



June

NEWSLETTER



Dear St. Cronan's Families,

As we reach the end of another school year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic journey. June has been a busy, fun-filled month, full of learning, laughter, rain and sunshine - especially as we enjoy School Tour Week! We've been so lucky with the weather this week, and even luckier with the joy and enthusiasm your children bring to our school every day.

Looking back on the year, I am filled with pride and gratitude. It is a huge honour to lead such a special school, one where every child is truly treasured. Thank you to our incredible families for your ongoing support, collaboration, and kindness throughout the year. Your partnership has been central to all that we have achieved together.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, who place the wellbeing and development of each and every child at the heart of everything they do. Their passion and care make our school the nurturing and inspiring place it is.

To our extended school community - Fr. Richard and the team in the church, our bus drivers, lollipop ladies, The Lunch Bag staff, Teresa from Fingallians, Taylor from The School of Music, Shane Hegarty and the team at Children's Books Ireland - thank you for helping us support and enrich our children's lives in so many ways.

And finally - to our wonderful children, the heartbeat of St. Cronan's JNS - you are the best group of children in the world. You make me smile, laugh, and marvel at your talents every single day. Thank you for working so hard, for showing kindness, curiosity, and for truly bringing our school motto, *"To be the best that we can be,"* to life.

To our Junior Infants, Senior Infants, and First Classes - I can't wait to welcome you back in the new school year. And to our brilliant Second Class children - we have loved every moment of watching you grow. You are ready for your next adventure, and while we'll miss you dearly, you'll always have a special place in our hearts.

Wishing you all a joyful, safe, and sunny summer. Don't forget to help out at home - and keep smiling!

Warmest wishes,

Edel Blake

Principal, St. Cronan's JNS

Book Awards

Every child in St. Cronan's JNS. Knows that Mrs. Blake loves books but do you know she has never been to a Book Award ceremony - until this year! On 22nd May 3 excited teachers and 8 of our wonderful Junior Jurors travelled by mini bus to Merrion Square to attend the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards.

All of the books were fantastic the jury had a difficult time. We got to see wonderful poetry performances, see other schools and meet some authors and illustrators. Our children represented our school wonderfully. They even got interviewed for the RTE Junior Podcast - We love Books - you can listen to that here: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/22520927-we-love-books-episode-43-the-kpmg-childrens-boo/>



Hip-Hop-a-thon and Active Week

We were thrilled to hold our **Active Week** from **April 28th to May 2nd**, and what a week it was! Our school was bursting with energy, laughter, and movement as the children took part in a fantastic range of fun and active events.

From our **Skipathon** and creative **Obstacle Course**, **Mini-leaguess** to visits to the local **playground**, every day was filled with excitement and activity. One of the biggest highlights was our **Sponsored Hip-Hop-a-Thon** - and what a day that was! The children danced their hearts out and showed off their amazing moves, all while raising vital funds for our school.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised an **astonishing €8,000** through this event! This support means the world to us. As you know, **primary schools in Ireland are hugely underfunded**, and it is a constant challenge to keep our school building warm, clean, and bright for our children.

Your donations make a real difference. We are so grateful to our families for helping us go above and beyond for the children of St. Cronan's JNS. We promise that every cent will be spent with care, ensuring our children continue to receive the very best education in a safe, happy, and well-resourced environment.

Thank you again for being such a supportive and generous school community - we truly couldn't do it without you. Thank you to Mr. Farrell, Ms. Hargadon and the active team for this fantastic week.

New Chairs

Our 1st and 2nd Classes were delighted to take delivery of lovely new modern yellow school chairs. Latest reports say they are light to carry and comfortable to sit in. We remain dedicated to upgrading and improving our school building when we can.



Big Surprise!

On Monday 23rd June at 9AM in St. Cronan's JNS our 2nd Class children will have a big surprise for the whole school community. The yard will look a bit different – children may not be able to line up as usual but we encourage as many children and parents to come to the yard for 9AM. 2nd Class – remember to come to school through the main door at 8:30AM. I can't wait!

Lotto

We were so excited to launch our own School Lotto in May. We have a guaranteed weekly winner of 20 euro. The Jackpot has now increased to 600 euro. The draw is held weekly on Thursdays. We will always welcome new players, all friends, families and extended families are welcome to join. You can sign up here: <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stcronansjns> or via the QR code. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us.

St. Cronan's Junior National School

Fundraiser Lotto

Your support makes a real difference
Jackpot increases every week plus a weekly winner prize

Play
Pick 4 numbers
The same numbers will be played for you each week

Pay
1 line for €2.50, 2 lines for €4
or 3 lines for €5
Maximum 3 lines per person

Win
Match 4 numbers to win the Jackpot

Join now.
Scan the QR code or go to our website



<https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stcronansjns>

Powered by Our Fundraiser – fundraising made easy For more information email info@ourfundraiser.ie

Kids Takeover

'We were learning about Brazil. It has a mountain called the Sugar Loaf. They celebrate carnival. They have a big jungle called the Amazon Rainforest. They eat fresh fruit, vegetables and stew' By Harry Lowndes, Room 15.

'In first class we have been learning about Brazil together. It is very fun. I can tell you some facts. Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world. Carnival is the biggest celebration in Brazil. We are learning about the Sugar Loaf mountain. It was so so fun'. By Alia O'Farrell, Room 15.

'On the 16th of May classes were doing a monster doodle with Children's Books Ireland. They watched a video of how to draw a monster. Then they all drew a monster'. By Lily Flanagan, Room 15.

'We are learning about rivers. Let me tell you some things. On the side of a river it is called the bank. That start of a river is called the source. When the river and the sea join it is called the mouth. The bottom of the river is called the bed.' By Róisín Raji, Room 15.

'We had a monster doodle, it was in the hall. It was long rows of paper. We saw a video, he drew a monster. I drew a scary monster. After we went to the library. We got new books. I read Dog Man. It was the new Dog Man.' By Isabelle Hayden, Room 15.

New Anti-Bullying Policy - Bi Cinealta

From 1st September we will have a new Anti-bullying Policy called Bi Cinealt. We will be publishing the new policy on the website in the coming days. Some children and parents have completed surveys for us on this area - than you to all those who participated. Your views are always valued in our school. Here is a summary of what is involved in the new policy:

Bí Cineálta

This year all schools are updating their Anti-Bullying Policy in alignment with the new Bí Cineálta procedures. This will further support the systems we have in place to ensure that our pupils can play and learn in a happy environment.

This year the pupils have worked on a pupil-friendly version of the St. Cronan's Junior National School Bí Cineálta Policy and display it around the school, on our website and where the school community can see it.

Bí Cineálta means Be Kind. We celebrate a Kindness Week every February. We believe that a simple act of kindness can help a person feel valued and reduce any tendencies towards unkind or bullying behaviour. We are encouraging everyone to set this example and to get involved in choosing kindness and be the reason to make someone smile.

Core definition of Bullying Behaviour:

Bullying is targeted behaviour, online or offline, that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society.

At St Cronan's Junior National School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who attend our school are safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our pupils is at the forefront of everything that we do. We recognise the negative impact that bullying behaviour can have on the lives of our pupils, and we are fully committed to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

Staff Training:

The Principal and Deputy Principal attended Bí Cineálta training for school leaders. This provided information on Cineáltas and Bí Cineálta procedures. We had a half day school closure on Friday, 30th of May 2025 to facilitate the engagement of all school staff with these procedures. Our approach to any unkind or inappropriate behaviour is guided by our Code of Behaviour as well as our Anti-Bullying Policy. In dealing with this behaviour, we use a "Restorative Practice" approach. Restorative Practice approach is a way of working with conflict that puts the focus on restoring relationships. It supports the ability to empathise and find solutions to problems. Our staff have received some training in this.

Ownership:

With different programmes in the curriculum, such as Stay Safe and Walk Tall we teach children about what bullying is and what we can do if a bullying incident occurs. Children at St Cronan's Junior National School learn about the different roles that people can take in a bullying situation. They are taught that a bystander is someone who sees or knows about bullying or other forms of violence that is happening to someone else; they can either be part of the problem (hurtful bystander) or part of the solution (helpful bystander). Children also learn the importance of communicating if they have been bullied or witnessed incidents of bullying. We have a culture of developing positive relationships between staff and pupils in our school.

Dealing with Bullying:

It is recognised that incidents of bullying occur in all schools. It is essential that all such incidents are taken seriously and dealt with in an appropriate manner. A pupil or parent may report an incident to the class teacher; St Cronan's Junior National School recognises a collective responsibility among the whole staff to ensure that any incidents are dealt with in a consistent and effective manner. The staff, led by the Principal, will be responsible for embedding anti-bullying awareness in the policies and practices of the school.

Free Books

It is fantastic that the Free Books Scheme for Primary Schools is in operation again this year. The children's books will be purchased and prepared and stored in their classrooms during the summer. Families only need to supply the items in the supplies list and kindly pay the school fees. If any family would like to pay this in installments - please contact the school office on info@stcronansjns.ie

We will use this fee money to buy the items listed on the supplies list during the summer holidays.

School Reports - Friday

School reports will issue via Aladdin this Friday. The teachers put a huge effort into carefully writing each report. It is a lovely snapshot of your child's education journey. In 1st and 2nd Class Reports the results of Standardised Tests are included

in the report. In recent years there has been a big focus on Standardised Test Results. Our children are so much more than a number. It is a snapshot of how they performed on a particular day in numeracy or literacy. It gives us some information but it does not define who are beautiful children are. Please remember this as you read your child's report on Friday.

For all curriculum subjects children may receive a number. The explanation for the number is at the top of the Report Card:

Number 1 - Experiencing significant difficulty - Your child often needs one to one adult support in this area.

Number 2 - Experiencing some difficulty - Your child needs some adult support in this area

Number 3 - Managing Comfortably - Your Child is working at the expected class level in this area.

Number 4 - Capable and competent - Your child is independently working beyond the expected class level in this area.

Number 5 - Highly Capable and Confident - Your child has exceptional ability in this area.

More information can be found here:

https://ncca.ie/media/1432/your_childs_school_report_parents.pdf

The outcome of the child's screening test at the first-class level is presented in one of the following three 'descriptors' - **criteraion reached; approaching criteraion; criteraion not reached**. These descriptors will be included in the end-of-year report at the first-class level. The table below explains what each of these descriptors is intended to mean:

Criterion-referenced Descriptor	General explanation of descriptor
Criterion reached	<i>Within or above the average range for pupils in First Class in Ireland</i>
Approaching criterion	<i>In the low average range. May need monitoring</i>
Criterion not reached	<i>Likely to be at risk of difficulties; follow-up diagnostic testing may be useful.</i>

More generally, it is important to remember that standardised tests such as these form only one part of the 'jigsaw of information' about your child's overall progress. Results should always be framed in a broader context. The school gleans much important information from a variety of valuable sources e.g. routine observation, class/individual tasks, class participation, various assignments/homework, teacher-designed tasks and tests, other tests/reports/feedback. All of this information helps us to plan and work around optimising your child's learning.

For 2nd class parents only (More information can be found here

:

https://www.aladdin.ie/message/5598509712277504/attachement/4615922177015808/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

What do my child's test scores mean?

The teacher used **STen scores** to tell you how your child did in the tests. STen scores go from 1 to 10. The table below describes what the different STen scores tell you about your child's achievement in the tests.

STen score	What does the STen score mean?	Proportion of children with this score
8 - 10	Well above average	1/6 or almost 17%
7	High average	1/6 or almost 17%
5 - 6	Average	1/3 or almost 34%
4	Low average	1/6 or almost 17%
1 - 3	Well below average	1/6 or almost 17%

If your child's STen score is between 5 and 6 for example, you will know that his/her performance on the test is average. The table shows that about one in every three children in Ireland have STen scores in this range. You can also see that some children have STen scores above and below the average.

Scores for children with English as an additional language may not always reflect progress being made in class. Similar care is needed when interpreting scores for children with special educational needs.



Summer Project

We have been asked to share the details of a Summer Project being organized in the community. This sounds like a lovely opportunity for some of our children:

Dear parents,

In affiliation with Crosscare, volunteers have now created Brackenstown Summer Project and Youth Club for our community.

Registration for this year's Summer Project will take place at 1:40pm on Friday the 20th June, outside the school main office.

Yvonne and Denise, will host registration for parents on a first come first served basis. There is 20 places available for children aged 4yrs to 8yrs and 20 places available for kids 9yrs to 16yrs, for older siblings friends from the community, although all groups will be together some activities require splitting ages in the same locations. There maybe availability to go on a waiting list if you miss out this time around.

Dates for camp are as follows.

Week 1:

28th July Arts and crafts
29th July Swords castle tour
30th July Newbridge Farm

Week 2:

6th of August Alsaá football & Bowling
7th of August Cinema day
8th of August Dublin Zoo

So much more in between with some treats and packed full of fun that will be issued on full timetable before camp begins and the kids are going to love it...!

Registration: €10e non refundable deposit

*Cash and exact change only please

Balance of the camp will be: €35

Paid 2 weeks prior to day 1.

This makes 3 days jam packed fun and 3 days day trips for just 45e total per child.

10% sibling discount available

Garda Vetted, insured, child protection and first aid completed by all volunteers.

Look forward to seeing you all at registration

Yvonne Byrne

Summer Project Leader