



# ATHENRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life is better when we work together

January 19<sup>th</sup> 2026 Issue 7

## WELCOME BACK

We warmly welcome all pupils and families back to school after the Christmas holidays and hope that everyone has settled well into the routines of the new term. It has been wonderful to see the children return refreshed and enthusiastic, and we are delighted to be fully back to all school activities, including assemblies, extra-curricular programmes, and whole-school events. We look forward to the term ahead, which promises many opportunities for learning, growth, and enjoyment for our pupils.

We were also delighted to host a very successful Open Night for our incoming Junior Infant pupils last week. This is always a special and important occasion on our school calendar, as it allows us to welcome prospective pupils and their families and to showcase the warm, inclusive environment of our school. I would like to thank all staff who contributed to making the evening so welcoming.

Kind regards,  
Cathriona Cronin

## DIARY DATES

Grandparents Day – Wednesday, Jan 21st

School Closure - Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> for St Brigid's Day

Admissions for the 26/27 school year is now open and closing date is Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

February Midterm: School closed Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

School Photographer is coming on Feb 26th

Term 2 staff meeting is on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - all pupils to go home at 1:15pm

School Closure for New Primary Curriculum training - March 11th

## ADMISSIONS 2026 2027

We are now accepting enrolments for the new school year. Please send in enrolment forms for children starting school and alert any other parents who may be interested.

Admission forms for pupils due to start school in September 2026 are available to download from our website at [www.athenryprimaryschool.ie](http://www.athenryprimaryschool.ie) or can be requested from the office. Admissions close on Feb 2nd.



## REMINDERS

- School begins at 8:50am sharp. It makes for a smooth day for all pupils when they line up with their class and enter when doors open at 8:45am
- Please label your child's clothing and belongings
- We have a Healthy Eating policy: no sugary drinks, sweets, or treats allowed please
- Please make an appointment to meet with teachers
- Please request access to our Instagram page to stay connected

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### Catholic Schools Week

This week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme of this week is “Normal Lives, Called to Holiness.” This week invites us to reflect on how holiness is lived out in the ordinary moments of everyday life.

As part of CSW we are celebrating Grandparents Day on Wednesday. We invite all grandparents to visit CA at 10:45 and CB at 11:45. If grandparents are unable to come, a parent is very welcome to come in their place.

We would also welcome any baked goods from parents as we serve teas and treats to our grandparents after they have visited all the rooms. Please send any contributions to the school halls on CA/CB tomorrow morning. Thank You!

### Sacramental Preparation

Mike Dunne will commence a preparatory Confirmation Programme with the three sixth classes on CB every Monday and Wednesday starting January 26th. It will run for 8 weeks.



## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Our Sixth Class pupils received beautiful APS crested half zips last week. These high quality tops have been kindly subsidised by the PA.

A very special word of thanks and appreciation to Aline Naughton, parent and member of the PA, who helped create this digital Child friendly Bí Cineálta poster. This poster was inspired by the pupils work which is proudly on display on both campuses.

## FUNDRAISERS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and pupils for their incredible support and generosity in contributing so many wonderful prizes for our Christmas Raffle, organised by the PA. Thanks to your efforts, we raised €4615 which will be used to purchase decodable readers for the school and new equipment to enhance our school yards. A special word of appreciation goes to our dedicated Parents Association.

The school also held a Christmas Jumper Fundraiser on Thursday, 18th December, in aid of the Athenry Christmas Lights Committee. Through the generosity of our school community, we raised €550 for the committee, who were extremely grateful for our support. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this fundraiser a success.

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## SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

### Athenry Camogie Champions

We welcomed nine players from the Athenry Senior Camogie Team to the School on January 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their phenomenal win in the All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final in Semple Stadium on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our school is unique in having a staff member, a parent and several past pupils on this stellar team. The school halls on both campuses were at fever pitch excitement as the staff and pupils extended a very special welcome to the players which included rolling out a section of our School Band!! We are very proud of this special group of players who are wonderful role models for us all. Please see our instagram page for more photos.



## WELLBEING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

After the Christmas break, many children find it challenging to return to regular sleep routines. Next week, our school will be focusing on a New Year Sleep Initiative to support children's wellbeing, concentration, and learning.

Children will take part in age-appropriate classroom discussions about healthy sleep habits and complete a simple sleep diary for one week. The aim is to help children reflect on how sleep affects how they feel and learn, and to encourage small, positive changes where possible.

Recommended sleep guidelines (not targets) are:

- Ages 3-5: 10-13 hours
- Ages 6-12: 9-12 hours
- Ages 13-18: 8-10 hours

There is no pressure or expectation that all children meet these recommendations.

The focus is on awareness, discussion, and building healthy habits together.

Thank you for your continued support. More detailed information will be emailed to all families this week.

A special word of thanks to Mrs McSpadden for leading the school on this worthwhile initiative.

## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The whole staff is participating in First Aid training this term

We have three in school professional development days with an Oide advisor to support us in implementing the new Maths curriculum

We have our first Primary Curriculum Framework Day on March 11<sup>th</sup> to look at the structure of the new curriculum

We finally have a protective fence around our yard to the front of the school. We are extremely thankful to John Paul Construction who have generously completed this project for us. Watch this space for some upcoming school improvements!



## STAY CONNECTED WITH US....

- Website: [www.athenryprimaryschool.ie](http://www.athenryprimaryschool.ie)
- Instagram @Athenryprimaryschool
- School Office: CA 091 844510 CB 091 844029

## EXTRA CURRICULAR..... a snapshot.....

### Green Schools

Mr Duffy has begun a new Green Schools application, with a focus on the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

### Chess

Mr Kelly is coaching and entering teams in the Ficheall Chess Tournament, taking place on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Lisheenkyle NS.

### Soccer

Mr Duffy is entering a boys and girls team in the upcoming FAI 5s competition. Training and team selection are currently underway with competition dates to follow.

### Creative Schools

Ms O'Connor has registered us for Creative Schools which we are very excited about. Creative Schools aims to give children the opportunity to experience creativity as an integral part of their education placing the arts and creativity at the centre of school life. We are looking forward to starting this whole school project in term 2.

### Knitting

Mrs Monson's class knit every Friday morning and are currently working on cushions, along with a special Valentine's surprise.

## SCHOOL CLUBS AND CAMPS

### Homework Club

Mr Burke and Ms McKenna are opening up their Homework Club to the fourth classes on Campus A. The club runs from 2:30pm to 4:00pm Monday to Thursday. It will be based two days on Campus A and two days on CB. Mr Burke and Ms McKenna are sending out a detailed email to parents this week and all details will be available on our Instagram also.

### Easter Camp

Mrs Callanan, Ms Alani and Ms Tyrrell are running an Easter Camp the first week of the Easter holidays on Campus A. It will run from Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> until Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. All details are in the flyer below



**EASTER CAMP!**  
4 DAYS OF FUN!  
Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> to Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9am to 1pm

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Pyjama Day
- Movies & Popcorn
- Sports & Games
- Science Experiments
- Arts & Crafts
- LEGO Fun
- Bubble Disco & More!

Junior Infants to 4<sup>th</sup> Class

€30 Non-Refundable Deposit by Feb 7<sup>th</sup>  
Full Payment Due by Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>

€90 for 1 Child  
€170 for 2 Siblings  
€240 for 3 Siblings

