



ATHENRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life is better when we work together

February 18th 2026 Issue 8

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

As we move into spring and the season of Lent, we are reminded of themes of renewal, growth and wellbeing. Our school continues to be a vibrant and busy place, with pupils and staff fully engaged in learning and with many positive initiatives underway. A key focus for us is enhancing our school environment, both internally and externally, as part of our School Self-Evaluation process. Central to this work is pupil wellbeing and voice, and this term we will continue with our Student Voice Committee, who will work closely with me in reflecting on school life and identifying ways to further improve our school. We have also established a Creative Schools Committee, under the stewardship of Ms. O'Connor, to support the development of creativity across the school. Alongside this, we are continuing to develop our school website and are finalising our Parents' Portal, which will provide families with access to a wide range of information and supports.

Looking ahead, the coming weeks will be particularly busy and exciting as we prepare for a Whole School Evaluation in Management, Leadership and Learning. We look forward to engaging with the Inspectorate and showcasing the strong school community of which we are very proud, and we would greatly appreciate parents' participation in the survey that will issue as part of this process.

We also look forward to celebrating Seachtain na Gaeilge and to welcoming parents who are generously giving their time to facilitate workshops for pupils during Engineers Week. We wish all families a very enjoyable February midterm break.

Thanking you for your continued support always.
Kind regards,
Cathriona Cronin



DIARY DATES

- February Midterm: School closed Thurs Feb 19th and Fri Feb 20th
- School Photographer is coming on Feb 26th
- Term 2 staff meeting is on Feb 26th: all pupils go home at 1:15pm
- Pres Taster Day for 6th class pupils: Thurs Mar 5th
- School Closure for New Primary Curriculum training - Wed Mar 11th
- St Patrick's day Bank Holiday: Tues Mar 17th
- Easter Holidays: school closes at 12 noon on Fri Mar 27th and re-opens on Mon Apr 13th

SAFEGUARDING

Mr. Kelly recently worked with a group of pupils on Campus B to create multi-lingual child friendly child safeguarding poster to help teach the children about safeguarding and the role that Mrs Cronin plays, as the Deputy Liaison person (DLP)



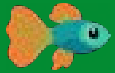
WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION

A Whole School Evaluation in Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL) will take place across Campus A and Campus B on Tues Mar 3rd, Wed Mar 4th & Thurs Mar 5th.

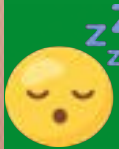
This means Inspectors from the Department of Education will come to the school for those 3 days. They will evaluate our school by observing the practices that happen during the school day. They will also speak with the Board of Management, the Parents Association and the Pupils themselves.

As part of the WSE process parents will be asked to complete an **ON-LINE SURVEY**. We will email you with all the necessary details today. It is very important that you take this opportunity to “have your say” about our school. Please watch out for this email from the school. Deadline for completing the survey is 5pm on Friday February 27th.

The last month.... a snapshot.....



Atlantaquarium Workshops: 2nd class, 3rd class and Ms Hyland's 4th class engaged in a healthy ocean project as part of the Explorers Education Programme. They participated in two marine workshops in which they learned about ocean life off the coast of Ireland. They enjoyed a hands on exploration of sea creature fossils including dolphin skulls and whale teeth, in addition to observing a real life squid dissection.



The Sleep Initiative has been a huge success across the school. It generated very thoughtful and engaging conversations in classrooms, with children reflecting honestly on their own sleep habits and recognising the link between sleep, mood and learning. It was wonderful to see such maturity in discussions and a genuine willingness to consider small positive changes. Thank you sincerely to all parents and guardians for your support at home – your involvement in completing the sleep diaries and encouraging healthy routines made a real difference. While this initiative has officially concluded, promoting healthy sleep will remain an ongoing focus for us, as it plays such an important role in children's wellbeing and academic progress. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the quality and creativity of the posters for our whole-school competition. The winners will be announced at next week's assembly.



Thanks to Ms Morrisson from Presentation College Athenry and her TY pupils who have been giving Spanish lessons to the pupils in Miss Lambe's 4th class over the past few weeks. They will be back after the mid-term break to give some lessons to Mrs Monson's 4th class.



Well done to the pupils from 5th class who represented the school so well in the recent National School's Table quiz organised by Kilchreest National School. Sincere thanks to Mr Duffy for preparing the pupils for the event.



Thank you to Ms Hynes (our Special Class Evergreen class teacher) for organising a visit from the Galway Autism Partnership. They gave an informative talk about Autism to the pupils from 1st to 6th class

Our senior pupils across both campuses created beautiful St. Brigid's Day crosses, proudly continuing this cherished Irish tradition within our school community. The children showed great care and skill in crafting the crosses, learning about the history and significance of St. Brigid and the symbolism associated with her feast day.



ADMISSIONS 2026 2027

Thank you to all the parents who have submitted enrolment forms for younger siblings due to start school in September.

All the applications are currently being processed and we are looking very forward to meeting them all!

The Late Admissions process is now open for anyone who has missed the deadline. Please contact the office for details.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Thurs Mar 19th: Sacrament of First Confession will take place in the school hall during school hours
- Sat Apr 25th: Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in Athenry Church at 2.30pm
- Sat May 16th: Sacrament of First Communion will take place in Athenry Church at 2.30pm



SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

Our Wellbeing Focus

Wellbeing continues to be the central focus of our School Self-Evaluation, with both pupils & staff wellbeing considered a vital part of our school community. This year, our goal has been to enhance pupil wellbeing through improvements to the school environment, both internally and externally.

Thanks to our pupil feedback via our Student Voice Committee, we have already made several changes and have more projects in progress. Many of these enhancements have been made possible through the generous fundraising efforts of our Parents' Association.

In the school yards, we have purchased several new goals and are finalising a quiet outdoor area in the front yard complete with bunting, where children can chat, socialise and enjoy a calmer space.

Mr Kelly is investigating outdoor chess stations for both campuses, supporting those who prefer quieter, social games during breaks.



Internally, our Special Education Team is developing spaces in the hall on Campus A for movement, sensory and fun breaks. Our caretaker Jack is assisting in their preparation.

We are also displaying beautiful posters of Irish flora & fauna in the yards on Campus A & Campus B and Mr Hanley has ordered outdoor "Bí Cineálta" posters to reinforce our focus on kindness & respect.

These projects aim to create an environment where all pupils - whether active or reflective - can enjoy their breaks, feel supported and thrive.

Keep an eye on our Instagram page for these projects!



STAY CONNECTED WITH US....

Website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

Instagram @Athenryprimaryschool

School Office: CA 091 844510 CB 091 844029

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Staff and pupils of APS are very much looking forward to two exciting events in the coming weeks:



Seachtain na Gaeilge will begin on March 1st, with celebrations culminating on March 17th. Mrs Callanan and members of the Postholder team have planned a variety of engaging activities and experiences for the children to enjoy during the week.



As part of **Engineers Week**, beginning on March 2nd, many parents have generously agreed to visit the school to run workshops across a range of subjects, giving pupils insight into different careers and everyday life. We are extremely grateful to our parent body for supporting these initiatives and helping to connect home with school. Several STEM workshops will take place on March 6th, immediately following our Whole School Evaluation inspection, providing further hands-on learning opportunities for our students.

SCHOOL CLUBS & CAMPS

- Homework Club is run by Mr Burke and Ms McKenna. The club runs from 2:30pm to 4:00pm Monday to Thursday. It is based two days on Campus A and two days on Campus B.
- Performing Arts Club is run by Miss Curran on Campus A. It started this week and will run for 4 weeks
- Art Club for 2nd & 3rd class pupils is run by Ms Alani and is finishing up next week
- Gaeilge Club for Senior Infants & 1st class pupils is run by Mrs Callanan and is finishing up this week
- Science Club for Junior Infants pupils is run by Ms Tyrrell and is finishing up this week
- Board Games Club for 2nd class pupils is being run by Miss Moynihan and is starting after the mid-term break

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 30th until Thursday April 2nd.

All details are in the flyer.

EASTER CAMP!
4 DAYS OF FUN!
Monday March 30th to Thursday April 2nd
9am to 1pm
€9 for 1 Child
€170 for 2 Children
€24 for 3 Children

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

Junior Infants to 4th Class
€30 Non-Refundable Deposit by Feb 7th
Full Payment Due by Friday March 6th
Camp Leaders:
Ms Alani, Mrs Callanan & Ms Tyrrell!

A special word of thanks to Mr. Kelly and our dedicated SNA team for their continued work in maintaining and organising the AR libraries across both campuses. Their ongoing commitment ensures that our reading resources remain accessible, engaging, and well-curated for all pupils. It is very encouraging to see that levels of engagement with the AR programme continue to grow, reflecting the strong reading culture being fostered throughout the school.

Athenry Primary School Reads!
In this school year, students have read...
4,180 Books
58,812,508 Words
for **19 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®