

# January

# NEWSLETTER

Dear St. Cronan's Families,

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of January already! What a month it has been — wet, windy, and with more than a few days where the rain kept us indoors. We all know those "no-yard" days can make the school day feel a little longer, so a huge thank you to our amazing teachers who made sure the children still had plenty of opportunities for movement and exercise in the classroom. Their energy and creativity ensured our pupils stayed active, alert, and ready to learn!

I've deliberately held this newsletter until today, the very last day of January, so that I could include a special mention of one of my favourite events of the year — Grandparents' Day, which took place on Thursday, 29 January. What a wonderful celebration it was! It was heart-warming to welcome so many grandparents and even a few great-grandparents who travelled near and far to spend the afternoon with us. The love and pride that filled our school that day truly reflected the spirit of St. Cronan's. It's a cherished tradition that reminds us of the strong bonds between generations, and I'm so glad it's part of our annual calendar.

Tomorrow marks the 1st of February and St. Brigid's Day, a lovely milestone in the year as we begin to notice the first signs of spring. As we all enjoy the long weekend and our extra day at home for the bank holiday, we look ahead to an exciting and joy-filled term. There's so much to look forward to: more school assemblies, *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, our cosy Fireside Read for all Junior and Senior Infants (and their teddies!) to celebrate World Book Day, our first-ever *Student Council*, and of course our 2nd Annual Spring Fair, which promises to be even bigger and better this year.

We are also very excited about welcoming our Junior Infants for September 2026, many of whom are little brothers and sisters of our current pupils. It's always such a joy to see our school family continue to grow.

As we move into this new term, I'm filled with optimism, hope, and pride. We have so much fun, learning, and friendship ahead and I can't wait to share it all with you and your amazing children.

Warmest wishes,

Edel Blake

# Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Show in December. We raised over 2,000 euro at the door and that is gone into our new P.E. floor. We are hoping to have the full amount raised by the end of 2026.

## New Climbing Wall

We were delighted to have our application for The Department of Education's Physical Activity in Teaching and Learning Pilot approved. Phase 1 is a literacy focus that involves our children developing their vocabulary and working on character traits for creative writing while working on our new climbing wall. It is a super way to promote active, hands on, child-centered, outdoor learning and developing essential fundamental movement skills. The pilot team are now working on phase 2 of the pilot that will focus on developing on STEM skills.



## Kindness Week

Our Kindness week will be on 9th - 13th February. During this week some classes will be celebrating Safer Internet Day. We will have our kindness tree, kindness assembly, lots of kindness stickers and random acts of kindness. The children will be encouraged to be kind at home and at school, not just for 1 week but for the whole school year.

Please highlight internet safety at home too. Our children are so precious we need to protect them from online threats.



# Home School Communications

We are really looking forward to meeting with all our parents/guardians for Parent – Teacher meetings. If you haven't booked your appointment, please contact your class teacher through the office as soon as possible: [info@stcronansjns.ie](mailto:info@stcronansjns.ie) and 01840294

A gentle reminder that the best way to get any message to a class teacher is through the office – even minor messages about pains, aches, forgotten or lost items. A message can be passed on in person at the office in the morning or by phone/email. Morning assembly time is precious time for teachers to connect with the children, hear about worries, concerns, ill relatives, birthdays and sick pets. Even 1 parent/guardian passing on 1 quick message will delay and disrupt the morning and may mean these valuable connections are lost for the day.

Please remember that 9-2:40 is teaching time so teachers may be unable to respond to communication during this time. All emails should adhere to our polite policy and should be respectful and collaborative in tone please. Thank you for your understanding.

## Polite Policy



This is a children's environment, please show TLC

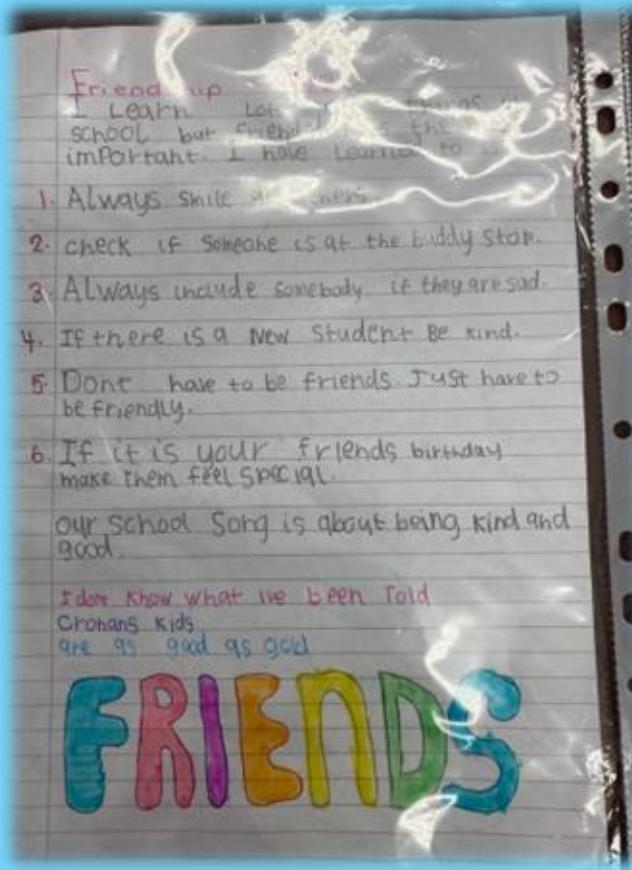
Respectful Tones, Language and Content



Parents and teachers who work together are unstoppable.

# Kid's Takeover

A big thank you to 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Room 11 for our ki's takeover section for January!



## Spring Fair

We are so excited about our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Fair. We will be fundraising for a new photocopier. The Spring Fair will be bigger and better. We have a huge raffle, we will be selling tickets in advance of the day to avoid the big queues from last year. We will have more face painting, more balloons and more games - including a human fruit machine!

We will also have our Spring Hat competition with a new theme for 2026. All details will be sent soon but for now please keep

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 1:30 - 4:30 free.**



Parents and teachers who work together are UNSTOPPABLE.

# Parent's Association

A big thank you to our Parent's Association for organizing our Christmas Raffle and successful Christmas Bingo night. If you would like to join the team, we would be delighted to have more members. The next meeting is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7:30 PM in Room 2A in the Junior School. The more people who come along, the more we can do for our lovely children. It is not just fundraising at each meeting there is a Principal's report from the Junior School and Senior School Principals. We listen to the needs of the school community and gather suggestions. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Attendance and Illness

Parents/Guardians often tell me they are confused about this area. They are aware that we promote excellent attendance in our school. They know we promote every child is a H.E.R.O.: Here Everyday Ready On time. They also know there are rules about contagious illnesses and children being required to stay home. I will try to make it simple.

### ATTENDANCE:

It is the law that I inform TUSLA about any child over the age of 6 that has missed **20 or more days from school**. I submit these reports in January and June. I can also report any child that has missed less than 20 days but I am concerned about their attendance. Once I submit these reports TUSLA then look at the absences - they check if they are explained on Aladdin - please explain all absences on the Aladdin APP (you can retrospectively update them also).

If they are explained they look at the explanation - if they see a reasonable pattern of illnesses - such as tummy bug, tonsillitis, chicken pox etc. they usually acknowledge that these absences were necessary. If they see lots of unexplained absences or absences that seem to them to be unreasonable, they will contact you and begin to work with your family to improve attendance.

**ILLNESS:** This graphic is helpful. Please refer to it when unsure.

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/ CHILDCARE?				
Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis	Diarrhoea or Vomiting	Flu	Glandular Fever
When scabs are dry	No need to stay out*	48 hours after the last episode	5 days after start of illness	No need to stay out*
Hand, foot & mouth	Head Lice	Impetigo	Measles	Mumps
No need to stay out*	No need to stay out*	When scabs are dry or 24 hours after starting antibiotics	4 days after rash appears	5 days after swelling appears
Scabies	Scarlet Fever	Slapped Cheek	Threadworms	Whooping Cough
After first treatment	24 hours after starting antibiotics	No need to stay out*	No need to stay out*	5 days after starting antibiotics or 21 days after start of illness

This information is based on the Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools guidance document.

\*No need to stay out if child is well but school or childcare provider should be informed.

Upcoming Dates. Please screenshot and save to your phone and with each other. Please note all dates are subject to change - notice will be given.

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Teacher Meetings – Times on Aladdin	Times of meetings on Aladdin. Please note 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class will go home at 2:20. Senior School will not close until 2:40 so please don't rely on siblings to collect.
Fireside Read (World Book Day) Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Junior & Senior Infants & their teddies will be invited to the school at 6PM for a Fireside Read with School Staff.	6-6:30. Tea/Coffee & biscuits will be available for parents in the hall while they wait.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	First Confession: Church	7PM: Room 19 & 20 7:45PM: Room 2A & 3A
Seachatain Na Gaeilge 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Irish Dancing Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Irish Dancing Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Concert (audience other classes only)	Children can wear green/St. Patrick's Day clothes on 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Seachatin Na Gaeilge Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March – Parade: Parents/Guardians/Siblings/ local pre-schools and family members are invited to line the route and cheer us along.	Details about time and route will be sent to everyone.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Children may bring Spring Hats to School for Spring Fair Competition	Please note there is a new theme for Spring Hats for 2026. The theme will be sent out soon.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closed – Curriculum Training	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closed for St. Patrick's Day	

Upcoming Dates (Page 2). Please screenshot and save to your phone and with each other. Please note all dates are subject to change - notice will be given.

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fair – School Hall – 1:30 – 4:30	Entry will be 2 euro per person, 5 euro per family. Entry wristbands will be for sale via Aladdin in advance. We have a mega raffle – raffle tickets will be sold in advance in the yard and on the day. Lots of fun, Spring hat showcase and games.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Holidays – ½ Day Children can wear their own clothes.	11:45 – Junior & Senior Infants 11:50 – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Active Week. Children can wear P.E. uniforms all week. Thursday will be Hip Hop a thon so children can wear own clothes for this with suitable footwear for dancing – trainers.	
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> May	School Closed	
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Early Closing for Staff Meeting. Please note Senior School is not closed early so siblings will be unavailable to collect.	1:30: Junior & Senior Infants 1:40: 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Communion Day	
28 <sup>th</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Photos with Richard Gavin	Times will be given closer to the date

Upcoming Dates (Page 3). Please screenshot and save to your phone and with each other. Please note all dates are subject to change - notice will be given. Please note School Tours & Sports Days will also be in June.

Date	Event	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	School Closed	
5 <sup>th</sup> June	School Closed – Curriculum Training	
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Report Day	
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Graduations	9:30: 2A & 3A 10:45: 19 & 20
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Last Day of School – Children May wear their own Clothes. ½ Day for all.	Junior & Senior Infants: 11:45 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class: 11:55

A big thank you to our parent's who are business owners who have donated prizes for our Mega Spring Fair Raffle. If you own a business or have friends/family who own a business who would like to donate a prize/voucher for our raffle we would be delighted to accept it and deeply appreciate it.