

January

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to our January newsletter! As we settle into Term 2, the school is full of energy and excitement. While the weather outside may be chilly and gloomy, our classrooms are bursting with warmth, fun, and plenty of engaging learning experiences.

Senior Infants have been busy pretending to be estate agents, using their imaginations to "sell" dream homes, while Second Class is reaching for the stars as they learn all about space! First Class had great fun reading a hilarious story about an entire school being snowed in for the day – a very fitting tale for this time of year! Meanwhile, our Junior Infants continue to work hard on their early numeracy and literacy skills, laying the foundation for a love of learning.

We are also looking forward to meeting all our lovely parents and guardians for the upcoming **Parent-Teacher Meetings**. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate each child's progress and strengthen the vital home-school connection.

Looking ahead, February will be a month of friendship and kindness. **Friendship February** encourages every child to make one new friend, helping to build a strong, inclusive school community. We will also be celebrating **Kindness Week**, a special time dedicated to spreading positivity and care throughout our school. During this week, we will also mark **Safer Internet Day**, focusing on the importance of online safety and responsible digital habits.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making St. Cronan's such a warm, welcoming, and joyful place for our children to learn and grow. We are excited for the term ahead!

Warm regards,

Edel Blake



Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.

Thank You

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community here at St. Cronan's. While the low capitation grant we receive from the government means we must fundraise to provide the best resources for our children, your generosity ensures we can live up to our school motto: **"To be the best that we can be."**

In the Summer Term of 2024, we held a fantastic hip-hop-a-thon and raised funds for our class libraries. Junior and Senior Infant classes have already picked their new book selections, and we're eagerly waiting for them to arrive. First and Second Classes are reviewing their options and will soon choose their top picks to enrich their class libraries.

At Christmas, we collected an incredible €2,071 at the door during our Christmas show. These funds are being used to purchase new construction equipment for the yard. In the coming days, Mrs. Blake will visit a range of classes to let students vote on what equipment they'd like. This reflects our commitment to giving children **a space, a voice, an audience, and influence** within their school community.

We're also thrilled to share that Mrs. Boylan, Chloe, and Senan visited Tesco in Airside today to collect €1,102 from the Tesco Community Fund. This generous donation will go toward equipment for our exercise room, supporting inclusion and meeting the diverse learning needs of our students.

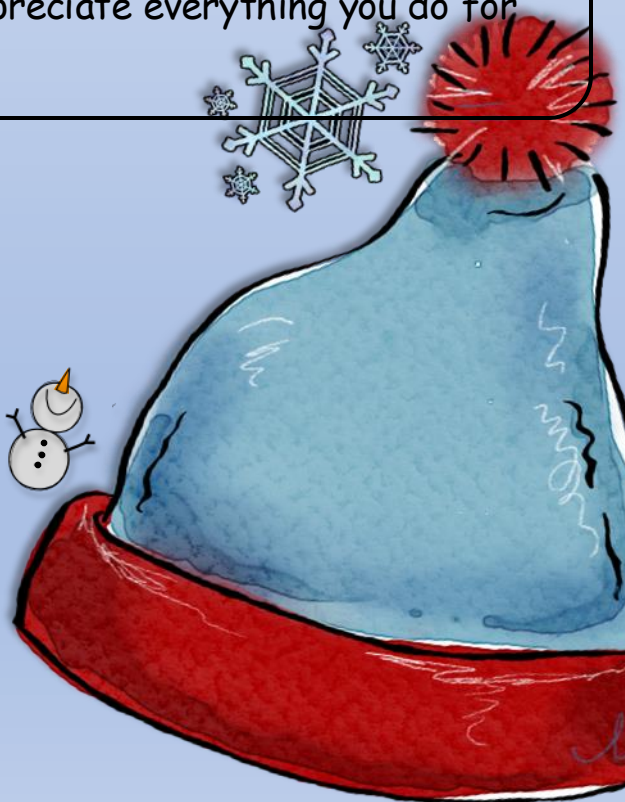
Thank you so much to all our families for your ongoing support and generosity. We couldn't achieve all this without you, and we deeply appreciate everything you do for our school.

Kids Takeover

By Room 6 (Junior Infants)

New Chair Day

We didn't know that we were getting new chairs. We got a surprise when we walked in and saw them. We wonder where our old chairs are now? Our new chairs are very comfy! We give them 10/10.



Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.

Amazing Book News

It is with great excitement that we share some incredible news: St. Cronan's has been specially selected by **Children's Books Ireland** to take part in the '**Every Child a Reader**' project!

As part of this project, we will be receiving **250 beautiful new books** for our main school library - 150 chosen by Children's Books Ireland and 100 selected by the children themselves. We've also been assigned a **Champion of Reading**, and we couldn't be more thrilled to announce that it's Shane Hegarty, author of *The Boot* series and *The Shop of Impossible Ice-creams!*

Shane will be conducting workshops with four of our lucky First Classes and, for **World Book Day**, he will also work with Junior Infants, Senior Infants, and Second Class.

We are so fortunate to have this incredible opportunity and are deeply grateful to Children's Books Ireland for selecting our school. We'll keep you updated on all the excitement as the project unfolds!

Thank you as always for your support in helping us foster a love of reading and learning in our children. Together, we continue to make St. Cronan's a place where every child can truly "be the best that we can be."

Important Dates

We have some important dates coming up:

Bank Holiday: 3rd February

Kindness Week: 10th -14th February

Parent - Teacher Meetings: Please book slot on Aladdin -11th & 12th February - 1st & 2nd Class off at 2:15 PM

Maths Curriculum Training Day: School Closed for children - 3rd March

Bi Cinealta Training: School closed at 12 for all children - Friday 30th May



Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.

Grandparent's Day

Some of our classes celebrated Grandparent's Day on Thursday 23rd January and even an impending red storm warning could ruin our fun. It is one of our favourite days of the year. There was lots of tea, coffee and biscuits, lots of chats, giggles, funny stories, art work and even exercise time for the Grandparents.

The biggest takeaway of the day for us was the joy and happiness that filled the school. A huge thank you to all Grandparents, parents, children and staff that participated in this lovely day.

Staff Training Days

It is important that our school community is aware of what is happening during closures for staff training as it is disruptive to family life. These days are mandatory and directed by the Department of Education. There have been many new changes in Education in the past 5 years. We also have a New Curriculum coming - Mathematics and the Primary Language Curriculum has already been released.

There is also a new Anti-bullying procedures and policy called Bi Cinealta. Schools must close for a half day to look at these procedures and design a policy for our school. We will be consulting with families on this process in June.

Over the next few pages I will share some information from The Department of Education about the new curriculum and procedures.

Grandparent's Day



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying was published on 1st December 2022. Cineáltas is the Department of Education's whole-education approach to preventing and addressing bullying in schools. Cineáltas is dedicated to the prevention and addressing of bullying, cyber bullying, racist bullying, gender identity bullying and sexual harassment, among other areas, in schools.

One of the more significant actions in Cineáltas was to update the anti-bullying procedures for schools. On 19 June 2024, *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* were published and are effective from the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year. These 'Bí Cineálta' (Be Kind) procedures were developed in collaboration with the education partners and are heavily informed by the views of children and young people, parents, school staff, board of management members and the wider education community.

The *Bí Cineálta* procedures are centred on a child rights-based approach and support a partnership approach where all members of the school community work together to prevent and address bullying behaviour.

The school community has a responsibility to prevent and address bullying behaviour. Schools will work in partnership with their patron, board of management, staff, students and their parents to implement their *Bí Cineálta* policy.

The *Bí Cineálta* procedures provide that:

Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.

Grandparent's Day

- ✓ Collaboration between parents and school staff is essential to effectively prevent and address bullying behaviour.
- ✓ Schools should promote active partnership with parents which can help reinforce values that discourage bullying behaviour.
 - Schools should engage with their school community, including parents, to develop and review their Bí Cineálta policy.
 - Schools are required to develop an accessible version of their Bí Cineálta policy that is easy to understand for students and parents, and display this where it can be seen.
- ✓ Where bullying behaviour has occurred, the school must engage with the parents of the students involved to inform them of the matter and to consult with them on the actions to be taken to address the behaviour, as outlined in the school's Bi Cineálta policy.
- ✓ A further review of an incident of bullying behaviour must take place with students and parents no more than 20 days after the initial discussion.
- ✓ The views of students and parents should be recorded on the incident record, including their views on whether the bullying behaviour has ceased

Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.



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.



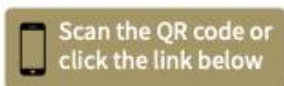
Teachers and principals will receive support in the new curriculum. The school will let parents know when this support will happen. It may mean that schools close for some or all children for a short period.



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



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

1. [gov.ie/primarycurriculum](https://www.gov.ie/primarycurriculum)
2. [ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/](https://www.ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/)



click

click

