have their application submitted before this date.

Creative Homework for February

Pupils from 1st to 6th are taking part in a Creative Homework initiative as part of Creative Clusters organised by Aisling McKenna. This involves pupils swapping out regular homework for creative homework one day each week for the month of February. Pupils are challenged to use their imagination and be playful in creating, designing, making, building, crafting or baking something. Keep an eye on our Instagram page for a taste of the immense creativity of our pupil cohort. We are very impressed!

Peace Proms

Pupils from Mrs Greally'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). Pupils will be travelling to Limerick on the day by bus. It will depart Campus B at 9am.

Please Note

- After the performance pupils can return home with their parents
- **If you are not attending the performance and therefore not in a position to bring your child home from Limerick, please contact Campus B office asap so that transport arrangements can be made.**

Band

Band practice is continuing every Wednesday on both Campus A & B, 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. We trust that you can understand why attendance on St Patrick's Day itself is mandatory for all the participating 4th to 6th class pupils. We are a marching band team and without ALL of our team players on the day we would be unable to perform as we would like and celebrate our school on the day itself. Thanking you in advance for your continued support and co-operation.

Sacrament Preparation for 2nd and 6th

Confirmation enrolment mass is taking place on Saturday February 15th at 6.30pm in Athenry church. The Confirmation programme is being delivered to the boys and girls in 6th class on Campus B on a weekly basis between now & the end of April. The next First Communion mass is taking place on Saturday February 22nd at 6.30pm in Athenry church. First Confession is due to take place in the school on Thursday March 13th from 11am to 12.30pm

Green Schools

The Green School Committee led by Mr Kelly's 6th class are still working on their Battery Recycling campaign, so if you have used batteries lying around the house, please feel free to drop them in to school. A big thank you to Ms Hyland's Class who continue to keep our school environment litter free as part of their Picker Pals Project. Pupils on Campus B enjoyed a "Biodiversity Day" with Micheál Coughlan last week, as part of the Heritage Keepers Programme. Heritage Keepers is a free programme for schools that enables pupils to explore the Built, Natural & Cultural heritage of their local area and then plan a funded action to enhance their area.

Chess

Mr Kelly brought 3 teams of 8 (24 children) to the Ficheall Chess Tournament in Lisheenkyle National School yesterday. The pupils played some excellent chess and represented our school very well.

Soccer

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

Cycling Workshop

Each year, the Parents' Council part-fund a cycling workshop for 6th class pupils. This workshop is provided over a number of sessions and is delivered by "Cycle Right". The workshops are scheduled to commence after the Easter holidays, when the weather is more favourable. The pupils are encouraged to use their own bicycles and helmets, where possible.

Bus Escort

The school is looking to employ someone to work as a Bus Escort for two children in the school who have additional physical needs. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact the office on Campus A in order to discuss the details with Mrs Cronin.