



March

NEWSLETTER



Dear St. Cronan's Junior School Families,

As we come to the final week of Term 2 here at **St Cronan's Junior National School**, it is a lovely time to pause and reflect on what has truly been a fantastic and fulfilling term for our whole school community.

The weeks since January have been full of rich learning experiences, joyful moments, and a strong sense of togetherness that makes our school such a special place to be each day.

Throughout the term, our classrooms have been busy hubs of curiosity, creativity, and growth. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging so positively in their learning, building friendships, and developing confidence in so many different ways. Alongside this, we have had the opportunity to come together as a school community for a number of memorable events that have brought great energy and connection to our days.

We thoroughly enjoyed a heartwarming Kindness Week, where the children embraced the importance of caring for one another and spreading positivity throughout the school. Our Grandparents' Day was another truly special occasion, filled with stories, smiles, and meaningful connections across generations. The cosy Fireside Read created a calm and magical atmosphere, fostering a love of reading and shared storytelling.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated with great enthusiasm, with music, language, and culture at the heart of our activities—culminating in a wonderfully creative indoor corridor parade that brought smiles to everyone involved. Most recently, our 2nd Annual **Spring Fair** was a fantastic success, filled with colour, fun, and a real sense of community spirit, as families and staff came together to celebrate the season.

This term also saw our Student Council elections take place, an important opportunity for our children to experience democratic processes, have their voices heard, and take on leadership roles within the school.

We were also delighted to facilitate a visit to the Ombudsman, which provided a valuable and engaging learning experience for the children, helping them to better understand fairness, rights, and how their voices matter in wider society.

Events and experiences such as these do not happen by chance. They are made possible through the dedication, creativity, and commitment of our incredible staff, who continually go above and beyond to create meaningful opportunities for the children. We are equally grateful to you, our families, for your ongoing support, encouragement, and involvement in school life. The strong partnership between home and school is something we deeply value and cherish.

We are truly fortunate to have such a caring, engaged, and collaborative community working together with a shared goal—to ensure that the wonderful children in our school receive the very best education, opportunities, and care.

A sincere thank you to our staff for your passion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment. And to you, our families, thank you for showing up for us, supporting us, and working alongside us each and every day—it makes all the difference.

We wish you all a restful, happy, and well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for Term 3.

Warmest Wishes

Edel Blake

Kid's Takeover - The Student Council

How it works?

The Student Council is a group of kids that were elected by the other kids in their class. Their role in the school is to listen to the other kids and pass on ideas to the teachers. They wear special badges.

How did the election work?

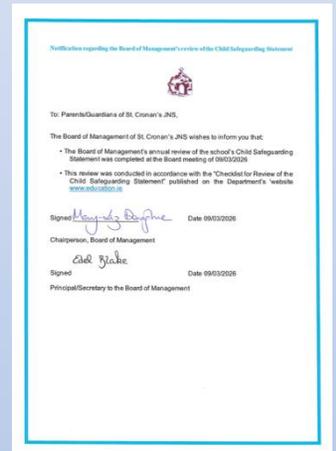
On the election day we all went down to the Principal's Office and chose the people we wanted for Student Council. Then we went back to our classes. Later in the day Ms. Conaty went around to all the classes and told us who won.

Our Ideas:

1. We hope to add footballs to the yard.
2. We also hope to add basketballs to the yard.

New Photocopier

Thanks to our fantastic community support for the Spring Fair we were able to buy a new photocopier. It was delivered and sits proudly outside the library. This will make a big difference in our school so thank you to everyone who supported us! And a huge well done to all The children for the beautiful, creative hats. The judges were so impressed with all the talent and Creativity on show.



Board of Management Agreed Report

1. The BOM has completed the annual Child Safeguarding review for 2026.
2. The quarterly fire alarm checks have been completed.
3. Congratulations to the new Assistant Principals Appointed the the Leadership Team.



Teamwork makes the dream work.

School Self Evaluation - Wellbeing

Our current focus for School Improvement from 2023 - 2026 has been wellbeing. We have introduced lots of new initiatives including zones in the yard - construction toys, mud kitchen, quiet area, running track & climbing area. Introducing and developing restorative practice across the school, opening a nurture room, giving a Cronan Bear to every Junior Infant, regular school assemblies, hot meals and increasing community events such as our lovely Fireside Read and Spring Fair.

We have also had a lot of teachers attend training in SPHE, P.E. and wellbeing. As part of this Mrs. Blake and Ms. Boylan completed Youth Mental Health First Aid course in February and Mrs. Blake, Ms. Boylan, Ms. Hargadon, Mr. Farrell and Aisling Lynch completed Adult Mental Health First Aid course in a course that was organized and hosted in St. Cronan's Junior National School. We invited 16 Principals/Teachers from local schools to join us and spread this valuable training across Swords, especially to schools that our children may attend in the future.



Soccer Skills

Well done to all our 2nd Class children who completed 5 weeks soccer skills training with Coerver Coaching and received their certificates this week. This has been a fantastic experience for all involved - thanks to The Dublin Meat Company who sponsored this experience. Hopefully in 10-12 years time we will be watching some of our boys and girls play soccer for Ireland.



New Maths Games

Thanks to the funding we received from The Parent's Association in 2025 we have purchased some new maths games for the classrooms and for Maths for Fun Activities.



New Maths Equipment

We have also been busy shopping for new maths teaching and learning resources to ensure our children continue to learn about number and develop their maths skills across the new maths curriculum. Teachers have been attending extra maths training with Oide also.



Exciting News Exciting News

Rooms 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16 were very excited on Wednesday 18th March when they came to school and saw their new interactive whiteboards. These boards are 75 inch interactive panels. Some of our classrooms already have these new boards and we will continue to work hard to update the remaining boards in our school.



Active Week Hip-Hop-a-thon 2026

When we return to school on Monday, 13th April 2026, we will be kicking off Term 3 with our much-anticipated Active Week. Children are encouraged to wear their tracksuits and trainers on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday to allow them to fully participate in all activities.

On Thursday, 16th April, all classes will take part in our sponsored Hip-Hop-a-thon. On this day, children may wear their own clothes—please just ensure they are comfortable for dancing and that they wear supportive trainers.

This event will act as our main fundraiser for Term 3. While we were encouraged to see an increase in the capitation rate announced in the most recent budget, this will not come into effect until September 2026. In the meantime, the day-to-day costs of running the school—including heating, electricity, insurance, and essential supplies—continue to rise.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils, and we believe they deserve the very best. Funds raised through initiatives like this help us to meet basic running costs while also ensuring that our children have access to high-quality, up-to-date teaching resources and technology. As Principal of St. Cronan's Junior School, I remain fully committed to advocating for the very best for our wonderful children.

Sponsorship cards were sent home before the holidays in the hope that children might gather support from family and friends over the break. We want to emphasise that children should not go door-to-door—your child's safety is always our top priority. Funds raised will contribute towards the purchase of additional interactive boards, like those recently installed in classrooms. We greatly appreciate your continued support. Children can return their sponsorship cards to school during Active Week, from 13th-17th April.



March Photos Gallery



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Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Notes/Time
Friday 27 th March	Easter Holidays – ½ Day – Children can wear their own clothes	Junior & Senior Infants – 11:45, 1 st & 2 nd Class – 12:00
12 th -17 th April	Active Week	Children can wear P.E. uniform all week. Thursday is hip hop a thon – children can wear their own clothes & suitable footwear. Please return your sponsorship cards.
4 th – 8 th May	School Closed	
27 th May	Early Closing for Staff Meeting. Please note Senior School will not close early so siblings can't collect on this day.	1:30 – Junior & Senior Infants 1:40 – 1 st & 2 nd Class
23 rd May	Communion Day	
28 th May	Communion Photos with Richard Gavin	Times will be issued in Term 3
1 st & 2 nd June	School Closed	
5 th June	School Closed	New Primary Curriculum Framework Training Day 2
17 th June	1 st Class School Tour	Children on tour will not receive Hot Meals – they must bring a packed lunch please.
18 th June	Senior Infant	Children on tour will not receive Hot Meals – they must bring a packed lunch please.
22 nd June	Report Day	
24 th June	2 nd Class Tour	Children on tour will not receive Hot Meals – they must bring a packed lunch please.
25 th June	Junior Infant Tour	Children on tour will not receive Hot Meals – they must bring a packed lunch please.
Monday 29 th June	2 nd Class Graduations	9:30: 2A & 3A 10:45: 19 & 20
Tuesday 30 th June	Last Day of School – ½ Day children may wear their own clothes	Junior & Senior Infants – 11:45, 1 st & 2 nd Class – 12:00