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NEWSLETTER

Issue: 08

March 19th 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thankfully spring has finally sprung and the brighter mornings and evenings are lifting all our spirits. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Gavan Duffy on his recent appointment to Acting Deputy Principal of Athenry Primary School. Mr Duffy brings a wealth of experience to the role and I am very much looking forward to working with him into the future. Mr Duffy and I will meet regularly to plan and coordinate activities across both campuses as we strive to create opportunities for both campuses to collaborate and meet together. One such recent opportunity has been our wonderful school band. The staff and I were incredibly proud of our senior pupils who represented our school so brilliantly on St Patrick's Day. We felt it was a very special occasion and performance with over 200 APS pupils taking part. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to you, our parent community, for the support you give us always. These occasions wouldn't be possible without your support.

Kind regards,

Cathriona Cronin

Important Dates to note

- **Pres matinee performance of "Grease"**. Sixth class pupils are attending in Kilcornan on April 8th
- **Easter Holidays**: school closes at 12 noon on Friday April 11th and re-opens on Monday April 28th
- **Confirmation**: Saturday May 17th at 2.30pm in Athenry church
- **First Communion**: Saturday May 24th at 2pm in Athenry church
- **Term 3 Staff Training for Bí Cineálta: revised Anti Bullying procedures for schools**: Thursday May 29th: School closes at 1.15pm for all pupils

Board of Management Nominations

We are delighted to announce that the Board of Management for Athenry Primary School has been finalised.

- Patron Nominees are Mr Stiofán Ó Moráin (Chairperson) and Fr Charlie McDonnell
- Staff representatives are Mrs Cathriona Cronin (Secretary) and Ms Veronica Murray
- Parent Representatives are Mr Paul Fitzgerald (Treasurer) and Mrs Rachel Moore
- Community Representatives are: Mr Philip Casey and Mrs Catherine Mannion

Peace Proms

- A huge "well done" to our 5th and 6th class pupils who represented our school so well at the Peace Proms in Limerick recently. It was a fantastic show from beginning to end and the children gave it 100%.
- A special word of thanks to Mr Duffy, Mrs Morrissey & Mrs Greally for all their hard work in preparing the children for the concert, which featured over 1000 pupils and the very talented Cross Border Orchestra.

- We have ordered a CD of the show so that the pupils can look back on their brilliant performance



APS School Band March on St Patrick's Day

- Huge congratulations to our senior pupils who marched in the school band on St Patrick's Day. They were absolutely superb and we are all extremely proud of each and every one of them for representing us and the school in the way they did.
- A very special word of thanks and appreciation to our band leader, Miss Murray, for coordinating this huge operation; we are very lucky to have her musical expertise.
- Sincere thanks also to all the staff who taught the pupils their tunes and to all the staff who were present on the day. We are indeed the sum of our parts!



Attendance

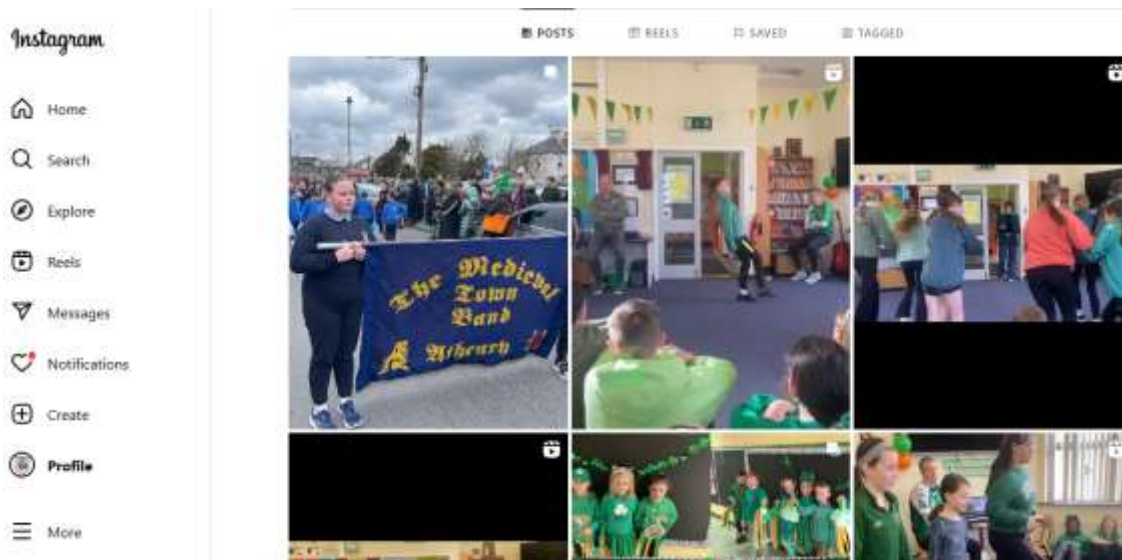
Congratulations to Miss O'Connor's Evergreen Class who had the best attendance for the month of February!

Social Media

Please keep abreast of all our school activities on our two main platforms. A special word of thanks to Mr Hanley and Mrs Morrissey who moderate both of these and keep them up-to-date always

Website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/athenryprimaryschool/>



Seachtain na Gaeilge

- We had a wonderful week last week celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge. A Sincere thanks to all the members of staff who helped organise all the events. Check out our Instagram page for some of the highlights!



School Photographer

- We received the proofs of the school photographs taken by County Photos last week.
- If you wish to order any photos of your child/children, you are encouraged to do so on-line by following the instructions included with the proofs.
- If you are unable to process your order on-line you may return your order in the envelope provided, to the office. The envelope should include the exact money owed. These envelopes will be collected by County Photos on Thursday of this week (March 20th).

Sacrament Preparation for 2nd and 6th

- Congratulations to all the boys and girls in 2nd class who made their First Confession last week
- The Confirmation programme is being delivered to the boys and girls in 6th class on Campus B on a weekly basis between now and the end of April.
- The next First Communion mass is taking place on Saturday March 22nd at 6.30pm in Athenry Church.

Accelerated Reading:

- The Accelerated Reader Programme continues on both campus A and B and we are delighted with the high levels of engagement and progress reported across classes.




World Book Day








- The school received World book day tokens for all the children in the school.
- Sincere thanks to Mr Kelly who exchanged the tokens with Charlie Byrne’s book shop and got copies of the different World Book day books for the school.
- We have booked our annual book fair with Tara Book Company for the week after the Easter holidays. There will be a physical book fair in the library of campus B but parents will also be able to order the books online. More details will follow closer to the time.
- We will have a favourite book or character dress up day during the week of the Bookfair.

Parents Council

- There will be a Parents Council meeting tonight Wednesday March 19th at 7.30pm on Campus A. Any parents who are available are welcome to attend.
- Our “Sponsored Walk” has been provisionally scheduled for Friday April 11th. Details to be discussed at PC meeting this evening
- A sponsorship card will be given to each family in the school closer to the time.
- All proceeds raised will go to the Parents Council to fund workshops, buses, treats etc. for the children throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular – Lots to look forward to!

Soccer 	Well done to the boys from 5 th & 6 th class who won the FAI 5s soccer competition last month!
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<p>Camogie Hurling Gaelic Football</p> 	<p>Cormac Mulry (GAA Games Development Officer) will provide Camogie / Hurling and Football coaching to pupils from Junior Infants up to 3rd class for the rest of the school year.</p> <p>Mr Burke will provide Camogie / Hurling coaching to all interested 4th, 5th & 6th class pupils on Campus B pitch</p> <p>Mr Duffy & Ms Melville will provide Gaelic Football coaching to all interested 4th, 5th & 6th class pupils</p> <p>Class teachers will let the pupils know what day they will have coaching. If pupils have their own helmet and hurley they should bring them to school on the given day.</p>
<p>Volleyball</p> 	<p>Transition Year pupils from Coláiste an Eachreidh will provide volleyball training to some of the Senior classes over the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Gymnastics</p> 	<p>Miss Rhattigan is a qualified gymnastics coach and she will deliver some gymnastics lessons to the pupils in term 3</p>
<p>Cycling</p> 	<p>Each year the Parents Council part-fund a cycling workshop for the 6th class pupils. This workshop is provided over a number of sessions and is delivered by “Cycle Right”. The workshops will commence after Easter and will mainly take place outdoors. The pupils are encouraged to use their own bicycles and helmets, where possible.</p>
<p>Basketball</p> 	<p>A team of 10 girls from 5th & 6th class will be entering the annual schools basketball blitz, due to take place in Cregmore National School on Tuesday May 13th.</p>
<p>Swimming</p> 	<p>The pupils in both 3rd classes will be attending swimming lessons in the Raheen Woods in May. They will walk to and from the hotel each morning accompanied by staff.</p>
<p>Athletics</p> 	<p>The Athletics County Sports will take place in Dangan on May 21st. Mr McDonald, who has a keen interest in running, will select athletes to take part in the different events and provide some training sessions over the next few weeks to help them prepare</p>

School Tours

Below is a summary of tours booked for all classes:

Date	Class Teacher	Venue
Wednesday May 28 th	Mr McDonald (Senior Infants) Mrs Stewart (Senior Infants) Miss Dolan (Senior Infants)	Turoe Pet Farm, Bullaun, Co. Galway
Friday May 30 th	Mr Naughton (Junior Infants) Mrs Duffy (Junior Infants) Miss Dolan (Junior Infants) Miss O'Connor (Special class)	Turoe Pet Farm, Bullaun, Co. Galway

Friday May 30 th	Miss Murray (4 th class) Mrs Monson (4 th class) Miss Hyland (4 th class)	Bay Sports, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Tuesday June 10 th	Mrs Greally (5 th class) Mr Burke (5 th class) Mr McAndrew (5 th class) Mr Duffy (6 th class) Mr Kelly (6 th class) Mrs Morrissey (6 th class)	Emerald Park, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Monday June 16 th	Mrs Murphy (2 nd class) Ms McHugh (2 nd class)	Wildlands, Moycullen, Co. Galway
Friday June 20 th	Miss Curran (3 rd class) Ms Kennedy (3 rd class)	Pure Skill, Knocknacarra, Galway
Monday June 23 rd	Mr Hanley (1 st class) Ms McSpadden (1 st class) Miss Lambe (1 st class)	Let's Go! Kingfisher, NUIG, Galway