

Scoil Pádraig Naofa December 2025 Newsletter



Principal's Welcome:



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our December Newsletter.

Our school has a long tradition of supporting many wonderful charities, particularly the St Vincent de Paul, (25th year), Cancer Care West, Galway Simon Community and the Galway RNLi Lifeboat, to name just a few. Once again, this year, the response to our food appeal and hamper raffle has been incredible. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

We also thoroughly enjoyed Santa's visit — and glad to say that this year the Elf behaved himself. Our class performances and Christmas Coffee Morning were very well supported and really captured the spirit of Christmas. In particular I would like to thank Mr Bergin and Rang 6 who did tremendous work and I also wish to acknowledge all the staff who year after year make such an effort to create a festive spirit and one of generosity. Thank you.

I would like to wish everyone in our school community — pupils, parents, past pupils, friends and all those connected to our school — a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas, and every good wish for the New Year. Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and continued support, especially with our Christmas fundraising activities.

Finally, we remember those who will not be with us this Christmas, and today, we send our condolences to Willie Kenny Snr, and all the Kenny family on the sad passing of Breda. RIP.

Warm regards,
Joe Kennelly.



Key Dates



- ❖ **Christmas School Holidays:**
School re-opens Monday Jan 5th 2026
- ❖ **School Enrolments Closing Date:**
Friday Jan 30th 2026
- ❖ **Staff Meeting:**
School closes Friday Feb 6th @ 12.30pm



School Enrolments 2026-2027

*We are now accepting applications
for enrolments
for September 2026*

*Our enrolment form is available on the
school website www.cregmore.ie*

*You can also get a form by contacting
the school office
at [091-799037](tel:091-799037)
or by emailing
cregmorens@ymail.com*

Board of Management Update:

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well.

We as a Board are committed to providing the very best for our staff and pupils, and indeed to keeping our school modern and enhanced. This week we carried out significant work on our school grounds and we are delighted to have received funding from the Department of Education to replace the heating framework in the old part of the school with a new and more efficient system. This work will commence shortly. Our school hot meal provision will commence in January, whereby all pupils will receive a nourishing hot meal daily. Finally, a special word of gratitude to a Sharon Daly and all who supported the recent Craft Fair....and to Foroige who yet again participated in the annual St Vincent de Paul, food appeal.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas,
Odhran O Mahony. Chairperson. BOM.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



Our annual St. Vincent de Paul Coffee Morning and Christmas Raffle were a tremendous success again this year. As always, your generosity is truly overwhelming. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful school community coming together to support this charitable cause.

Thanks to your kindness, we raised €1000 for the St. Vincent de Paul Charity, and we were also able to donate an additional €1000 in food vouchers and food hampers to local families in need. On top of this, our dry food appeal filled 10 large boxes, which will make a real difference for many families this Christmas.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all of you our school families and the local businesses who supported this fundraiser. Your kindness and generosity has touched many families and helped them out this Christmas. Our Coffee morning was a wonderful festive occasion for parents, children and grandparents to come together, chat and catch up, enjoy a warm cup of tea or coffee and listen to the children perform some Christmas carols and tunes. Thanks again and we wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Food Hampers being collected



Presentation of €1000 to SVP



SVP Coffee Morning



Cregmore N.S. Christmas Craft Fair





December Silver Circle Winners

1st Prize €100 – Casey Rohan

2nd Prize €50 – Evana Burke

3rd Prize €25 – Mark Cunningham



St Vincent de Paul Coffee Morning Choir

The children very eagerly began their practice for our annual coffee morning in our lovely Tigin.

They gave of their talents and it brought joy to all who heard them singing favourites such as Silent Night, Away in a manger and In the bleak mid-winter.

They performed these favourites and more, also played festive tunes too for our guests during our annual fundraiser.

Well done to all involved.



Let's Dance!

The children were treated to six super weeks of contemporary dance with Shane from Dance it out-Ireland.

He brought great happiness to the school and the children really enjoyed learning moves to Dynamite by Taio Cruz and Ed Sheeran's -Shiver!... to name but two.

They enjoyed "dance- offs" between groups in each class. Great moves were shown! *Many thanks for all his hard work. We enjoyed every moment.*



Music

Our music lessons for Term One came to a close last week, and we would like to say a big well done to all the children. Their commitment to their lessons, their practising at home and working on improving their skills has been a joy to see. It was wonderful to see so many new beginner musicians coming on board this year and already after just one term, it is truly impressive to see the improvement they have made. We had our annual Christmas Performances in school last week. From festive favourites to traditional tunes, the children played beautifully. It was a joy to watch their confidence shine through and it was clear to see that all their hard work throughout the term paid off. We are very proud of their progress and let's continue to encourage our musicians as we head into a new year. Music lessons will resume in January after the Christmas holidays. An email with the details will be sent out closer to the time. ***We want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year 🎵.***



4th & 5th Classes Photographic Competition

Sincere thanks to Steve Scott, who recently hosted and judged a photography competition for 4th and 5th Class. Firstly, Steve generously held an information session for us, outlining what makes a strong photograph. We learned about the rule of thirds, leading lines, negative space, and other compositional guidelines. The entries were of an excellent standard, and each participant had the chance to share where they captured their photo and what inspired it. Steve had a difficult task choosing the deserving winners. Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you to Mr. Kennelly for supporting this project.



Every child in the school had an opportunity to design their own Christmas card earlier this term. They then had the chance to purchase cards, decorations, gift tags, or wrapping paper with their own personal designs. This year was one of the biggest orders we received. Well done everyone!



*Design-a-Card
Christmas Cards*



Junior Infants Ms Orehan: December has been a fun-filled & magical month for our wonderful Junior Infants. They have enjoyed entering into the spirit of the festive season with amazing song-singing as well as creating beautiful Christmas crafts. The boys & girls learned lots of interesting facts about the Christmas tree & it's origins. Did you know that the very first Christmas trees were decorated with apples, nuts & candles in Germany over 500 years ago?! We have also spent time exploring the importance of preparing our hearts for Christmas-time. The children listened intently to the story of 'Snow Friends', a heart-warming tale of friendship & kindness.

Wishing you all a fabulous & peaceful Christmas from all in Junior Infants.



Senior Infants Ms Coyne: Senior Infants were not just rocking around the Christmas tree this December, they were very busy rocking around the school, as they prepared and performed in their Christmas show. Great fun was had by all and we are very thankful to everyone that helped us prepare along the way. In keeping with Liturgical festivities and milestones, we acknowledged and celebrated the season of Advent, by exhibiting an Advent altar in our classroom. We enjoyed performing dance moves with Shane, attending a Christmas musical in Leisureland and one of the biggest highlights throughout the month was the arrival of the Big Man from the North Pole – Santa! Santa and his elf visited our classroom and delivered festive goodies to all. Thank you to everyone who has helped make 2025 such an exciting time in the Senior Infant classroom, we cannot wait to see what 2026 has in store!!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holly-day and every blessing and good wish for the new year.



1st Class Ms Herwood – A Magical Build-Up to Christmas!

What an exciting few weeks it has been in First Class as we count down the days to Christmas! The classroom has been filled with sparkle, music and laughter as the children take part in lots of wonderful seasonal activities. One of the biggest highlights was our fantastic visit from the circus! The children were amazed by the performers' tricks, juggling and fun surprises. There was great excitement as everyone got the chance to experience the magic of the circus up close. We were also incredibly proud to perform our Christmas show, which the boys and girls worked so hard to prepare. The children sang beautifully, especially during "Somewhere Only We Know" and the lively "Jingle Bell Rock." They also put on a brilliant dance for "Frosty the Snowman", full of energy and festive cheer! To top it all off, the class showcased their talents by playing musical instruments, adding a wonderful sound of Christmas to the hall.

It truly has been a joyful build-up to the holidays, and we are so proud of each child for their hard work, enthusiasm and festive spirit. We are looking forward to even more Christmas fun in the days ahead!



2nd Class Ms Greene: We have had a wonderfully festive time in Second Class over the past few weeks! The children were absolutely fantastic in their recent show and made us all incredibly proud. They sang, spoke, and performed with such confidence and enthusiasm – it was a joy to watch and a real celebration of their hard work. To celebrate their brilliant performances, the children enjoyed a cosy treat of hot chocolate, which was very much appreciated and added to the festive cheer. The festive fun didn't stop there! The children have also been busy getting into the Christmas spirit in the classroom by making and decorating gingerbread men. There were lots of smiles, creativity, and excitement as they decorated their biscuits. Thank you for your continued support. It has been a lovely way to end the term, filled with festive fun, teamwork, and happy memories. *We would like to wish everybody in our school community a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.*



3rd Class: Mrs O'Dea & Mr Farrell: December has been a very busy month once again in third class. The children had great fun preparing and performing their Christmas Show. We decided to do a small version of Mary Poppins to pay homage to the legendary Dick Van Dyke, who turned 100 of December 13th. We even put together a brief message for Dick to send him our best wishes. The children loved every minute of it and pulled out all the stops for all their fans. The children also explored various poems, stories and Art to do with Jack Frost. *Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope Santa is good and we will be ready to welcome all of the wonderful children back in January.*



4th Class: Ms O'Carroll. December was a month filled with magic and excitement for the children of 4th Class. We had a special visitor in our classroom who delighted in playing tricks on us! We learned all about Advent, made our own Advent wreaths, and explored the meaning behind each candle. We talked about how Advent helps us prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus. We also spent a lot of time rehearsing for our Christmas show, which turned out to be a great success. Performing in front of our family and friends made us very proud. In addition, we discovered how teabags are made and where tea leaves are grown, and we even created a step by step guide to making the perfect cup of tea. Did you know that Ireland is the second-biggest tea-drinking nation in the world? As our first term draws to a close, we reflected on all the learning and fun we have shared so far. We're very excited to see what 2026 will bring!

Nollaig Shona daibh go léir.



5th Class: Ms Mc Cormack & Miss Nally: Fifth Class thoroughly enjoyed preparing for our Christmas performance. The children put tremendous effort into creating and presenting vibrant, festive PowerPoint projects showcasing Christmas traditions and customs from around the world. We also spent time sharing our own cherished family memories and the special traditions that make Christmas meaningful in our homes. This month, we explored the history of traditional Irish clothing, including the brat, the Aran jumper, Claddagh garments, and tweed. We compared these items to what we wear today, beginning with the ever-popular Galway jersey! Our classroom was filled with creativity as we composed Winter acrostic poems and performed our own Christmas raps. The children were also very proud to showcase their beautiful artwork, including cheerful Arctic penguins, colourful Christmas jumpers, and elegant Christmas wreaths. These creations brought extra sparkle and festive cheer to our classroom. We finished this magical month by revisiting the story of Jesus' birth and reflecting on the many ways we can share love, kindness, and joy with our families. ***We would like to wish everyone a magical, joy-filled Christmas and good health and happiness in 2025.***



6th Class: Mr Bergin: December has been a short but very busy and enjoyable month in the 6th Class room. The children really enjoyed preparing for their Christmas performance and should be very proud of their efforts. What incredible musical talent we have here in Cregmore NS. In SESE the class took a look at the life of Daniel O Connell, learned about the Mauri people and noted similarities in the traditions and history or the Mauri people to that of the Irish. In maths we focussed on number theory, multiplication and division. The class have also continued on their JEP journey and completed their Teckno Junior Achievement programme where to conclude their course this month they focussed on Cyber Safety including cyber security, phishing and password creation. Throughout the month of December 6th Class have also been pivotal in the organisation of the SVP food collection and raffle. ***Finally, from everyone in the 6th Class room we wish you all a very happy, safe and memorable Christmas. Nollaig Shona!***





Please read this acrostic Christmas poem for some tips on saving energy in your homes this Christmas.

Care for our planet by using less power
Help by turning off lights not needed each hour
Remember to unplug things before you go out
Insulate your home to keep warm air about
Switch to LED lights that twinkle so bright
Try wearing warm layers on cold winter nights
Make the most of sunshine to brighten your day
Always reduce waste in a fun, festive way
Share these tips with others to spread Christmas cheer!

Musical Joy this Christmas

As if things couldn't get more festive in Cregmore N.S, the whole school was treated to seeing each class perform in the hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 16th and 17th 😊 the festive spirit was alive and well. Children clapped and sang along to fantastic songs and tunes. A very memorable few hours in our school. 🎅 🎄





The Joy of the Circus



We were delighted to welcome back the Corvinni Family Circus for another wonderful performance. This year's show included some exciting new stunts and the children were amazed from start to finish. The hall was filled with smiles and laughter as the talented performers brought their incredible skills and creativity to the stage once again. The show truly helped spark the Christmas spirit throughout the school. Thank you, Corvinni Family Circus, for bringing such joy and magic to our school! 😊



