

# *Nuachtlitis Mí Eanáir 2024*



## January Newsletter

### **Athlone Advertiser's Art Competition:**

Congratulations to Ellen Gallagher (Ms. Beirne's class) and Cian McHugh (Ms. McElvaney's class) who were winners in The Athlone Advertiser Christmas Art Competition!

Their artworks were published in Athlone Advertiser's 21st December edition.

There will be a prize-giving ceremony on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February at 4.00 pm in the Athlone Bookshop where their artwork will be displayed in the window of the Athlone Bookshop.

**Comhghairdeachas libh!**

### SENIOR INFANTS



**Cian McHugh - Senior Infants**  
Coosan N.S. Castlequarter, Athlone Co. Westmeath

### SECOND CLASS



**Ellen Gallagher - 2nd Class,**  
Coosan N.S. Castlequarter, Athlone Co. Westmeath

### **Credit Union Quiz:**

Congratulations to Juan Jose Olmedilla Arregui, Neil Boyle, Dylan Cunningham and Robyn Mulvihill, our U11 quiz team, and Joseph Cleary, Bronagh Dooley, Luke Kolencheril and Aoibhe McEntee, our U13 quiz team, who came first in their categories in the Athlone Credit Union Quiz held on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>,

Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to all those who came to support on the day.

Both teams will take part in the Chapter stage of the competition which takes place on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in Moate Community Hall. We wish both teams the very best of luck.

We wish to thank Ms. Lantry for entering the children in the event.

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### **Enrolment (2024-25):**

Any parent/guardian wishing to enrol a child in our school for the coming school year is advised to download and complete the 'Application for Enrolment' form from our school website. This form will be on our website from February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please download and complete the form in full and send it to Pauline, our secretary or email to school at [coosanns@gmail.com](mailto:coosanns@gmail.com). The final day for receipt of applications is Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 3.00pm.

**This also applies to incoming infants who already have siblings in the school.**

### **Catholic Schools Week 2024:**

Catholic Schools Week 2024 took place last week in our school.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- School will be closed on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, for St. Bridget's Day
- School will also be closed on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to facilitate training in the New Primary Maths Curriculum
- The Ceremony of Light for our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will take place on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February @8pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.
- Confirmation Ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils in Coosan National School will take place on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11am
- 1<sup>st</sup> Confession for our 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion candidates will take place on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Ceremony for 2<sup>nd</sup> class pupils will take place on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2024 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11.00am.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class Tour: This tour will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, to Epic Museum & Croke Park, our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and teachers are very excited.
- Our school choir (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> classes) will perform at Féile Ceoil Na Scoileanna in March this year. Dates have yet to be confirmed.
- Cash for Clobber: In aid of our PA. Donations can be made to the school GP Hall on March 12<sup>th</sup> between 2pm - 6pm. Thanking you in advance for your support

### **Cake Sale:**

Our 'Annual Cake Sale' will take place in the GP Room this year. It will take place on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February. The proceeds will go to the Parents' Association. The PA are asking families to bring in baked and bought treats to sell at the sale (they can be brought to the GP room before school starts). More information to follow. Thanking you in advance for your support.

### **Smart Devices:**

Mobile phones and any other smart devices in general are not allowed in Coosan NS, in the interest of all pupils and staff's safety and wellbeing. If any parent needs to contact their child, they can contact the school office on 0906478356. In the event of an emergency, the

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school will contact parents/guardians to alert straight away. Please inform the school office if there has been any changes to your contact number, email or address.

### **Book Week 2024:**

We hope to celebrate Book Week this year and we have a number of activities planned to celebrate this week. (March 4th-8th)

- We will have a Book Fair in the GP Room for this week-more information to follow.
- Orla McGovern (writer, performer and facilitator) will visit 5th and 6th classes for some interesting workshops.
- 1st-4th classes will enjoy a visit from members of Moate Library for storytelling and quiztime
- We will celebrate World Book Day (Thursday, March 7th) by having a "Dress Up as your Favourite Book Character Day"
- There will be reading activities in every class to celebrate Book Week.

### **Parking at the School:**

We are most concerned about parking at the school at 'drop off' and 'collection' times. We ask all parents/guardians to bear the following in mind to make the school grounds and school environs as safe as possible at these times:

- Please reverse park at all times.
- There is no parking in the Drop Off Zone
- Please Do Not Park in the Staff Car Park at any time
- If you are 'dropping off' your child(ren), please use the drop off zone only. Parking in this zone is not permitted
- Please respect the Disabled Parking places at all times
- Please park responsibly on the public road and please do not park at the Hillquarter junction.
- Please respect the pedestrian crossings

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation

### **School Self-Evaluation:**

Our school's new focus for SSE beginning this year is Wellbeing. The school has started the process this term and will involve everyone in the school community pupils, parents/guardians and school staff in this new cycle over the coming months. The school will provide more information in due course.

### **School Fees:**

- Swimming: Pupils from Coosan NS will attend swimming lessons similar to last year. The charge per pupil will be €50.
- School tours: Fees for school tours this year will be placed on Aladdin in March this year.
- Art & Craft: We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €50 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

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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.**

### **Uniform:**

Please note the following regarding your child's uniform and appearance at school:

- Pupils must come to school in full uniform, clean and tidy.
- No jewellery is allowed except a watch, single pair of small earrings (i.e. ear studs or sleepers, one in each earlobe).
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- No make-up or fake tan may be worn.
- Pupils with long hair are expected to wear it tied up, in a neat and tidy fashion (not obstructing vision), with no unnatural colours allowed.
- Shorts of an appropriate length and a single colour in keeping with the school uniform are permitted especially when the weather is nice.

### **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.

### **Lámh Sign**

We continue to learn a new Lámh sign each week. Recently we learned Mammy, Daddy and we also know: Hello, Good bye, Thank you, You're welcome, Sorry, friend, School, Happy Christmas, and Happy Hallowe'en.

Please ask your child to teach these signs so we can all learn as a community together, Thank you for your support

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## **Sport:**

### *Hurling:*

Boys hurling training occurs on our pitch every Friday at lunch time. We await our grouping and fixtures for this year's Cumann Na mBunscol competition.

### **Soccer/Gaelic Football:**

Training sessions take place on Wednesdays for the pupils in our senior classes at lunchtime in the GP hall.

### **Girls GAA:**

The girls gaelic football team recently played against Ardnagrath in their Cumann Na mBunscol on February 1st.

### **Swimming:**

Sixth class are attending swimming lessons presently

## **Fundamentals:**

Senior Infants, Ms. F. Kelly & Ms. E. Whyte classes will go on Thursdays (11am-1pm) and Junior Infants will go on Fridays (10am-12pm) to TUS for Fundamentals this term.

## **Entering & Exiting the School on Foot:**

When dropping off/collecting your child, please use the footpaths at all times. A number of parents/guardians are walking with their children through the teachers' car-park. Please use the designated footpaths and pedestrian crossings at all times.

## **Parents Association Update:**

The Parent Association are looking forward to our upcoming bake sale on Tuesday the 13th February. All buns, cakes etc donated will be much appreciated. We are still in need of help on the day if any one is available please WhatsApp Caoimhe: 0872958341

"Cash for Clobber" will take place next month on the 12th March. Perfect timing for a Spring clear out of clothes!

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th February at 8.30pm and we encourage parents to come along to a meeting for a cup of tea to see what's involved. We always love to see new faces.

If anyone wishes to join the Parents Association Whatsapp group please email [coosanschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto:coosanschoolpa@gmail.com) and we will happily add you.

Coosan National School Parents Association

## **Mid-Term Break:**

Thursday, 15th and Friday 16th (Mid-Term) as per school calendar.

Le gach dea ghúí,

*Ms. Stephen Cunningham*

*Principal*