

Athenry Primary School

Life is better when we work together



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wed Nov 19th & Thurs Nov 20th – school finishes at 2pm on both days for Parent-Teacher Meetings
- Friday Nov 21st: Presentation Day Mass at 10am.
- Friday Nov 28th: Lighting of the Christmas Tree Band Performance
- Wednesday Dec 10th: Christmas Concert in Athenry Church at 11am.
- Wednesday Dec 17th: Parents' Association Christmas Bumper Raffle.
- Friday Dec 19th: School closes at 12 noon for Christmas holidays.
- Monday Jan 5th: School reopens.

Principal's Welcome

As we approach the festive season, we have so much to look forward to and many exciting events ahead.

We are delighted to share that 172 Christmas Shoeboxes were collected this year – a wonderful testament to the kindness and generosity of our school community.

Our Halloween Dress-Up Day on October 23rd also raised €557 for the Athenry Playground group who are extremely appreciative and grateful for your support. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful amenity right on our doorstep.

A sincere thank you to all our parents, guardians, pupils, and staff for your continued kindness, support, and involvement in school life. We hope this newsletter gives you a clear and cheerful insight into everything happening across both campuses.

*Kind regards,
Cathriona Cronin
Acting Principal*

Catholic Ethos

Both campuses welcomed the Diocesan Schools Team who visited classes for prayer and reflection on Nov 4th and 14th. The team was very impressed with the pupils engagement and welcome.

In November we remember the Holy Souls. Our wonderful SNA team have created beautiful "Remembrance Trees" which are on display in each campus. All children have been given the opportunity to write the name of a loved one who has passed away on a piece of paper shaped like a leaf. All the leaves are hung on the remembrance tree. This is a small gesture for us all to remember our loved ones who have passed away.

Presentation Day (Nov 21st): 3rd-6th class will attend 10am Mass.

Sacrament Dates:

First Confession: Thurs March 5th, 11am (Campus A)

Confirmation: Sat April 25th, 2.30pm, Athenry Church

First Communion: Sat May 16th, 2.30pm, Athenry Church

School News & Staffing Updates

- Miss Murray will transition to a Special Education position from Monday, November 24th. Miss Katie Lambe will take over her 4th class. We wish both teachers every success.
- Congratulations to Ms Dolan, who welcomed a beautiful baby boy last week!
- Well done to Ms Hynes' Evergreen Class for having the best attendance in October.

Follow us on Instagram
[@athenryprimaryschool](#) or visit our website www.athenryprimaryschool.ie to stay up to date with all the wonderful activities happening in our vibrant school community.

All Ireland Camogie Champions Visit our School

We were honoured to welcome members of the Galway Camogie Team to both campuses on November 4th, proudly carrying the magnificent O'Duffy Cup.

Sabina, Olwen, Kayla (past pupil) and Dervla shared inspiring words with the pupils, offering encouragement, advice and great positivity.

These Athenry girls are flying the flag for Athenry Camogie – truly wonderful role models for all our young athletes.



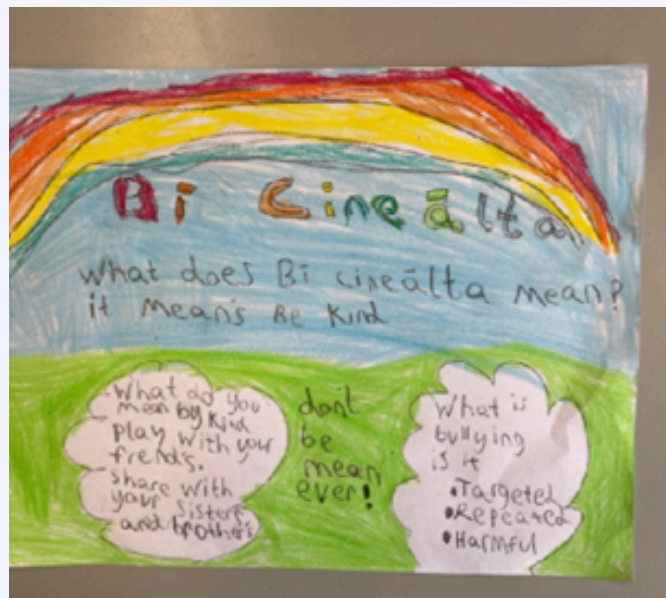
Science Week

We celebrated Science Week with hands-on exciting STEM activities. This year's theme, 'Then Today Tomorrow', encouraged pupils to explore how science shapes our lives.

Campus B conducted experiments to investigate the best type of insulation for an egg to prevent it cracking when dropped from a height and also had great fun with a slow parachute race!

There were also plenty of Science activities on Campus A with children learning about surface tension, science and energy, snakes, friction and much more!

We look forward to welcoming Scientific Sue this Friday, November 21st, for workshops with 1st-6th classes.



Bí Cineálta – Anti-Bullying Initiative

Our Bí Cineálta (Be Kind) programme continues across all classes. Pupils were invited to design a child-friendly version of our anti-bullying policy. The creativity shown has been outstanding. One design will soon be digitalised and displayed across both campuses.



Christmas Corner

Lighting of the Christmas Tree
Band Performance
Nov 28th

Parents Association
Bumper Christmas Raffle

The APS Marching Band (comprising 213 pupils from 4th to 6th class) will be performing at this event.

The children are putting a lot of hard work into this performance and we would be very grateful if you would support us by being present on this occasion.

All band members are requested to:

- arrive in school at 6pm (Gates & yard doors will be locked, so please use one of the 3 front doors)
- wear their full school uniform.
- wear extra layers under their uniform.
- bring a raincoat.
- wear their hair in plaits, if possible.
- wear Santa Claus hats or reindeer hair bands (optional).

Children can be collected from the school after the event (approx. 7.30pm)

We are delighted to announce that the Parents Association is organising a Christmas Raffle again this year. This event is one of the highlights of the season for our pupils.

Last year we were blown away by the generosity of our community; here's hoping this year will be equally successful and enjoyable for the pupils.

Money raised will go towards purchasing sets of decodable books for both campuses to be used for in-class literacy programmes and in special education support. Money will also go towards the purchase of additional signage and equipment and enhancements for our many yards and of course to continue to fund and subsidise many projects, events and trips for our pupils.

The raffle will take place on Wednesday, December 17th.

We would very much appreciate your support in making this a successful event.

An email with all details will follow shortly



Vaccines for Junior Infants

- **Information packs and consent forms for the MMR and 4-in-1 vaccines were issued to Junior Infants.**
- **Vaccinations will take place on Thursday, November 20th for children whose completed consent forms have been returned.**



Christmas Corner

APS Christmas Nativity

The staff and pupils of the school invite you to our Christmas Concert on Wednesday December 10th in Athenry Church

The event will start at 11.15am and should be finished by 12:00

Our play is called 'The Gigantic Star' and our whole school choir will perform alongside a troupe of narrators and actors.

If anyone has Christmas costumes they no longer need and would be prepared to donate to the school, we would be very happy to receive them.

All pupils and staff will be visiting the church over the next two weeks for rehearsals. Pupils who will not be taking part in the Nativity will be supervised in school during this time. Please alert your child's class teacher if your child is not participating in our Christmas Concert.

As all staff will be involved with this production on the 10th, we will not be in a position to supervise pupils who do not have consent to take part. Parents are asked to kindly collect pupils early on the day of the concert and drop them back to school afterwards or alternatively parents can chose to keep their children at home on that day, as preparation for the concert will commence first thing in the morning.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Week Activities

- Santa will hopefully visit the school in the days before we get our school holidays.
- Each child in the school was given the opportunity to design their own Christmas Card. Parents were able to order packs of the Christmas cards on-line via the Design a Card portal. These orders should be delivered in the coming weeks.
- Children from Junior Infants up to 6th class will receive a Christmas annual courtesy of the Parents Association again this year and many thanks to the Parents Association for funding these gifts.
- The school will hold a Christmas Jumper fundraiser on Thursday December 18th in aid of the Athenry Christmas Lights Committee. Children may come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, hat etc., and we ask for a donation of €2 please.
- The school will close at 12 noon on Friday December 19th for the Christmas holidays and will re-open on Monday January 5th at 8.45am (with class starting @ 8.50am sharp)



Please help us preserve the magic of Christmas for all pupils—this is such a special time for them.