



# November

# NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the days grow shorter and the festive season approaches, there's a wonderful buzz of excitement in the air here at St. Cronan's. Our school is busy preparing for Christmas, and the magic is beginning to take shape! This week, the decorations will start going up, and everyone is eagerly keeping an eye on the countdown to the big day outside Door 2. It's a reminder that the most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner.

Our classrooms are brimming with creativity and joy as the children work hard preparing for their Christmas shows. Beyond the songs, costumes, and performances, we are also taking time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas—love, kindness, and the joy of giving.

A heartfelt thank you to all our families for supporting the Parents' Association raffle and bingo event. Your generosity and enthusiasm help us build a stronger school community. We also deeply appreciate those who took the time to engage with local politicians about the importance of education. Your voices matter, and together we continue to advocate for the very best for our children. At St. Cronan's, we remain fully committed to providing a top-class education for our wonderful students and will always expect the same dedication from our elected representatives.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to a joyful and memorable Christmas season together!

Warmest wishes,

*Edel Blake*



## Board of Management Agreed Report

1. Congratulations to our new Board of Management Member Eoin Walsh who is the Parent's Nominee following a vote on 25<sup>th</sup> November.
2. The Board of Management would like to congratulate the school staff on successful completion of Nurture Training last week. Well done to Mr. Taaffe and Mr. Farrell for establishing our first Nurture Room.

# Parent's Association Event

## Christmas Jumper Swap at St. Cronan's

The St. Cronan's Parents' Association is delighted to announce a Christmas Jumper Swap, taking place in the St. Cronan's School Hall on **Friday, 6th December 2024, from 14:40 to 16:00.**

This festive event is the perfect opportunity to swap your gently used Christmas jumper for a "new-to-you" one—an eco-friendly and budget-conscious way to spread holiday cheer!

Here's how it works:

- **Donations:** From **Monday, 2nd December**, we will begin accepting jumper donations. Please send in clean, good-condition Christmas jumpers with your child to school.
- **What we're accepting:** Jumpers of all sizes—both children's and adults'—are welcome.
- **Swap Day:** Come along to the hall on the day of the event and choose a jumper to take home!

This initiative is a fun way to encourage the **re-use of clothing** and promote sustainability while sharing the festive spirit within our school community. We can't wait to see everyone getting into the holiday spirit and swapping jumpers to make this season even more magical!

Warm regards,

St. Cronan's Parents' Association



## Toy Show Friday Treats

The Lunch Bag have kindly provided us with a few treats for the children for Friday evening for the Toy Show. These treats will be sent home on Friday. I hope all families have a wonderful weekend.

## Exciting Book News

### Exciting News for St. Cronan's: Every Child a Reader Project!

At St. Cronan's JNS, reading is at the heart of our school community. Whether it's exploring the shelves of our school library, browsing through class libraries, or even borrowing a story from Mrs. Blake's office, we know the joy and importance of books. From the beautiful book-themed images decorating our school to the stories we share together, reading is part of everything we do.

So, it is with great excitement that we announce St. Cronan's has been selected by **Children's Books Ireland** to take part in their **Every Child a Reader Project**!

As part of this project:

- We will receive **250 books** to add to our school's growing collection.
- We have been assigned a **dedicated Reading Champion**, none other than author **Shane Hegarty**, who will inspire and engage our young readers.
- Shane Hegarty will work closely with **four of our 1st classes** from **January to May**, nurturing a love of reading and storytelling.
- He will also support the **entire school community** as we come together to celebrate **World Book Day in March**.

This is an incredible opportunity to enhance our reading culture and inspire a lifelong love of books in our students. We look forward to sharing more updates about this exciting journey in the months ahead!

## Christmas Show

We are delighted to announce that our **Annual Christmas Show** will take place this December, and we can't wait to welcome you all to this festive celebration! The show will be held in the **school hall** on **Wednesday, 18th December**, and all **family members** are warmly invited to join us.

### Class Performance Schedule:

- 🎄 **9:30 AM** - Junior Infants
- 🎄 **10:30 AM** - Senior Infants
- 🎄 **11:30 AM** - First Class
- 🎄 **12:30 PM** - Second Class

We will be collecting a **small donation at the door**, and the proceeds will go towards purchasing **construction toys for the school yard**, as per the children's special request. This promises to be a magical event, full of music, laughter, and holiday cheer, as each class takes to the stage to showcase their hard work and festive spirit.

We look forward to seeing you there to celebrate this wonderful season as a school community!



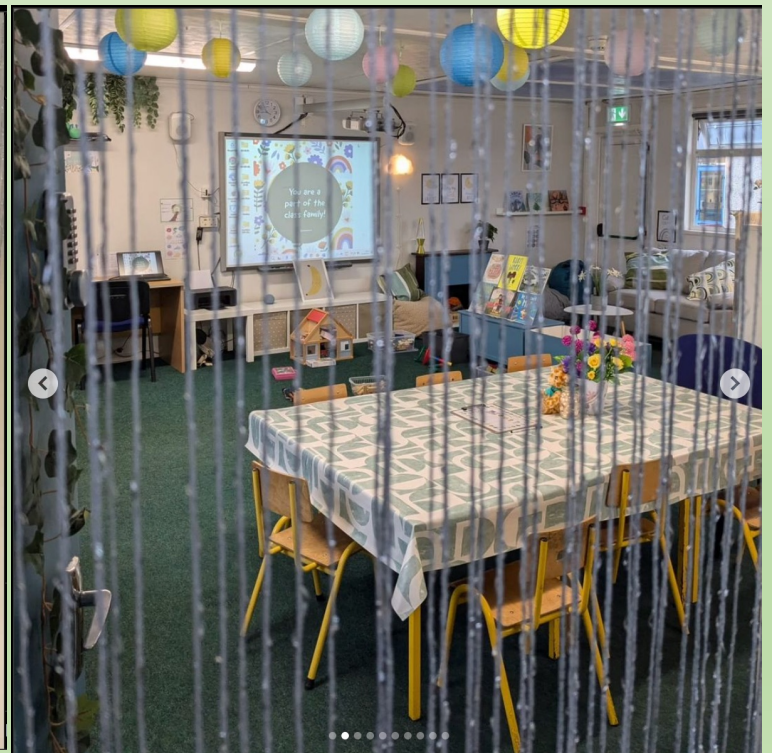
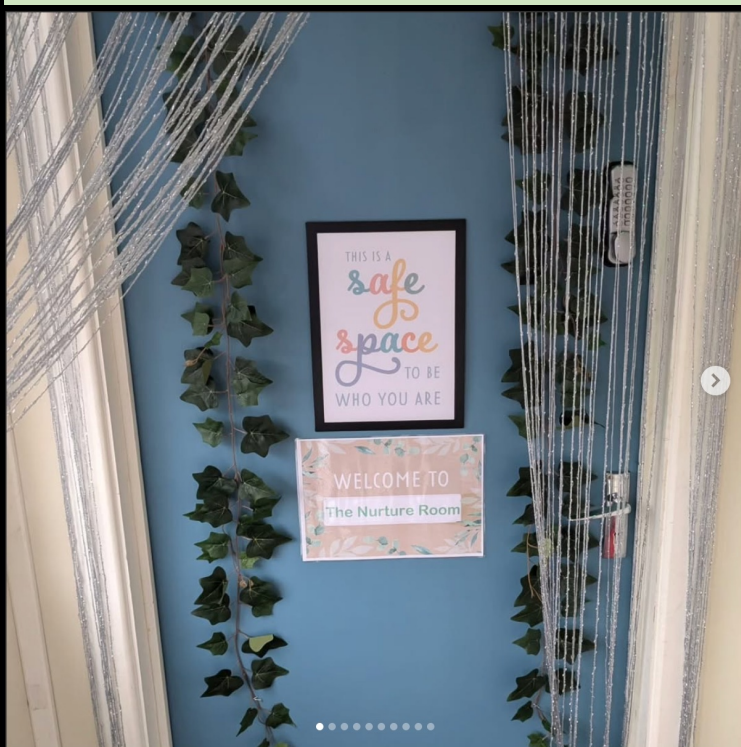
This September, St. Cronan's JNS was delighted to officially open our very own **Nurture Room**, a dedicated space designed to support the well-being and development of our students. This room operates on the **six principles of nurture**, which focus on creating a safe, supportive, and positive environment where children can thrive both socially and emotionally.

In preparation for this important initiative:

- Several of our staff members completed a **Nurture Course** last year.
- In November, the **entire staff** participated in **nurture training** to ensure a shared understanding and approach.
- Mr. Taaffe** represented St. Cronan's at the **Nurture Conference**, where he connected with leaders in this field and shared insights from our school's journey.

We are thrilled to share that the Nurture facilitator was so impressed with our beautiful new Nurture Room that she featured it on Instagram, accompanied by high praise for the thoughtful design and purpose of the space.

The Nurture Room is already making a difference in the lives of our students, and we are proud to continue fostering a school environment where every child feels valued, supported, and ready to succeed.



## Instagram

We share lots of school news and events on Instagram. We would like to increase our followers. Please follow us and encourage friends and family to follow us also.



stcronans\_jns

Follow

Message



92 posts

354 followers

0 following

Education

Large, co-ed junior school located in Swords, Co Dublin.



1st & 2nd Cl...



Infant classes



Safe routes ...



Applications



Minister's vi...

## Enrolment

We are already preparing for our Junior Infants in 2025. We have 144 places. We have 189 names on our waiting list. Enrolment closes on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please, please, please ensure that all siblings, cousins and neighbours names are on the list before it closes. It is so important to us that no one in our wonderful School Community misses the opportunity to be a Junior Infant with us.

## Enrolment - Special Class

The NCSE is responsible for the provision of special class places. As you know we have two wonderful autism classes in our school with 12 places for children with autism. The allocation of these places must be approved by the NCSE. We are acutely aware that there is a chronic shortage of appropriate special class and special school places in our area, and we raised this issue with you all at the curriculum meetings in September. What became clear in recent years is that the NCSE was not always aware of the need in an area. To rectify this the NCSE have introduced a new system for parents to notify them if their child requires a special class place.

This new system is very important, and we urge all parents of children with recommendations for Special classes or special schools to complete the Parents Notify form on the NCSE website. **This includes parents of children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, first class and second class who are in mainstream but are eligible for a Special Class Place.** This does not have any impact on your child's place with us in St Cronan's JNS, however it will give the NCSE a clear picture of the level of need in our area and will allow them to plan. While we have 2 special classes in our school there may not be matching places available in senior schools or secondary schools in the area. When you complete the Parents Notify form you will receive a letter from the NCSE confirming that your child is eligible for a special class place. This is not a guarantee of a place, but should you secure a place you will need this letter to accept the place.

If you intend to apply for a special class place now is the time to investigate this.

<https://ncse.ie/notify-ncse-special-class-special-school> Our SENO is Erin Murray.



## Kid's Takeover

Our school motto is "To be the best that we can be". At St. Cronan's, we are a child-centred school, and we love to hear directly from our students. This month, we are delighted to feature input from two of our talented First Class pupils, **Alice** and **Eabha**, who wanted to share their thoughts about life at school:

### **Reading Buddies Project with the Senior School:**

"We went to the library with 6th class. We read 4 or 5 books. We made new friends from 6th class. We read Beauty and the Beast, Granny MacGinty and Room on the Broom. It was the best!"

### **Science:**

At the moment we are learning about how to keep our teeth healthy! So today we did a science experiment testing eggs kept in different drinks (Coke, water and apple juice) for 24 hours because they have the same composition of calcium as our teeth





# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Begin bringing in Jumpers to donate	3	4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class going to Panto - please bring your lunch	5	6 Jumper Swap event 2:40 - 4:40	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Santa coming on a 1 horse open sleigh!	14
15	16 Choir singing in Dublin Airport	17	18 Christmas Show Day	19	20 Last Day: Junior & Senior Infants: 11:45 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class: 11:55	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	x	x	x	x
x	x	<p><b>Important Information:</b></p> <p>There will be no Hot Meals for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>No Hot Meals for anyone on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.</p>				

*WORK  
hard*