



ATHENRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

June 25th 2026 Issue 10

Life is better when we work together

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

As we come to the end of another school year, it is a time to reflect on all that we have achieved together. It has been a wonderful year for Athenry Primary School, filled with learning, growth, success and many happy memories. We have continued to strengthen our shared identity as one school community, and there is much to celebrate.

I would like to sincerely thank our Board of Management for their unwavering support, commitment and leadership throughout the year. They generously give of their time, expertise and experience, working tirelessly behind the scenes to support the school and ensure that Athenry Primary School continues to thrive. I am deeply appreciative of the important role they play in the continued growth and success of our school.

A heartfelt thank you also to our Parents' Association. Their energy, enthusiasm and generosity have enriched school life throughout the year. Through fundraising, volunteering and sharing new ideas, they have made a significant contribution to our school community. A special thank you to Aline Naughton for designing our PA page on our newsletter.

To our staff, thank you for the commitment, care and teamwork you bring to our school every day. Your willingness to support one another, embrace new initiatives and always do your best for the children is what makes Athenry Primary School such a special place. I am grateful for your support and very proud of all that we have accomplished together this year. I would like to especially acknowledge Mr Duffy, our Deputy Principal, and the members of our In-School Leadership Team. Their leadership, support and dedication have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals this year, and I am sincerely grateful for the positive impact they continue to have on the School.

A special word of thanks to our wonderful SNAs and our two fantastic secretaries. Their care, commitment and willingness to go above and beyond every day are invaluable. The school simply would not function as effectively without their support.

To our pupils, thank you for bringing such enthusiasm, kindness and positivity to school each day. You have worked hard, embraced challenges and represented your school with pride. We are incredibly proud of every one of you.

A sincere thank you to all of our parents and families for your continued support, encouragement and cooperation throughout the school year. Your partnership with the school plays a vital role in the success and happiness of our pupils, and it is greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on September 1st.

Best Wishes for a lovely summer,
Cathriona Cronin



Farewell Mr McAndrew

On Tuesday, we gathered on Campus B for a special retirement assembly to honour Mr. Seamus McAndrew and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to education. During the celebration, we acknowledged his two years of service in Athenry Primary School and his previous four years in Athenry Boys' National School. On behalf of the entire Athenry Primary School community, we wish Seamus every happiness, good health and fulfilment in his retirement. May the years ahead be filled with family, friendship, relaxation and many new adventures.



Farewell Sixth Class

Congratulations to our 72 Sixth Class pupils who graduated this week after eight wonderful years in primary school. We celebrated this important milestone with a beautiful Graduation Mass and Ceremony on Tuesday.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success, happiness and new adventures as they begin their secondary school journey.



Class of 2025



A special congratulations to our pupils who celebrated the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this term. These were wonderful occasions for our school and parish community and very important milestones in the faith journey of our children. We thank Fr Charlie, Fr Benny, Mike Dunne, class teachers, families and all those who helped prepare the children for these special days.

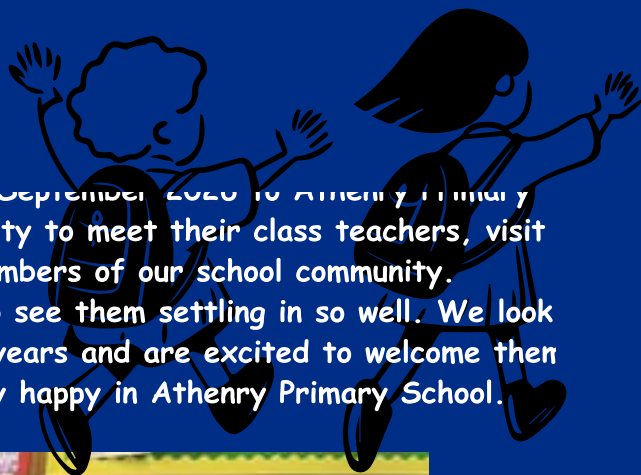


Sacramental Celebrations 2026



Our new Junior Infants came to say hello!!

On June 17th, we welcomed our new Junior Infants for September 2026 to Athenry Primary School for their Open Day. The children had an opportunity to meet their class teachers, visit their new classrooms and begin their journey as members of our school community. They were absolutely wonderful, and we were delighted to see them settling in so well. We look forward to getting to know each of them over the coming years and are excited to welcome them back in September. We know they are going to be very happy in Athenry Primary School.



Click on the
link to Watch
on our Youtube



SPORTS DAY



Our annual Sports Day on June 17th was a tremendous success. Blessed with glorious sunshine, pupils enjoyed a day full of fun, teamwork and friendly competition in Kenny Park. A huge thank you to our Sixth Class teachers and pupils who organised and ran the event and to our Parents' Association who generously sponsored the ice cream van for all pupils.



WE ARE

CREATIVE

This year, Athenry Primary School began its Creative Schools journey under the leadership of Ms O'Connor. As part of this exciting initiative, pupils will engage in a number of creative projects designed to foster imagination, creativity and collaboration.

Our first project involved our three Fourth Classes working alongside a professional filmmaker to create a short film. We are very much looking forward to sharing the finished production with our school community in the Autumn. The film explores some of the beautiful historical landmarks and medieval sites in Athenry. Throughout the project, pupils had the opportunity to work both in front of and behind the camera, developing their creative, communication and teamwork skills while learning more about the rich history of their local area.



Full
Video is
here



Our pupils across both campuses have enjoyed an incredibly busy and successful term, participating in a wide variety of sporting, musical, cultural and community events. From Cumann na mBunscoil competitions, Community Games, chess tournaments, taekwondo, judo, gymnastics and music performances to countless other activities, our children continue to excel both in and out of school.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to feature every achievement and event in one newsletter. The articles and photographs included here provide just a snapshot of some of the many highlights from the past term, particularly where pupils have represented the school community.

For full coverage of these events, along with many more photographs and updates from school life, please visit our Instagram page.

PARISH CUP

Parish Cup Winners - May 28th 2026

Congratulations to our 3rd and 4th Class Camogie team on winning the Parish Cup in Carnaun. The girls displayed fantastic teamwork, determination and skill throughout the competition and were deserving winners. They represented Athenry Primary School exceptionally well and should be very proud of their achievement.



Parish Cup Hurling Winners - April 2026

Our 3rd and 4th Class hurlers enjoyed great success at the end of April when they captured the Parish Cup title in Carnaun. The boys worked tirelessly throughout the competition, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and skill.

We are delighted for them and congratulate all involved on a fantastic achievement.



Cumann na mBunscoil Football Winners - May 28th 2026

Well done to our Cumann na mBunscoil Football team on their excellent victory at the end of May. The boys produced a fantastic performance to defeat Killeeneen in the final and claim the title. Their dedication, perseverance and teamwork throughout the season were rewarded with a memorable win. Congratulations to all the players, coaches and supporters involved.



Cumann na mBunscoil Honour for Adam Farrell

Congratulations to Sixth Class pupil Adam Farrell, who was selected by Cumann na mBunscoil to represent Galway at half-time during the Leinster Hurling Final in Croke Park. This was a wonderful honour for Adam and a proud moment for his family, club and school community.



May 20th 2026

Congratulations to all the pupils across both campuses who represented Athenry Primary School at this year's County Sports event in Craughwell. A special thank you to Mr McDonald for coordinating the event and to Mrs Greally and Mr Duffy for helping with trials. Our athletes performed superbly, achieving excellent results across a range of events. We were especially delighted to be awarded the Tommy Madden Cup in recognition of the outstanding medal haul achieved by our pupils on the day.





Our annual Parents' Association Sponsored Walk was a tremendous success, raising an incredible €7,400 for our school. A heartfelt thank you to all pupils, families, staff and sponsors who supported the event. The funds raised will help support a number of exciting projects across both campuses, including our Sensory Garden on Campus A, sensory corridors throughout the school and additional outdoor play equipment for pupils.

Curious Minds Platinum Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Curious Minds Platinum Award in recognition of our commitment to STEM education. This prestigious award celebrates the excellent work taking place across the school in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

We are especially proud to be one of only two schools in Galway to receive this award this year. A sincere thank you to Mrs Morrissey and Ms Tyrrell for their leadership, dedication and hard work in spearheading this initiative.



Mountbellew Bog Tours

Several classes enjoyed educational visits to the boglands in Mountbellew, where they explored biodiversity, habitats and the importance of conservation. These hands-on learning experiences provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to connect with nature and learn more about their local environment. A special thank you to Mr Duffy for organising this valuable experience for our pupils.



Our 4th classes have been visiting Campus B in preparation for their big move in September!!



Hockey with Athenry Swans

On June 5th, our 5th Class pupils on Campus B enjoyed hockey workshops with Kate Kelly and her coaching team from Athenry Swans Hockey Club. The children had great fun learning new skills, participating in games and experiencing the sport of hockey.

A sincere thank you to Kate and her team for providing such an enjoyable and engaging experience.

The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all and sparked great interest in the sport.



Junior Infant Cycle Workshop & Sports Day

June was a busy and exciting month for our Junior Infants. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a Cycle Safety Workshop, led by the ever-energetic Mr Naughton, where they learned valuable cycling and road safety skills while having great fun.

The children also had a fantastic time at their Junior Infant Sports Day, organised by Mr Naughton, Mrs Duffy and Ms Curran. They enthusiastically participated in a variety of fun games and activities, showing wonderful teamwork, energy and smiles throughout the day. To round off the celebrations, the children were delighted to enjoy a well-earned ice cream treat, kindly sponsored by our Parents' Association.



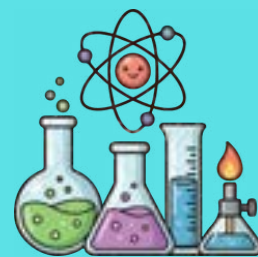


West of the River Class Trips
Several classes enjoyed a range of local educational trips and outdoor learning experiences throughout the term. One such visit was to West of the River in Athenry, where pupils had the opportunity to view Donnacha Cahill's Sculpture Exhibition. These experiences provided valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom and helped pupils develop a deeper appreciation of their local community and culture.

CULTURE FIELD TRIP



Science Blast in CG
Congratulations to Ms Lambe's 4th Class, who represented Athenry Primary School at Science Blast in the University of Limerick on May 19th. Their project showcased excellent curiosity, creativity and teamwork and provided a fantastic opportunity to celebrate scientific thinking, investigation and innovation.



School Tours 2026 Were a Big Hit!

School tour season was once again one of the highlights of the year. Pupils across the school enjoyed exciting trips to a variety of destinations, creating wonderful memories with their classmates while learning, exploring and having fun. From adventure centres and outdoor activities to educational visits, there was something for everyone to enjoy.



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Hello!

Our **Sponsored Walk** was a huge success!

With the participation of pupils, staff, and families across whole school, we raised an amazing **€7,400**. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this event. Your generosity makes a real difference to our school community. The funds raised will help support several exciting projects, including:

• **Sensory Garden** – Campus A
Sensory Corridors throughout the school

• **Additional outdoor play equipment** for pupils on both Campus A and Campus B

What's next?

We are already planning our next fundraising and community events!

Some ideas currently being explored include:

- **School Recipe Book** - every recipe tells a story - share yours with us.
- **New fundraising initiatives** to support future school projects

Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to another successful year together!

Purpose

Every fundraiser helps create a more engaging, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for our children.

The money raised allows us to invest in projects and resources that support learning, wellbeing, creativity, and play across both campuses.

Together

we are making a lasting difference for our school community.

How can you help?

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome!

If you have any fundraising ideas, event suggestions, or would like to get involved, please contact us at:



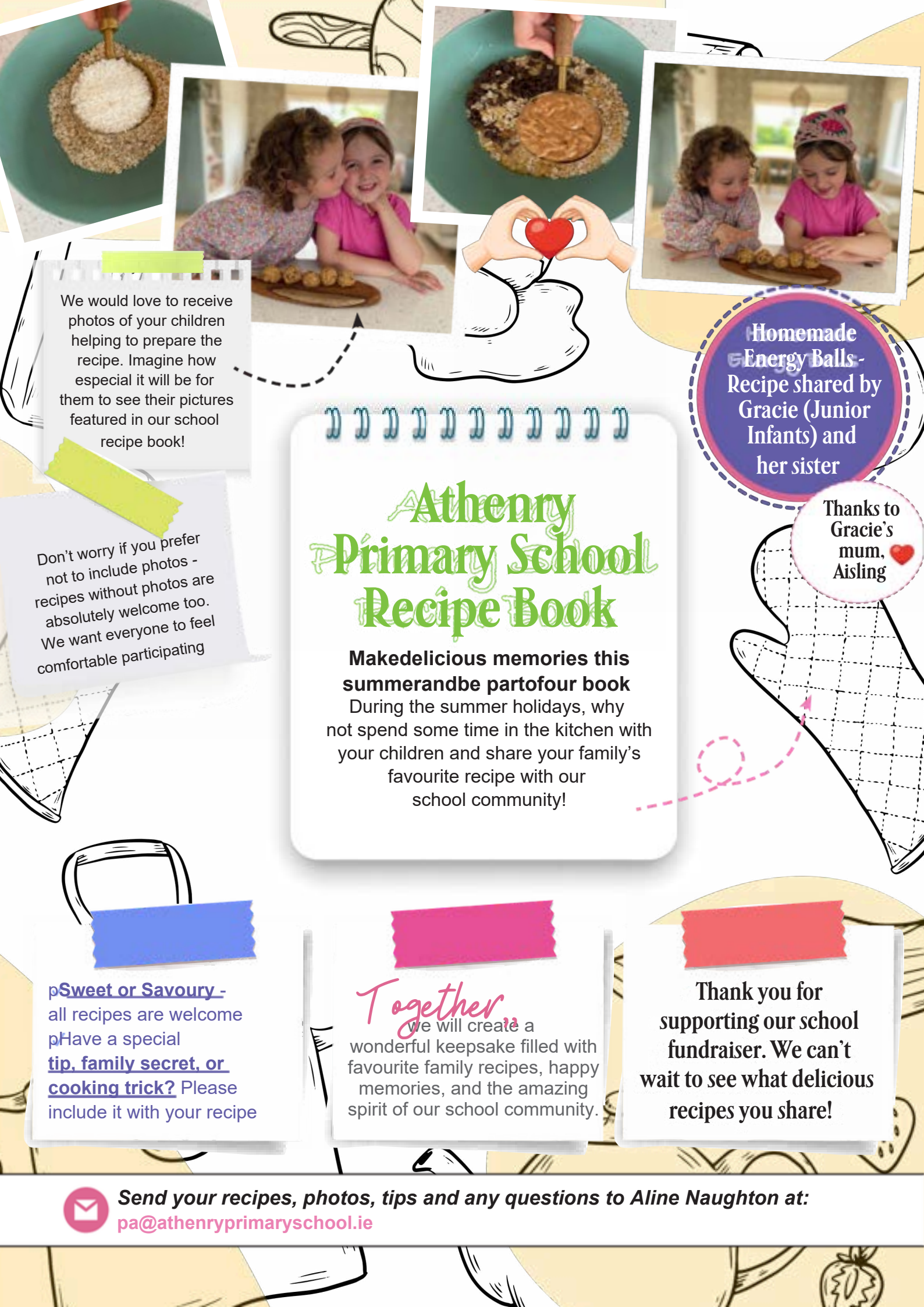
pa@athenryprimaryschool.ie

Would you like to be part of the Parents Association?

Keep an eye out this September, as we will be recruiting new members for the 2026/2027 school year.

TOGETHER, we can continue to support our school, enrich our children's experiences, and help make the next school year a great success for everyone.

thank
you
so
much



We would love to receive photos of your children helping to prepare the recipe. Imagine how especial it will be for them to see their pictures featured in our school recipe book!

Don't worry if you prefer not to include photos - recipes without photos are absolutely welcome too. We want everyone to feel comfortable participating

Athenry Primary School Recipe Book

Makedelicious memories this summerandbe partofour book
During the summer holidays, why not spend some time in the kitchen with your children and share your family's favourite recipe with our school community!

Homemade Energy Balls -
Recipe shared by Gracie (Junior Infants) and her sister

Thanks to Gracie's mum, Aisling

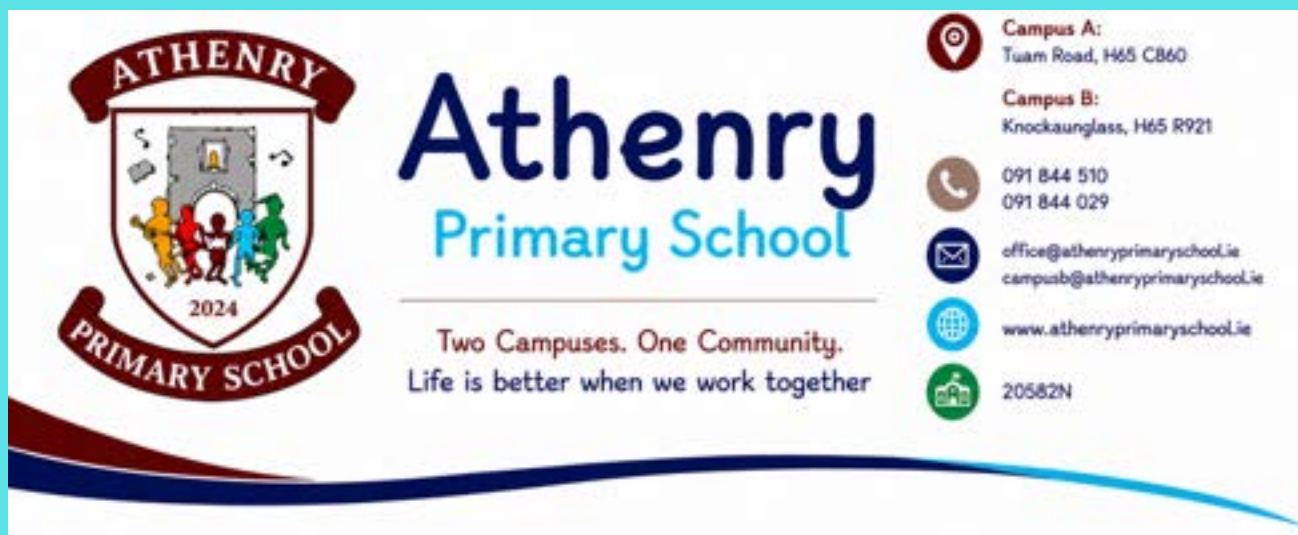
Sweet or Savoury - all recipes are welcome
Have a special tip, family secret, or cooking trick? Please include it with your recipe

Together, we will create a wonderful keepsake filled with favourite family recipes, happy memories, and the amazing spirit of our school community.

Thank you for supporting our school fundraiser. We can't wait to see what delicious recipes you share!



Send your recipes, photos, tips and any questions to Aline Naughton at: pa@athenryprimaryschool.ie



A New Look for APS

We are also excited to introduce a new Athenry Primary School branding kit, designed by our own staff member, Mrs Maria McGrath.

This fresh new branding will provide a consistent look and feel across all aspects of school communication, including our website, school policies, newsletters and publications. It reflects our identity as one school community and will help create a professional and recognisable visual style for Athenry Primary School.

The banner above offers just a flavour of our new branding, and we look forward to fully rolling it out across the school during the coming academic year.

A sincere thank you to Maria for the creativity, time and expertise she has invested in developing this wonderful resource for our school.



GDPR and Online Safety

The school and BOM reviewed the use of pupil photographs on the school website. Going forward, website images will focus on activities and events, with pupils photographed in groups or in ways that do not prominently identify individual children. This precautionary measure has been introduced to reduce the risk of misuse of children's images on publicly accessible websites and reflects our commitment to safeguarding, privacy and GDPR compliance.

Our private Instagram account will continue to operate under existing arrangements.

AND SUMMER WORKS

While school is closed for the summer, there will be plenty happening behind the scenes across both campuses.

One of the biggest projects this summer is the relocation of our Evergreen Special Class to Room 12 on the senior corridor of Campus A. Significant work is taking place to prepare this new learning space and ensure it meets the needs of the pupils who will attend it.

We are also continuing to invest in improvements to our school grounds and site security. New fencing is being installed on Campus A to further enhance the safety and security of the site, while ongoing grounds maintenance will ensure that both campuses remain attractive, safe and welcoming environments for our pupils.

We are particularly excited about plans to upgrade our Sensory Garden beside the medieval town walls on the junior yard. We hope to install a synthetic grass surface, making this valuable outdoor learning and wellbeing space accessible to pupils throughout the year, regardless of the weather.

On Campus B, a new two-classroom modular building has been sanctioned by the Department of Education and Youth. Works are expected to commence over the summer months. This exciting development will provide additional accommodation for our growing school community, and we look forward to sharing further updates with families as the project progresses.

Our annual Summer Programme will take place during the first two weeks of July. The programme is being coordinated by Mr Cian Burke, with the support of a dedicated team of teachers and SNAs who will work across a number of classes. We are very grateful to all staff involved in providing this valuable opportunity for our pupils.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September and sharing the progress made on these exciting developments.



**THANKS TO MR
HANLEY FOR
COMPILING
THIS END OF
YEAR VIDEO
FOR US!**