

Athenry Primary School Newsletter

"LIFE IS BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER"

Issue 01 — September 9th, 2025



Athenry Primary School Reminders Newsletter

Issue 01 — September 10th, 2025

Motto: LIFE IS BETTER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER

Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The staff and I are delighted to welcome you to a new school year at APS. Together, we look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and positive experiences for all pupils, staff, and families. We hope all our families have settled back into school life and routines.

Thankfully, our wonderful secretary Eithne is back in the office, and we can all look forward to her warm welcome, friendly support, and efficient organisation throughout the school year. Eithne had been away due to the recent industrial action, and we are truly delighted to have her back with us.

This year we are especially looking forward to building on our school motto: **“Life is better when we work together.”** It reminds us that education is not just about academic achievement, but also about kindness, teamwork, and respect for one another.

We are grateful for your continued support and encouragement, and we know that by working hand in hand, we can ensure a safe, happy, and successful year for all.

The following newsletter is a summary of some key reminders and our most asked questions. A second newsletter will issue later this month as we keep you updated on all activities happening within the school. Please take note of 5 compulsory closures for our school over the next three terms.

Important School Closures 2025/2026

- 24 Oct 2025 – Presidential Election (Campus A is polling station)
- 3 Nov 2025 – Whole School Child Protection Training
- 11 Mar 2026 – Primary Curriculum Framework Day 1
- 4 Jun 2026 – Primary Curriculum Framework Day 2
- Term 1 (awaiting date) – Autism Whole Staff Training (NCSE)

?? Staff News

- We welcome some New Staff to the APS Team: Tara Fitzgerald (SNA), Niamh Fox (SNA in Evergreen), Finola Leahy (supply teacher) and Emily Moynihan (covering maternity leaves in Second Class)
- Staff saying goodbye: Ms. Finnula Kennedy has taken a position in a school close to her home. We are sad to see her go but wish her every success in her new school. Ann Poniard, our wonderful Campus B secretary has retired. We wish her every happiness in this new chapter of her life

🎨 Upcoming Teacher Afterschool clubs

- Ms Alani is running a 6 week art club for First Class pupils starting September 16th. Flyers will be distributed to all classes concerned
- Mrs Mc Kenna is running a pottery workshop on Campus B starting today the 10th. Places are limited. Flyers have been distributed to pupils.

📅 Daily Routines & Reminders

Start of Day (Campus A): Arrive by 8.45am → Line up in yard → Class begins 8.50am. Late arrivals enter via main entrance/intercom.

Parents of all children are requested to say goodbye to their children in the yard and let them enter the building / prefab by themselves. This is to foster your child's independence

Pick-Up Times: Infants – 1.30pm | 1st–6th Class – 2.30pm

Collection: Infants released at exit doors. 1st Class – Parents confirm collection point via Aladdin message to teachers or office. 2nd–6th – Pupils leave independently.

Any child who is not collected after dismissal should return to the main entrance and wait near the Principal's office. Contact will be made with home.

📅 Uniform

- Navy joggers, light blue polo shirt, navy crested sweatshirt
- Knee-length navy crested shorts
- 📄 Leggings are not permitted please
- Raincoats required on wet days please
- Label ALL clothing items please
- We will be strictly enforcing the observation of the school uniform and your co-operation to ensure that your child wears the full school uniform every day is most appreciated. Staff will be carrying out uniform spot-checks to ensure compliance.

📌 Aladdin App

- Remember to Enable notifications
- Record absences after marked please
- Please Pay school costs via the app
- We kindly request all outstanding monies for school costs be paid as soon as possible
- Join “Class List” to share contact details (optional) with other parents in your child’s class

📌 Healthy Eating & Lunches

Free Hot School Lunches provided daily by HotSchoolMeals.ie. Please visit www.hotschoolmeals.ie for full menu and nutritional breakdown of meals

All the children have been assigned their Username & Password to access www.hotschoolmeals.ie. (If you have misplaced your access details please contact the office).

Fruit (bananas, apples, oranges and pears) will be supplied twice weekly from Burkes Fruit & Veg.

Children must bring a small snack + drink every day (milk/water encouraged).

Healthy Eating Policy is in effect – please see attached summary.

📌 No birthday cakes/buns in school. 📌 Invitations not distributed in school please.

📌 Health & Safety

- No cars on school grounds please (except by agreement with Principal)
- Use church car park, Bridge St., Court Lane, or outside Campus B where limited parking exists
- Heavy traffic near Campus A – please be patient & cautious
- The Board of Management is not responsible for pupils before 8.45am and after 2.30pm (unless taking part in an after-school activity)
- Only staff members may enter the school building unless by prior appointment.
- Please send messages to teachers via Aladdin noticeboard **or** phone the school office **on** 091 844510

📌 Attendance & Punctuality

Every Day Counts! Missing just a few minutes adds up:

- 10 mins/day → Nearly ½ year lost over 13 years
- 20 mins/day → Nearly 1 year lost
- 30 mins/day → Nearly 1.5 years lost

- 1 hour/day → Over 2.5 years lost
Absences over 20 days/year must be reported to the Education Welfare Board.

Health & Medical

- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is feeling very unwell (48hr rule for vomiting/diarrhoea)
- Inform school of medical issues please (all information is confidential)
- Head lice: check & treat regularly (long hair tied back)
- Update the office with new address, phone, or email if anything has changed
- Nut-free school – strictly no nut products please

Youth Academy (University of Galway)

For high ability 4th–6th Class pupils.

Eligibility: Standardised score 123+, Sten 9–10, or 95th percentile

Apply Online: www.universityofgalway.ie/youthacademy

Applications: Closing today so please log on if interested

Attachments

- School Calendar 2025/2026
- Healthy Eating Policy (Summary)

With every good wish for the year ahead,

Cathriona Cronin
Acting Principal