

# February

# NEWSLETTER

Dear St. Cronan's Junior School Families,

What a wonderful month February has been—full of fun, learning, and special moments! It has been a joy to see the school buzzing with activity, from celebrating **Friendship February** to marking **Safer Internet Day**, where we learned the importance of staying safe and kind online. We also had a fantastic **Kindness Week**, reminding us all of the power of small, thoughtful gestures.

One exciting change this month was **Mainstreet moving location** to help our grass recover, and we were delighted to officially launch our Every Child a Reader gifted **library!** A huge highlight has been the start of our **writing journey with the renowned author Shane Hegarty**—an inspiring experience for some of our students in first class.

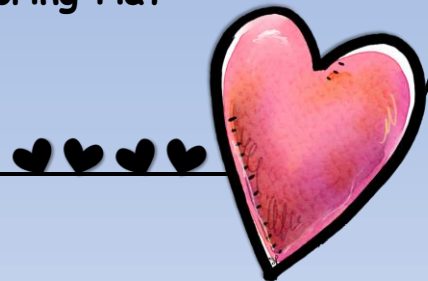
Mid-term gave us all a well-deserved break to rest and recharge, and now we are back, ready for a busy few weeks ahead. Some of our **2nd Classes** are preparing for their **First Confessions**, while others are exploring the world of **pandas**. **Senior Infants** continue to make fantastic progress in their reading, improving every day. Junior Infants are working hard on their numeracy skills - counting and making sets with colourful materials such as counters, cubes and teddy bears.

With spring weather on the horizon, we are looking forward to **warmer days and more outdoor learning**. Exciting events like **Seachtain na Gaeilge** and **World Book Day** are just around the corner, bringing even more opportunities for fun and creativity.

A heartfelt **thank you** to our wonderful school community—both at home and in school—for your ongoing support, cooperation, and encouragement. It truly makes all the difference in creating a warm and happy learning environment for our children. Read on to find out more about our upcoming **Spring Fair** and **Spring Hat Competition**—we can't wait to celebrate with you all!

Warmest wishes,

Edel Blake   




## Enrolment for Autism Class

Our autism class is now open for enrolment. Currently there is only 1 space in the class. It is still important that any child in our school that is currently in mainstream and has a recommendation for the autism class applies for this place. It will ensure that our waiting list reflects the needs of our school and this information can be passed onto the NCSE for future planning. If you have any questions I can be contacted via the school email address [info@stcronansjns.ie](mailto:info@stcronansjns.ie)

## World Book Day - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Any visitor to our school very quickly learns that we are a school that loves books and we are passionate about reading. The outside of our building is decorated with characters from beloved picture books and the reception area has a display of picture book characters. Therefore World Book Day is a important day in our school. We choose to celebrate it with authentic book-ish events - not with a dress as your favourite character from a book events as they add pressure onto families and just create revenue for the shops that bring costumes out for this day. This year classes will be doing individual events to celebrate this important day. As a school we have transformed our kindness tree into a book tree. Junior Infants, Senior Infants and Second Class will be attending an assembly with author Shane Hegarty. In the evening time Junior Infants and Senior Infants and their teddies have been invited to come back to school for a **fireside read**. Invitations have already been sent by email.

 5:30: Room 5, 6, 1 & 2

 6:00: Room 7, 8, 9 & 10

 6:30: Room 3,4 & 16

We really look forward to seeing you there!

## School Fundraising

As we highlighted last year when we were hoping to make education a budget/election issue the capitation grant we receive from the Department of Education is €200 per child per year. This funding is intended to cover essential costs such as heating, lighting, cleaning, insurance, and hygiene supplies. However, with rising costs in all these areas and no increase in the grant, we are facing a significant shortfall.

We have worked hard to reduce operating expenses where possible and continue to apply for additional funding opportunities such as CBI's *Every Child a Reader*. However, to maintain a warm, clean, well-lit, and safe environment for our children, we now need our families' help.

If any of our Parents/Guardians have access to fundraising/funding opportunities through their workplace we would love to hear about them. You can email the office at [info@stcronansjns.ie](mailto:info@stcronansjns.ie)

In addition, we are excited to announce that we are planning a **fantastic Spring fundraiser in early April!** This event will not only help us raise much-needed funds but will also be a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together. We will be holding a Spring Fair on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 1:20 - 4PM.**

Children will be invited (details to follow) to design and enter a Spring Hat into the Spring Hat competition - the cost of entry will be five euro and there will be some fantastic prizes. At the fair the spring hats will be on display, we will be selling some Easter crafts, yummy treats and selling raffle tickets for some fantastic prizes. We will send out a detailed announcement about the fair next week but we would appreciate everyone's support. We are so lucky to have such a **strong and supportive school community.** I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who makes our school the wonderful place it is—the **Board of Management, the Parent's Association, our dedicated staff, our families, and most of all, our amazing, kind, talented, and happy children.**

Thank you for your continued support. It truly makes a difference.



## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge is celebrated from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Our fantastic Assistant Principal Ms. O'Neill and her team have worked so hard to ensure a fantastic 2 weeks for the children. These 2 weeks will be full of fun, learning and a chance for the children to engage on a deeper level with our Irish culture.

☘ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Irish Dancing lessons - children may wear school tracksuit & runners. Please remember to send in 2 euro for the dance teacher.

☘ Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Céilí - Children may wear green clothes

☘ Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Ceolchoirm (small performance on stage - classes perform for each other only)

☘ Parade - Children should wear green clothes please

A huge thank you to Ms. O'Neill and her team for organising these events and decorating our school so beautifully.

## Kids Takeover - By ben Lyons: 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

There are 2 different types of Diabetes. Type 1 is an autoimmune condition. This means a person's own immune system killed off cells in their pancreas so that person can't produce insulin.

Type 2 Diabetes is often caused by a bad diet and lack of exercise. I have Type 1 and it's really annoying when people think I got it from not exercising or from eating too much junk! I train 6 days a week and often need to eat chocolate to stop my blood sugars from going too low. I need to take insulin injections every day to stop my blood sugars going high. These injections go into my thigh and sometimes hurt.

It can be very hard to stay in the ideal range of 4.4 to 10.6. The aim is to be in this range 70% of the time. If I am not in range during a match, I can feel sluggish and don't play my best. This can be frustrating! Last month I was at a Diabetes Clinic and got great news! I'm finally getting an insulin pump. This will mean no more painful injections and better time in range.

I hope you enjoyed hearing about Diabetes.

## Board of Management - Agreed Report - February

- 1) The BOM would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all families who have contributed to the Voluntary Contribution - these funds are vital for the ongoing running of our school.
- 2) The BOM are excited about the upcoming Spring Fair fundraiser and encourage all families to support and participate in this community event to ensure that we can continue to provide the best facilities and resources for our children.
- 3) The BOM were delighted to here that the new library donated by CBI has been launched. We are looking forward to hearing about the inaugural World Book Day Fireside Read for Junior & Senior Infants.



Kindness  
Week photos  
- our Cineáltas  
Flag and our  
Kindness Tree



Beautiful February  
Art Work on our  
colourful corridors





All ready for  
Seachtain na  
Gaeilge





Our book tree ready  
for World Book Day  
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
March