

# November NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all well. November brings less daylight; I know some people love the thought of cosy evenings and more time at home, but I know other people find this time of year difficult. Please remember we are a school community and myself and Mrs. Boylan are always in the yard in the morning time for a friendly chat.

This half term is always very busy in St. Cronan's Junior National School. Everyone has (hopefully) settled into new classrooms, new routines and new teachers. This is a month that lots of learning happens. Our Junior Infants are learning all about People who help me and anytime I visit a classroom I can't escape without being given a (pretend) vaccine or having my pulse taken by a worried looking 5-year-old!

This month has been a record month for tooth fairy boxes. I'm not sure if it is all the Halloween treats that helped but so far, I have given out 24 boxes!

I have to mention Room 19 & 20 this month. I have a standing invitation to visit their classroom every Friday and every week I am amazed at the new facts they tell me, science experiments they show me and the amazing artwork decorating their walls. I feel like I should pay for the privilege. Did you know that there is a whole new Primary Curriculum due to be released? Our last Curriculum was released in 1999 which was before some (definitely not me!) of our teachers were born! The Languages curriculum have been released and the Primary Math's Curriculum was released this term. Myself and Mrs. Mather attended a seminar to introduce us to this new curriculum. We were delighted to learn that our school are already using lots of the new methodologies in the Primary Math's Curriculum.

Mrs. Boylan and I are also busy organising Operation Christmas from the middle of December. We are hoping Santa can return on his One-Horse Open Sleigh again!

I have had the privilege this term to meet lots of other School Principals this term and each time I do I am reminded how proud I am to lead St. Cronan's Junior National School. We have a wonderful team of school staff, fantastic, supportive Parents/Guardians and of course the best boys and girls. Thank you to everyone in our school community for playing your part!

Best Wishes

*Edel Blake*

## Dates to Remember

2<sup>nd</sup> Class Panto Trip: 8<sup>th</sup> December

Junior Infant Vaccines: 12<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Show: 20<sup>th</sup> December



## Budget 2024

Thank you so much to all the Parents/Guardians and Grandparents who followed the link I sent and sent emails to their local representatives about improvements badly needed in education. As I said this is nothing to do with pay and conditions for teachers it is all about the quality of education our children need and deserve. Despite many email sent Education didn't do too well in this budget. The pupil-teacher ratio was not reduced. The only extra SET and SNAs announced are for new schools/classes and not for existing schools. Our children deserve better. If a representative from any political party knocks on your door; please raise this issue with them. Ask them when will the pupil-teacher ration be lowered? When will schools get enough access to SNAs, Special Education Teachers and support from OTs and SLTs. I will be doing the same when they knock on my door.

## Hot School Meals

We have been told that our school has been selected for the Free Hot Meals Programme which is due to begin from April 2024. This will mean every child in our school will be eligible for a free hot meal, every day in school, I am sure you have lots of questions, so do I! As soon as I have more information, I will pass it on to you. I do know there will be a wide variety of options to suit all dietary requirements. I have been told the meals provided are delicious - I have not tried them.



School Staff turned into Superheroes for Halloween this year. I wonder what next year's theme will be?

## Anti-bullying Policy

Thank you to every single person who completed our anti-bullying policy review survey. I have read every single response. I am so glad that so many of you agree that our school has a good atmosphere and that you feel welcome because our school community is important to me.

To clarify some questions:

- 1) If you feel your child is experiencing bullying, you tell the class teacher.
- 2) The best way to speak to the class teacher is to make an appointment at the office or by calling 01-8402194 or emailing [info@stcronsns.ie](mailto:info@stcronsns.ie)
- 3) The class teacher will not be able to discuss this or any other issue with you in the yard in the morning. This is not because they are not interested, it is because they are following school guidelines. The guidelines are there to ensure that the teacher can focus on the children first thing in the morning - reception time is such valuable time to meet and greet the children, build relationships with them and see how they are. It is also important not to delay the line in the yard as it could be cold or raining. Finally, it is more respectful to you the parent/guardian that you are given an appointment. An appointment will mean the teacher can meet you in our dedicated meeting room, the class will be supervised, and you will have privacy to discuss the issue fully with the teacher.
- 4) It is helpful if you let the secretary know briefly what it is related to as teacher may need to do some research/investigation before the meeting.
- 5) Our anti-bullying policy is on our website. We take bullying very seriously and follow our policy.
- 6) If we know your child is being bullied, we will tell Parents/Guardians.