Athenry Primary School
Campus A, Tuam Rd, Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 C860
Phone: 091 844 510 Email: office@athenryprimaryschool.ie
Website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

APS Newsletter – Issue 4 - October 22nd

Life is better when we work together

Please follow us on our very active Instagram account @athenryprimaryschool to keep up-to-date with everything that is happening in our very active school … or log on to our website at www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of October, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a wonderful and productive start to the school year. Our pupils have taken part in a wide range of trips, workshops, and activities, all of which have contributed greatly to their learning and enjoyment.

It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and positive attitude shown by our pupils in all aspects of school life. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff for their hard work and commitment, and to our wonderful parents for their continued support and encouragement**.**

I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved October break — a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on November 4th.

Kind regards,
Cathríona Cronin
Acting Principal

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- School Closure on Oct 24th as CA is being used for Presidential Election
- School Closure on Nov 3rd for Staff New Child Protection Guidelines Training
- Nov 4th-Diocesan Visit for CB
- Nov 4th- the O'Duffy Cup is visiting both campuses with some special guests!!
- Nov 14th-Diocesan Visit for CA
- Nov 19th and 20th- PT meetings for both CA and CB
- Nov 21st –Presentation Day Mass for the school at 10am

Staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Deirdre Farrell to our APS team as School Secretary on CB Campus. Deirdre has already made a wonderful start, and we are thrilled to have her as part of the APS community. We know she will quickly become an invaluable member of our staff and will be a friendly and familiar face for pupils, parents, and visitors alike.

We also wish Ms. Dolan every happiness as she begins her maternity leave. We send her our warmest wishes as she begins this exciting new chapter in her life.

Parent–Teacher Meetings

Our Parent–Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday November 19th and Thursday November 20th, across both campuses. These meetings provide an important opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss pupils' progress, achievements, and next steps in learning.

This year, appointments will once again be booked through Aladdin, allowing parents to choose a time that best suits their schedule. We encourage all parents to take part — strong communication between home and school makes a huge difference to each child's learning journey.

Please note that pupils will finish at 2:00 p.m. on both of these days to facilitate the meetings.

Please note also that PT meetings for Junior Infants will take place after Christmas.

Attendance

Good attendance plays a vital role in every child's development, both academically and socially. Mr Duffy and I oversee attendance across the school and work closely with class teachers to support families where attendance may become a concern.

We ask that parents continue to make every effort to ensure their children are in school on time and every day unless unwell. Consistency builds confidence, helps children stay connected to their learning, and strengthens friendships and routines.

We appreciate your cooperation and partnership in promoting positive attendance habits from an early age.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

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DID YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD'S BEST LEARNING TIME IS AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY???

He/She is only missing just …	That equals…	Which is…	And over 13 years of schooling that's…
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly Half a year
20 mins per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

Congratulations to Mr Hanley's First Class for winning best attendance for the month of September!

Christmas Corner

🎄 Save the Date: Tuesday, December 10th – Whole School Nativity in Athenry Church

Preparations are already underway for what promises to be a joyful occasion, with every class contributing to this special celebration of the season. Further details will be shared after the mid-term break.

We are also delighted to be supporting the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible. Since 2010, Team Hope have delivered over 2.5 million Shoebox gifts to Vulnerable Children across the world. Each child has received an information leaflet explaining how to take part. This initiative encourages pupils to think of others and share kindness with children who may be less fortunate.
Shoeboxes will be collected on November 10th. We thank families in advance for your generosity and compassion. You can also find information about the appeal on www.teamhope.ie

Fundraisers

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all our amazing pupils, parents, and staff for your incredible support of our Annual Halloween Bake Sale. The event was a huge success — full of creativity, community spirit, and delicious treats!

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised an impressive €2,255 which will go directly towards enhancing our school yards. We are currently exploring ideas for new play equipment, seating, and outdoor learning spaces to make break times even more enjoyable for our pupils.

Thank you in advance to all the pupils and parents who are supporting our Halloween Non-Uniform day tomorrow. Each pupil is being asked to bring either €1 or €2 to school and all monies raised will go towards Athenry Playground which is an amenity much loved and used by our school community.

Your ongoing support for school fundraising makes a real and lasting difference — thank you!

Student Voice 2025–2026

Our Student Voice Committee held its first meeting of the year with myself and Mr. Hanley on October 20th. We were so impressed by the pupils' enthusiasm and the thoughtful ideas they shared about how to make APS an even better place to learn and play.

The committee will meet regularly throughout the year to discuss topics such as playground improvements, environmental awareness, wellbeing, and student-led initiatives. It's wonderful to see our pupils take such pride in having a voice and a say in school life — true leaders in action!

Music

Band is in full swing this month as we prepare for our first performance of the year on November 28th when the Athenry Christmas Lights are turned on. The band plays a special role in the life of APS and in the wider Athenry community. It boasts an incredible 212 pupils, supported by 16 staff members who teach instruments across both sites and coordinated by our talented Band Co-ordinator, Ms. Murray. We are so proud of our pupils' commitment to music and performance — it is a joy to hear their progress and passion throughout the year.

Reading Corner

We are delighted to unveil our new Accelerated Reader (AR) Library on Campus A, beautifully built by our talented caretaker, Mr. Jack Hallissey. The new space is bright, welcoming, and filled with exciting titles for all reading levels.

Our AR Programme continues to be a tremendous success. Pupils are setting personal reading goals, exploring new genres, and growing in confidence as independent readers. We are deeply grateful to

Mr. Shane Kelly for his ongoing work in maintaining our AR libraries on both campuses — ensuring they remain current, engaging, and well-stocked with pupil favourites.

📚 Reading Snapshot
In just a few short weeks, our pupils have read thousands of pages, taken dozens of quizzes, and shown incredible enthusiasm for books. Keep up the great work, everyone!

Board of Management (BOM)

The Board of Management held its Term 1 meeting on October 8th. We discussed a wide range of items relating to school life, development, and wellbeing.

The Agreed Report from the meeting is available to view on our school website at the following link:
🔗 Agreed Report – October 2025

We thank the members of the Board for their continued dedication and support in guiding the strategic direction of our school.

Parents' Association 2025–2026

A big thank you to all parents who attended our Parents' Association AGM last week. We are delighted to announce this year's committee:

- Chairperson: Ursula Brady

- Secretary: Pavithra Kannan
- Treasurer: Claire Watson

This year, we hope to have a parent representative from each class so that every group in the school community has a voice. The PA plays a key role in supporting school events, fundraising, and community building, and we are so appreciative of the time and effort given by our volunteers.

The first meeting of the newly formed PA will take place on November 13th at 7:30 p.m. on CA Campus. Mr. Duffy and I are very much looking forward to meeting the group and planning another great year of collaboration between school and home.

Maths Week 2025

We had so much active learning and fun during Maths Week where the focus was on using our Maths Eyes to see Maths in the world all around us. The pupils enjoyed Maths trails and games on CB, Maths stations in the hall on CA, some Maths trails around the town linking in with local businesses and of course Maths dress up day!

Birthday Invitations

It is school policy that invitations to birthday parties are not distributed at school out of respect to children who may not get an invite. You can join a "Class list" on Aladdin, by changing your security settings – this allows you to see contact details for parents of other children in your child's class, provided you have given permission for your details to be shared also.

Future Initiatives for our School

Gavan Duffy has submitted a new Green Schools application for us in year two of our amalgamation. We are starting afresh and back to step one where we will look at reducing waste, recycling and reusing.

Roisín O'Connor is leading us in Creative Schools this year where we will aim to give our pupils the opportunity to experience creativity as an integral part of their education placing the arts and creativity at the centre of school life. We have been assigned a Creative Associate who will work with us to develop a bespoke plan.

Sixth Class Tops

Our Sixth Class pupils have collaborated with their teachers on designing a new Sixth Class end of primary school half zip top as an alternative to the hoody of recent years. The following is the agreed design which features the Athenry colours and of course our lovely APS crest. We are hoping the Parents Association will make a contribution towards this lovely project with the tops being given to the pupils in term 2.

Our Instagram page features some great photos from the following extracurricular events that took place over the last few weeks. Please follow us to keep up-to-date with life in APS!!! We are a very talented and busy bunch!!

- Basketball workshops
- INTO mini 7s hurling and Camogie
- PCA Hurling Competition
- SNA Appreciation Day
- Coole Park Trips
- Cross County Running
- Heritage Centre Visits
- Space Week

- Maths Week
- Library Visits
- Creative by Nature Heritage Council Workshops
- Babaro Drama Festival in Galway
- Infants trip to the Market
- Halloween Bake sale and Dress Up day
- ….to name a few……