

Nuachtlitir Mí Na Samhna 2025



November Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

I hope you and your families are well. Thank you for your continued support as always it is sincerely appreciated

Dates for your diary:

Paul Hensey Internet Safety Talks: 26th of November & 2nd of December, 2025 (3rd-6th classes)

Child Protection In-Service for Staff: Friday 12th December, 2025 (School Closed for pupils)

Christmas Holidays: Friday 19th December at 12 noon

School re-opens: Monday 5th January at 9.20am

****Confirmation**:** Saturday 21st March, 2026 @11am in Coosan Church

****First Holy Communion**:** Saturday 16th of May, 2026 @11am in Coosan Church

Standardised Tests: 4th - 15th May, 2026

Child Protection Inspection:

Coosan NS recently had an inspection in the area of Child Protection. The inspection involved interviews with the principal (Designated Liaison Person), Chairperson of the BOM and some staff members from the whole school staff as well as surveying parents and pupils. School records were also examined. Following the completion inspection it was confirmed that the school is compliant in all areas. The inspectors were keen to highlight that it was very evident that there is amazing work being done in the school in the area of child protection and that everyone should be commended for their respective roles. Well done everyone, a great achievement.

New Chromebooks:

Coosan National School recently purchased a class set of Chromebooks. All pupils in the school will be afforded the opportunity to utilise these to support their learning in the coming months. A huge thanks to Ms. Eagney and Mr. Keogh for co-ordinating lovely activities such as using these new chromebooks to enhance learner experiences using digital technology.

New Pedestrian Crossing:

The Pedestrian Crossing outside Coosan NS has recently been revised to make it safer for everyone in the Coosan National School Community. Everyone in the school is very grateful to Westmeath County Council and our local representatives Frankie Keena and Boxer Moran for all their support. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Nuachtlitir Mí Na Samhna 2025

Christmas Jumper Day:

This year we will have two non-uniform days during December. The first of these will take place on Friday 11th December in aid of "St Hilda's Services", Athlone. Staff and pupils will embrace this initiative.

All funds raised will go towards this very worthy local service. Children will be asked to bring in whatever they deem appropriate in lieu of not wearing their school uniform on this day. Parents/Guardians will be able to contribute. You can contribute to this worthy cause as you drop your children to school on December 11th, as staff will have buckets outside as you drop your children to school. We look forward to seeing you in your festive gear!

Our second non-uniform day will be Friday, 19th December, the day we get our Christmas Holidays. There will be no charge on this day. On both days children will have the option of wearing full school uniform, casual clothes or a Christmas jumper! Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Christmas Fair 6th classes:

As part of our annual fundraiser, sixth class are organising a Christmas Fair in aid of St. Hilda's Services Athlone on Thursday, the 11th of December. There will be a variety of seasonal crafts and treats available for the children to purchase. Festive entertainment and activities will be provided by our sixth class pupils.

"Have your say" Survey:

Everyone in the school community has been asked by the school Patron Bishop Paul Connell to take part in the "Have your say" Survey. It is important that all parents endeavour to do so. The school sent an email on 26th of November with all information.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

A sincere thank you to all parent(s)/guardian(s) for attending the recent parent/teacher meetings held in the school. In the very best interests of every child it is hugely important that there is a positive, trusting professional rapport between teachers and parents in order to support each child at every stage in their development. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

Visit to the Civic Centre for Junior Mayor Initiative:

Our Junior Mayors and 6th Class Student Council were invited to the Athlone Civic Office by our local councillor Frankie Keena. The children had an opportunity to see how our local council works and an opportunity was given to voice concerns. Thank you to Frankie Keena, Paul Hogan and Fiachra McLoughlin.

Christmas Annuals:

Thank you to all the pupils who have ordered the Christmas Annuals from their teachers. The cost of the Christmas annual was €3. Annuals have now been ordered and will be dispatched once they arrive. A sincere thanks to our secretary Pauline for organising!

Christmas Cards:

Christmas cards orders should be with us in early December. They will be dispatched to your child/ren on delivery. Thank you for your support with this initiative.

Nuachtlitir Mí Na Samhna 2025

School Fees:

- **Swimming:** Pupils from Coosan NS will attend swimming lessons similar to last year. The charge per pupil will be €55.
- **Art & Craft:** We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €60 per pupil and remind any family who has not done so to please do so at your earliest convenience.
- **Basketball:** We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €20 per pupil and remind any family who has not done so to please do so at your earliest convenience.
- **Voluntary Contribution:** In Coosan NS, we are very privileged to have such a wonderful new school building and fantastic grounds. The challenge the school faces both now and into the future will be in maintaining these wonderful facilities as well as running the school in the normal manner each school year. For this reason, the school is asking for a voluntary contribution from each child of €50 capped at €100 per family. This is not compulsory and any contribution will be very much appreciated-thank you!

Payment for all of the above can be made on the Aladdin Connect App or to the office.

Sport:

Gaelic Football:

Coosan Boys' Gaelic Team:

Well done to the Boys GAA team who had a great win against St. Kenny Kilpatrick this month. The boys are now two wins from two in their group and are closing in on qualification for the semi finals in the new year. Well done to all involved.

Coosan Girls' Gaelic Football:

Well done to the Girls GAA team who have won their two first two games in their group Cumann ns mBunscol group, putting them in a strong position to progress to the knockout rounds in the new year.

Basketball: The children in our 1st classes, our 4th classes, our Senior Infants and Ms. McCormack's class are currently receiving basketball coaching.

Swimming: Pupils from our 6th classes are currently attending swimming lessons in Athlone Regional Sports Centre on Tuesday mornings. Their swimming lessons will finish on Tuesday December 17th. Our 3rd classes will commence swimming lessons then from January 8th - February 25th. Please ensure your child brings all necessary items.

Rinka: Rinka for 1st and 2nd Class started on Friday 28th November for 6 weeks. Thank you to Lauren.

Tennis: 1st Class have finished their sessions of tennis with Clement this term. Thank you to Clement Higginbotham.

Cycle Right: 6th Class are participating in cycle safety training run by Birr Outdoor Education and Training Centre and Cycling Ireland. Cycle Right is the national standard for cycle training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists.

The two hour sessions will take place every Monday morning starting this week, November 24 and running through December 1, 8 and 15.

Nuachtlitir Mí Na Samhna 2025

Tuar Ard Visit to see "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas":

Junior and Senior Infants, First and 2nd classes and pupils from, Ms. McCormack's and Mr. Kelly's classes visited Tuar Ard Theatre, Moate to see "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas".

The children really enjoyed this event! A sincere thanks to the Coosan NS Parents Association for generously supporting with this event.

Supervision of Pupils:

Please note that the children are supervised from 9.20am-3pm each school day. The school grounds are open to the pupils but we cannot accept responsibility for children arriving before the official opening of the school or remaining on the grounds after school. On wet mornings pupils are admitted and supervised from 9.10am.

Health & Safety:

In the interests of all pupils health and safety we kindly ask everyone to remember:

If pupils are unwell, please do not send them to school, consult your GP, follow public health advice and inform the school so that we can support your child in the case of a long period of absence and when they return to school.

We have children with a variety of allergies attending our school. The school kindly asks that treats are not sent in for the whole class as a birthday celebration and wish to remind everyone that foods with trace elements of nuts are not allowed due to severe nut allergies in our school.

Chewing gum is not permitted in Coosan N.S.. The school would appreciate the support of parents/guardians in ensuring that it does not come into school-Go raibh maith agaibh.

Traffic Safety:

We appeal to all drivers to be mindful and respectful of pupils using the pedestrian crossings. Please continue to give them the right of way.

Please adhere to guidance shown on the school car park signage to ensure you are parking in the correct location.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

It is fantastic to see so many pupils cycling/walking to school. Please advise your child to be careful and not take unnecessary risks when cycling/walking to and from school and to avail of the school bike racks.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Ms. S. Cunningham

Principal

Coosan National School

Parents' Association Update:

Nuachtlitir Mí Na Samhna 2025

Christmas is around the corner and the Parents' Association is excited to have Santa and his happy elves visiting the school again this year. Santa loves Coosan N.S and will be here bright and early on the morning of the 16th of December so get your lists ready and he'll have a little treat in store too for each and every one! The PA is preparing a lovely Christmas display this year with the help of all the children and teachers. Shhh....It's a secret though and all will be revealed closer to Christmas! The little ones have been to see 'I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" in Tuar Art in Moate, and the PA were pleased to support the school with the cost of the transport to that lovely event. The PA wishes to thank management and teachers and staff, the Coosan Community development group and the wider Coosan Community for their wonderful support as always coming up to Christmas and beyond. Please come to our next PA meeting on Tuesday the 2nd of December. Have a cuppa and a chat and see what we have planned for the rest of the school year! All are welcome!

Please contact Olivia on 0862679441 if you have any questions about the PA, just want to be updated or want to join the volunteer list.

Merry Christmas Everyone!