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NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our Parents Council Association (PCA) whole school sponsored walk is taking place this Friday at 9:15am. We would love to invite any parents who are available on Friday morning to come and join us. The pupils are really looking forward to it and we would like to express our thanks to the PCA for their help throughout the school year with fundraising. It makes such a difference. Can we please ask you to help support this fundraiser by returning your child's sponsorship card before Friday. All contributions, big and small, will be very much appreciated. Funds raised will go towards subsidising buses for extracurricular school events and trips as well as subsidising workshops organised in the school, purchasing sports equipment for our yards and providing treats to coincide with important occasions in the school such as Sacramental Days and Sports Day.

It is hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner; this term flew by. The staff and I wish all our families a very healthy and happy Easter.

The School Calendar for 25/26 is attached also for your perusal.

Kind regards,

Cathríona Cronin

Important Dates to note

- **Pres matinee performance of "Grease".** Sixth class pupils are attending in Leisureland on May 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 2.30pm in Athenry Church
- **Term 3 Staff Training for Bí Cineálta: revised Anti Bullying procedures for schools:** Thursday May 22nd. School closes at 12 noon for all pupils
- **Junior Infants 2025/2026 Open day:** Friday June 13th from 1:00pm to 2.00pm. *(All pupils in this year's Junior & Senior infant classes will go home at 12.30pm on this day)*



First Confession

Congratulations to our Second Class boys and girls who made their first Confession on March 13th. Both Fr Charlie and Fr Benny were present on the day to confer the sacrament on them and they were exceptional in every way. Our two second classes and their teachers, Mrs McHugh and Ms Murphy are now very busy preparing for Holy Communion next month.



Autism Awareness Day

APS celebrated Autism Awareness Day on Wednesday April 2nd. The colour blue, associated with calm and acceptance, is the primary colour designated for autism and hence the staff and pupils wore blue to mark this special day. A big thank you to the children from 3rd-6th who worked hard to create blue bracelets for every child to wear on the day also. In the days leading up to this celebration, all classes attended autism awareness workshops delivered by Ms O'Connor. These workshops explored the sensory and communication differences experienced by autistic people and the strategies we can use to support them every day. The children also became familiar with the daily routines in Evergreen, our school's autism class. Thank you to all who made the day very special.



Technology Update

Every child from fourth class to sixth class has access to their own chromebook or Macbook. This has been made possible by the provision of IT grants to schools, coupled with generous donations from parents working with Multi-national companies and powerful fundraising by our PGA. Technology plays a key role in supporting pupils learning in Senior rooms which helps greatly when transitioning to Secondary Schools.

School Uniform Crested Shorts

We are delighted to see that the new uniform shorts are making their way into the school and the pupil feedback is very positive. A reminder that the *Uniform Crested Shorts* are available to purchase from the School Wear Centre in Liosbán and GM Designwear in Claregalway. We are kindly asking that all other branded shorts are not worn to school. Thank you very much for your support here.

Social Media

Please keep abreast of all our school events and activities on our three main platforms below. A special word of thanks to Mr Hanley and Mrs Morrissey who moderate and keep them up-to-date always with all the wonderful things taking place in APS.

Website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

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

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/cHcBhSVUzr0?feature=shared>

Accelerated Reading

- The Accelerated Reader Programme continues on both campus A and B for 335 pupils!! We are delighted with the high levels of engagement and progress reported across classes to date this year.



Annual Book Fair

- Our annual book fair in partnership with Tara Book Company is taking place after the Easter holidays and will run from Monday April 28th until Tuesday May 6th
- There will be a physical book fair in the library of Campus B and all classes will get the opportunity to visit it. The book fair will also be available on-line
- Children are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book on Friday May 2nd

Attendance

Congratulations to Miss Lambe's 1st class who had the best attendance for the month of March!

Parish Cup 2025

Well done to our 3rd/4th and 5th/6th hurlers for their wins at the Parish Cup in Carnaun recently and a special word of thanks to Mr Burke for training and supporting the teams.



Modern Foreign Languages

- The Department are funding the provision of Modern Foreign Language classes for 3rd to 6th class pupils
- We are offering German classes to interested pupils, starting after the Easter Holidays
- The classes will run for 8 weeks and they will take place after school
- The classes will be offered to pupils in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th classes and will be given by Eithne Kennedy
 - 3rd class: Monday 2.30 to 3.30 in Ms Curran's (Starting: April 28th)
 - 4th class: Tuesday 2.30 to 3.30 in Miss Murray's Room 16 (Starting April 29th)
 - 5th class: Wednesday 2.30 to 3.30 in Mrs Greally's Room Campus B (Starting April 30th)
 - 6th class: Thursday 2.30 to 3.30 in Mr Duffy's Room Campus B (Starting May 1st)
- Parents must sign a consent form to give permission for their child to stay on after school for the extra hour on the given day. These will be handed out this week.
- Places are limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Cash for Clobber Collection



Accepted items:	Unacceptable items:
All items of clothing – even with holes Bags and shoes (pairs) Hats and belts Towels and curtains Bed linen (sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers) Ties  All items must be cleaned	No BRIC 'a' BRAC No Dirty/Wet Clothing No single shoes No duvets or cushions No mats/Carpets 



- We are holding a **Cash for Clobber** collection this term. This scheme raises awareness of textile recycling among children and to show how essential it is for everyone in the 'developed world' to reduce, reuse and recycle
- It is also a great way of raising funds for our school
- If you have any unwanted textile items, you can put them into a refuse sack / bin bag and drop the bags to Campus A or B on or before **Wednesday April 30th**
- The bags will be collected by Cookstown Textile Recyclers, who will sort the clothes and recycle them.
- Low grade material is used for industrial wipers and fillings, good quality clothes are re-used in the developing world.
- Perhaps you could encourage family and friends to donate their unwanted textiles too?

Extra-Curricular – Lots to look forward to in APS!!!!

Camogie Hurling Gaelic Football 	GAA coaching is continuing throughout the school and will continue into term 3. Thanks to Cormac Mulry (GAA Games Development Officer) and all our own teachers for providing this for the pupils There will be a Parish Hurling & Gaelic football event in Carnaun for the boys in 1st & 2nd classes after Easter After Easter the senior boys and girls will be competing in the Cumann na mBunscoil hurling tournament
Volleyball 	Transition Year pupils from Coláiste an Eachreidh are delivering 5 volleyball coaching sessions to the three 4th classes over the coming weeks. The coaching is taking place in the yard of Coláiste an Eachreidh. At the end of the 5 sessions, they will take part in a blitz against Gael Scoil Riada.
Gymnastics 	Miss Rhattigan is a qualified gymnastics coach and she will deliver some gymnastics lessons to the pupils in term 3
Cycling 	Cycling workshops for 6th class will commence after Easter. The pupils are encouraged to use their own bicycles and helmets, where possible.
Basketball 	Congratulations to the boys & girls from 3rd & 4th class who represented Athenry in the u-11 Community Games last week (Ania O'Driscoll, Pdraic Monaghan, Evie Flannery, Holly Cleary & Kayleigh Quinn). They beat Moycullen 14-11 and will now play Maree in the County Final!

	Mr Kelly will select and coach a team of girls from 5 th & 6 th class to take part in the annual schools basketball blitz, due to take place in Cregmore National School on Tuesday May 13 th
Swimming 	The pupils in both 3 rd classes will be attending swimming lessons in the Raheen Woods during the week of Monday May 12 th to Friday May 16 th . The cost of the lessons is €20 per person. They pupils will walk to and from the hotel each morning accompanied by staff
Athletics 	The Athletics County Sports will take place in Dangan on May 21 st . Mr McDonald will be selecting athletes to take part in the different events and is providing some training sessions at the Athenry Running Track over the next few weeks to help them prepare

School Tours

Below is a summary of tours booked for all classes. The charge for the school tour will be put up on Aladdin after Easter

Date	Class Teacher	Venue	Price
Wednesday May 28 th	Mr McDonald (Senior Infants) Mrs Stewart (Senior Infants) Miss Dolan (Senior Infants)	Turoe Pet Farm, Bullaun, Co. Galway	€25
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	€25
Friday May 30 th	Miss Murray (4 th class) Mrs Monson (4 th class) Miss Hyland (4 th class)	Bay Sports, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	€50
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	€45
Monday June 16 th	Mrs Murphy (2 nd class) Ms McHugh (2 nd class)	Wildlands, Moycullen, Co. Galway	€45
Friday June 20 th	Miss Curran (3 rd class) Ms Kennedy (3 rd class)	Pure Skill, Knocknacarra, Galway	€40
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	€40

Junior Infants 2025 / 2026:

- Next year's Junior Infants are invited to come into the school on **Friday June 13th from 1pm to 2pm** to meet the teachers and their new classmates.
- Pupils in the current Junior & Senior Infant classes will go home at 12.30pm on that day to free up the teachers & classrooms for the visiting pupils.

- The Junior Infants do not need to wear the school uniform nor do they need to bring a school bag. Parents are invited to gather in the school hall while the children are in the classrooms. This will give parents the chance to meet one another and have a chat with school management

Community Links.... ...A snapshot



Congratulations to Mr Duffy's 6th class who helped design the winning float at the St Patrick's Day Parade. Our Senior classes had been engaging with Athenry Playground Committee helping to raise awareness of the plight of our local playground.



Mrs Greally's 5th class engaged with the Town Centre First Plan recently where they explored what our town has to offer and what improvements could be made for the future.



Our school has forged a strong link with Athenry Library who facilitates class visits on a regular basis. We are very fortunate to have access to such a great facility on our doorstep.



We have been asked to share details of this fund raiser for the Playground with you all. Tickets can be purchased online at:

https://donorbox.org/events/756366/steps/choose_tickets