



ATHENRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life is better when we work together



March 27th 2026 Issue 9

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of Term 2, it's hard to believe how quickly the weeks have passed. We now find ourselves looking ahead to Term 3 and already beginning preparations for the new school year. Before we finish up, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and enjoyable Easter break.

It has been a particularly busy and productive term, most notably with our whole school evaluation. We were delighted with the outcome, receiving a rating of 'very good' across all assessed domains, with several references to excellent practice. Over the course of three days, three inspectors visited the school, observing teaching and learning across classroom and Special Education settings. One of the most affirming aspects of the evaluation was the feedback on our pupils – the inspectors remarked that the children were a tremendous credit to the school, particularly in terms of their behaviour, their warmth, and the genuine welcome they extended. I would like to thank you for your high level of engagement with the survey.

I would also like to sincerely thank our staff for their ongoing commitment and professionalism, particularly throughout the WSE process, which brought us together strongly as a team. And a special word of congratulations to Karen Hennessy who was recently appointed to the position of Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator for the school following an Assistant Principal 1 interview process. We are delighted to welcome her to the School leadership team.

As we move into the final term, our sporting activities are beginning to gather pace with the improving weather, and we are looking forward to getting outdoors more regularly. We have also seen some lovely additions to the school in recent months, thanks to the ongoing fundraising efforts of our Parents' Association. We are very grateful for their continued support and are delighted that they will be contributing a regular update in each newsletter going forward, sharing details of their work and the projects they support. In particular, I would like to sincerely thank the Parents' Association for their support of the recent Book Fair. Several members gave generously of their time to staff the event twice daily on Campus A – it simply would not have been possible without them. A special word of thanks to Ursula and her fantastic team for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Lastly, the BOM have been an incredible support to both me and the school throughout each term, and especially during the WSE process, where their professionalism, expertise and commitment to the school were acknowledged by the inspectorate.

Best Wishes for a lovely Easter,
Cathriona Cronin

DIARY DATES

- Easter Holidays: school closes at 12 noon on Fri Mar 27th and re-opens on Mon Apr 13th
- "All Shook Up" Matinee for 6th class pupils in Leisureland - April 23rd
- Confirmation: Sat April 25th
- May Mid-term: May 4th to 8th
- First Communion: Sat May 16th
- Term 3 Staff Meeting: Thurs May 21st (all pupils go home at 1:15pm)
- June Bank Holiday: Mon Jun 1st
- School Closure for New Primary Curriculum training - Wed Jun 4th
- Summer Holidays: school closes at 12 noon on Fri Jun 26th



CA Magnetic Wall



Our CA Sensory Caterpillar

We have seen some new additions this term to both campuses...



New flooring on CB



Our Sensory Wall....nearly finished!!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the newest addition to the APS School Newsletter, a place where the Parents' Association can share information about upcoming events, fundraising plans and other relevant information.

FUNDRAISING

So far this year, funds have been raised for the school from the following events:

- Cash for Clobber collection
- Halloween Bake Sale
- Design-a-card (Christmas)
- Christmas Raffle
- Annual Book Fair



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

From the fundraising & other grants the school might receive, the following have been funded or subsidised for the children:

- Buses to events & workshops
- Heritage Speaker
- 6th class half zips
- Sports Equipment
- Christmas treats for Pupils
- Sensory room equipment
- Decodeable books & AR books
- Outdoor Chess Tables



PURPOSE

As you can see, fundraising has a huge impact on the activities, resources and equipment that the school can offer our children, as well as educational & multisensory displays both inside & around the school building.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are currently working on a few ideas generated at our last meeting:

- Sponsored Walk (date to be confirmed; cards to be sent home after Easter)
- School Recipe Book
- No Uniform day (Pyjama, jersey, hats etc)

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PARENTS WHO RAN THE RECENT BOOK FAIR AT THE SCHOOL!



PARENTS ASSOCIATION



SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Over the coming months we begin a range of co-curricular sporting activities for the pupils which will support pupils to develop their skills, enjoy sport and take part in team activities within the school community.

Thanks to all staff and coaches for providing these opportunities for the children.

Hurling & Camogie

Every Wednesday

- 4th 5th & 6th class club players
- Hurling: Mr Burke
- Camogie: Mrs Burke & Ms Fox
- Bring Gear, helmet, hurl, boots (separate bag for boots)
- 1st 2nd & 3rd class - coaching for all pupils with Seán Gilmore (Galway Development Officer)



Athletics

- Pupils in 3rd to 6th
- Training with Mr McDonald
- After Easter



Hockey

- Training sessions with Athenry Swans club coaches
- Campus B pupils
- After Easter



Football & Soccer

Every Friday:

- 3rd & 4th class will be coached by Mrs Melville & Miss Lambe
- 4 week blocks

Every Tuesday:

- 5th & 6th class will be coached by Mr Duffy & Mr Kelly



SWIMMING

- Both 3rd classes
- 4 days of lessons
- Raheen Woods pool
- Start: April 27th
- Cost: €30



Basketball

Sessions for 5th & 6th class
After Easter



CYCLING

- Safe Cycling workshop
- 6th class pupils
- After Easter



Out and About in APS.....log on to Instagram for more photos of all recent events



Photographers from County Photos came to the school and took photos of the pupils. Proofs of the photos have been handed out. Parents had the option to order photos online or by cash. Any orders already placed will be delivered to the school free of charge after Easter. It is possible to place "Late Orders" but there will be a delivery charge for these.



We had an action-packed "Engineering Day" on Friday March 6th across both Campus A and B. A sincere word of thanks to all the people including our own parents listed below who generously agreed to visit the school to facilitate workshops across a range of subjects, giving pupils insight into different careers and the application of STEM in everyday life. We really appreciated this sharing of practice, expertise and enthusiasm for STEM with the children. They greatly benefited from the workshops and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

- Building Maintenance (Dexcom Project) - Tommy Griffin
- Irish Rail Engineer - Catherine Joyce
- Telecommunications Engineer - Roger Abouantoun
- Database Developer - Liam Gannon
- Medtronic Engineers - Tessa Jennings, Paul Mitchell, Rina Rabarimanantsoa and John Curley
- Boston Scientific STEM Outreach team



Congratulations to the Pupils in 2nd class who made their First Confession last week. Thank you to Fr Charlie and Fr Benny for sharing the sacrament with them and sincere thanks to Mrs Callanan and Miss Moynihan for preparing the children so well. We are very proud of this group of children.



A representation from our new Creative Squad had their first meeting with our Creative Schools Advisor last week. We are looking forward to several creative projects over the next few school terms as led by Ms O'Connor and her squad.



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Well done to the pupils from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class for representing the school so well in the recent Fichelle Chess tournament held in Lisheenkyle National School. Thanks also to Mr Kelly for preparing the pupils for the event. Our new outdoor chess tables are going down a treat!



Last week we welcomed back Mr Connolly TD. He gave a presentation to the 5th and 6th class pupils on CB explaining what his new job as a TD entails and how he got elected.



We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge during the week of Mar 9th to 13th. Pupils took part in a range of fun activities including a Céilí mór, Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine, Tionól Gaeilge, Ceoltóirí Traidisiúnta ó Choláiste an Eachréidh agus Coláiste na Toirbhirte agus ár Lá Glas.



Sincere thanks to the parents of our school working for Medtronic, for nominating us to benefit from the STEM Ireland Laptop to School Programme. We were delighted to receive 5 laptops and they will be put to very good use! Thanks to Pete Elwood (father of Ben & Charlie), Catriona Molloy (mother of Natalie) and Karolina Cihanek (mother of Giselle)



BAND

Congratulations and well done to all the pupils who took part in the school band on St Patrick's Day. We were so proud of all the pupils - they performed and behaved so well on what was an extremely wet day! Sincere thanks also to all the staff who taught the pupils their tunes and routines and to everyone who helped to coordinate the logistics of getting all the pupils around the town safely on the day. A special word of acknowledgement to Miss Murray for spearheading the band every year; her musical expertise is invaluable.



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Annual Book Fair and Dress Up Day!!

Our Annual Book Fair, in partnership with Tara Book company took place last week. The Book Fair was both physical and online this year. Sincere thanks to all the volunteers from the Parents Association who ran the physical book fair for us this year - we couldn't have done it without your help! Thanks to Kathryn Bragdon, Aline Naughton, Ursula Brady, Mikaelen Cardoso, Deirdre Leech and Louise Byrne. The school received a supply of World Book Day tokens, which Mr Kelly was able to exchange for "World Book Day books" for all the pupils. We celebrated World Book Dress Up day on Friday March 20th and once again we were blown away by the creativity.....even some of the staff got involved!!!



SCHOOL TOUR INFORMATION 2026.... Here we go....

Class	Date	Destination	 Price
• Jun Infs	• June 12 th	• Turoe Pet Farm	• €25
• Sen Infs	• May 27 th	• Turoe Pet Farm	• €25
• 1 st Class	• June 16 th	• Lets Go! Camp NUIG	• €45
• 2 nd Class	• June 9 th	• Wildlands, Moycullen	• €50
• 3 rd Class	• June 9 th	• Petersburg, Clonbur	• €50
• 4 th Class	• June 2 nd	• Baysports, Athlone	• €50
• 5 th Class	• June 18 th	• Emerald Park	• €45
• 6 th Class	• June 18 th	• Emerald Park	• €45



Accelerated Reader

This Month

Year to Date

Athenry Primary School Reads!

In March 2026, students have read...

390 Books
8,772,327 Words
 for **33 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®

Athenry Primary School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

4,792 Books
72,646,003 Words
 for **18 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader®

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Congratulations to our Accelerated Readers of the term on CA and CB



SCHOOL CLUBS:



Homework Club:

- Mr Burke & Ms McKenna
- 2:30pm to 4pm Mon to Thurs
- 2 days Campus A and 2 days Campus B



Lego Club:



- Miss Lambe
- Tues 2:30pm to 3:30pm for 4 weeks

Board Games Club:

- Miss Moynihan
- Wed 2:30pm to 3:30pm for 5 weeks

Baking Club:

- Miss Hyland & Mrs Trehy
- Tues 2:45pm to 3:45pm for 4 weeks
- 4th class only - limited to 20 pupils
- Venue: Campus B

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

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

Junior Infants to 4th Class

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

€30 Non-Refundable Deposit by Feb 7th

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.



Athenry Agricultural Show

Sunday 24th May 2026

Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, H65 R718

Competition Time

Junior Section €3 per Entry

HOME BAKING:

- (Child 3-6 years)*
- Six decorated Rice Krispie buns

- (Child 6-10 years)*
- Six decorated Queen Cakes

- (Child 3-6 years)*
- 4 decorated Cup cakes (non-perishable icing)
 - 4 Brownie Squares
 - Rocky Road Squares

HAND CRAFTS:

- Soft Toy
- Hand knitted scarf
- An item made from pottery

HAND CRAFTS:

- An item of your choice made from Lego
 - Maximum size of base 45cm x 45cm
- (Child 4-8 years & Child 8-13 years)*

ART:

- (Child 3-6 years)*
- Best day ever
- (Child 6-8 years)*
- A picture titled "My Superhero"
 - A picture titled "My Pet"

- My Favourite Sport

ART:

- (Child 8-12 years)*
- Draw/paint "My Favourite Place"

- Draw/paint a 3D picture

- Minecraft Picture

- (Child 10-12 years)*
- Draw or paint an underwater scene

- My Garden

- Draw a Still Image

- A miniature garden done on a biscuit tin lid

- "All creatures great and small" – an animal made from mainly fruit and or vegetables

Full schedule and further information available at
athenryagrishow.com