



May NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the May edition of the [St. Cronan's Junior National School](#) Newsletter! As we step into the vibrant month of [May](#), filled with blooming flowers and the promise (fingers crossed) of warmer days ahead, we're thrilled to bring you the latest updates, events, and highlights from our wonderful school community.

In this edition, you will find a wealth of information ranging from important dates for your diary to insightful news about the new maths curriculum and initiatives aimed at nurturing your child's growth and development.

As always, we encourage you to stay connected with us, whether through our monthly newsletters and by following us on Instagram. Your involvement and support play a vital role in creating a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, let's make this [May](#) a month filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences for our young learners at St. Cronan's Junior National School.

Warmest Regards

Edel Blake

Hot Meals

The news that a lot of parents and children have been waiting for is finally here. I have dates for Hot Meals starting.....on the 24th May, Brendan, the rep from [The Lunch Bag](#) will visit each class and give the children their registration pack. The Hot Meals will begin coming to the school from the [28th May](#). Children will only need to bring a small snack for morning break - e.g.: A piece of fruit and a drink. I have attached 2 letters from [The Lunch Bag](#) to the end of this Newsletter - 1 is about launch day and the other is a response to a recent Irish Times Article about Hot Meals.

Education is filled with our greatest hope in this world, our kids.

Active Week

A big well done to Mr. Farrell and his team for organizing a fantastic Active Week. We have had - Skip-a-thon, local walks, active zones, active homework and of course today is the Hip-Hop-a-thon which is always terrific fun! It is great to have a full week to celebrate being active but here in **St. Cronan's Junior National School** we put a high value on keeping the children active daily through busy breaks, yard time and P.E. Well done to all the children for taking part fully and showing all the visitors to the school how polite and respectful **St. Cronan's JNS** children are. They are truly leaving up to the school motto '**To be the best that we can be!**'

Library Book Fundraiser

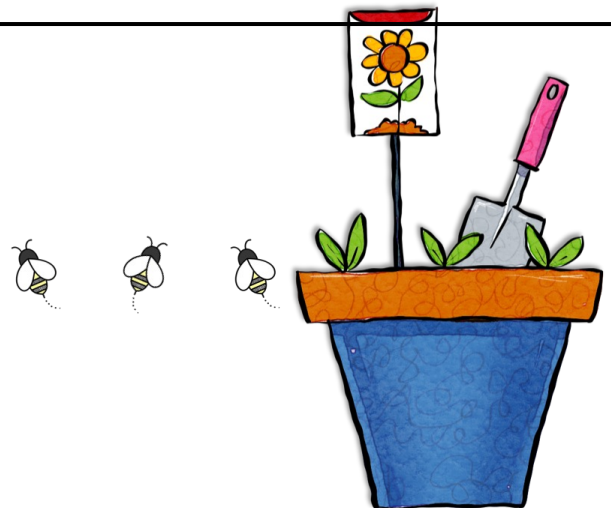
Thank you so much to all the families who have donated on Aladdin to our Hip-Hop-a-thon fundraiser. Since 2007 we have only received 1 grant for our Library. We have updated our read-a-louds, shared reading and decodable books. We now want to upgrade our class and school libraries. We all love story time and books in St. Cronan's Junior National School and we appreciate any donation families can make so we can up-date and extend our libraries.

New Junior Infants

We are really excited about welcoming 144 new Junior Infants to our school this year. We will be meeting the parents/guardians this week and the children will be coming to visit their new classes in June.

Child Safeguarding Review

Our Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on the 22nd April and can be found on www.stcronansjns.ie.



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Car Park

During a recent survey to gather the voice of Parents/Guardians and children a lot of concerns were expressed about the Car Park. The Car Park doesn't belong to the school it belongs to the Church so I can't patrol it in the mornings/afternoons. The Car Park is for Staff Use only and Parents/Guardians shouldn't be using the Car Park in the mornings or afternoons. I understand parking is difficult around the school - maybe we could mention these difficulties to Local Politicians. I am appealing to all Parents/Guardians to please respect the Car Park rules and keep our very precious children safe.

Important Dates

Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th - School Closed - bank holiday/holiday

Thursday 9th - School Closed - Professional Learning Day for teachers - Maths curriculum

Saturday 11th May - First Holy Communion Day

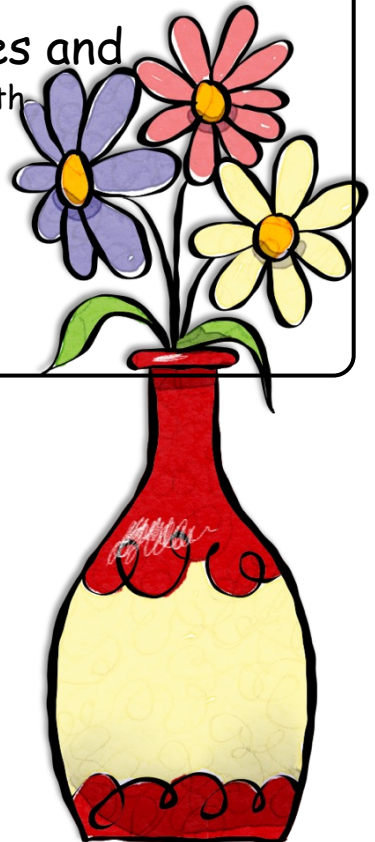
Wednesday 15th May - 2nd Class Photos - class times and registration details sent by email on the 22nd & 24th

April

Friday 28th May - Day 1 for Hot Meals

Monday 3rd June - Bank Holiday - School Closed

Friday 7th June - Elections - School Closed



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An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

New Primary Maths Curriculum - this is what the teachers will be training in on the 9th May!

Information for parents on the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum



The Department of Education has published a new maths curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths in every school.

What is different and how children will learn under the new curriculum

The aim of the new curriculum is that children see maths as important and useful to their everyday lives.

It does not change much of 'what' children learn, but it improves 'how' children learn maths. This includes more learning through play and problem solving. It also provides more opportunities for children to be creative, take risks and be challenged. It gives teachers more flexibility to teach in a way that best meets the needs of each child. The following are some examples.



- Children will have a chance learn maths through play. Teachers can use games involving counting, measuring, angles and so on.
- Children can make connections between maths and other areas of learning. Some examples are the use of maths in PE or history, or Irish.
- Children are encouraged to share, reason and argue their thinking about maths.
- Children will be given more space to work with each other and discuss their ideas.
- Children will have the chance to solve real-life problems using maths.



Supporting teachers

During this school year, teachers and principals will get to know the curriculum and might begin trying parts of it in their classrooms.



Teachers and principals will receive support in the new curriculum. The school will let parents know when this support will happen. It may mean that schools close for some or all children for a short period.



More information

The Primary School Curriculum is changing. The *Primary Mathematics Curriculum* is another step in updating the curriculum, much of which is over 20 years old.

Where to find more information

Scan the QR code or click the link below

If you want to read more about this change, and find supports for parents, see

1. gov.ie/primarycurriculum
2. ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/



1



2

click

click





Dear parent,

Your school has been selected with 900 others to begin the Governments Free Hot School Meal scheme in line with the EU Child Guarantee. This scheme has many benefits, beyond basic need.

Collective hot school meals are proven to:

- boost immunity, reducing sick days and subsequent disruption to education and class flow
- keep students focused in their afternoon studies, ensuring educational time is optimised
- grant all children equal access to nutrition with an approved high quality menu. It is vital that all children take part to ensure stigma is not created for those in need
- collective eating with peers is proven to encourage “fussy” eaters to try new meals in a safe space, increasing nutrition and reducing nutrition related illness

For the good of all children, we need all parents to commit to trying the service and help us to create a culture in Ireland, in line with almost all European countries, whereby a hot school meal is a definitive part of the school day, encouraged by parents and teachers alike.

Your child will have 5 different menus in a week, so choice or boredom will not be an issue, once their **orders are changed regularly** with your assistance.

The school meal programme **shifts parental responsibility** from making lunches, to choosing lunches and adjusting snacks and evening meals accordingly.

We have invested in hiring the best in the business and developing our facilities to bring you high quality meals. We will do all we can to make this a positive experience for you and your child and ask for your full support to help us realise the incredible opportunities hot school meals will afford the children.

Ray, Ger and The Lunch Bag Team.

Subject: Irish Times Clarification

Dear Principal,

With the recent Irish Times article on school meal nutrition, we just want to take this opportunity to reassure you all of The Lunch Bag stance.

We are incredibly disappointed in the opinion piece showcased by the Irish Times with regards to a review of a small, hot drop model, school meal supplier. Based on negative findings of this one company, a sweeping generalisation was made with regards to the entire school meal scheme, with no attempt made to reach out to other suppliers.

I just want to assure you and your families that:

- All our chicken and Turkey is sourced from McCaugheys family farm in Castleblayney.
- All our pork is from Loughnane's butchers in Galway
- We work with Finnegan's farm in Navan for our veg and Mike Duggan Limerick for our fruit (which we wash and hand cut ourselves)
- Our beef is from McKeowns in Ballymena
- We are well aware of fibre deficiencies in Irish diets, therefore add lentils to our mince dishes for a fibre boost
- We work with Ballymaloe - literally the best in the industry, to ensure sauces are made specifically for us to meet HI guidelines including low salt and low sugar contents, while pulsed veg dense
- All our cheeses are from Bandon Vale in Cork
- We work with Glenhaven in Co Wicklow to develop chicken goujons that are 100% chicken breast and are baked not flash fried
- We proudly display our nutritional info on our app and website
- All our meals are passed by the Dept Social Protection and Dept Health for meeting guidelines

We have also just won a Guaranteed Irish award because over 98% of our products are Irish (we can't source blueberries in Ireland..).

As a team, we are relentless in our pursuit for on-going improvements and literally work night and day to meet this enormous surge in demand that has come upon us. We have a team of vibrant, bright Dietitians and Nutritionists constantly reviewing our nutritional standards and meals.

We have just employed over 400 people across the school community to heat our meals and given opportunities for those that really struggle to find employment that meets their child care needs. Our Irish suppliers are creating jobs across the country to source and provide the highest quality products.

We have grown from a tiny team in 2019 to one of the largest food suppliers in the country. We do not take this task lightly. We are parents ourselves and passionate that what we do will make a positive impact. We vehemently stand over our product, our produce and our people and will continue to ensure that in a few short years, there will be a marked improvement in childhood outcomes and it will tie back to the moment our school meals were launched into schools nationwide.

School meals are statistically proven to increase attendance and attention, boost immunity and moods and we have had the most fantastic feedback from schools and families about the positive changes they are seeing every day.

We are so conscious that children get bored very easily and, once bored, will complain about quality and produce more waste. While we have a different menu every day to counter boredom - we need families to change their orders regularly. We are working on new menu ideas on an on-going basis and can't wait to showcase our new proposals and our promotional ideas around the same.

We will be emailing parents with the above reassurances also, but really appreciate your support at this time. We are just normal people, doing our very best to give you and your school community the best service we can.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind regards
The Lunch Bag Team