



Nuacht Litis Na Samhna 2023



Deireadh Fómhair 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

The school will be closed for mid-term break next week from 30th of October-3rd November (inclusive). We reopen on Monday 6th of November at 9:20. The children can come to school in Hallowe'en fancy dress tomorrow, Friday October 27th. Items such as wands, broomsticks, toy weapons, scary masks and any other extra items are not permitted (ie. no added props!). Reminding Parents that nuts or any foods containing nut products are not permitted in lunch boxes due to severe nut allergies.

Dates for your diary:

- 1st Holy Communion Ceremony for 2nd class pupils will take place on Saturday, 11th of May, 2024 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11.00am.
- Confirmation Ceremony for 6th class pupils in Coosan National School will take place on Saturday, 2nd of March 2024, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11am.
- Parent /Teacher Meetings will take place on Wednesday, November 22nd and Thursday, November 23rd this year. Details to follow after Mid-term.

Congratulations & Best Wishes:

Everyone in the Coosan National School Community would like to wish Niamh Kelly and her fiancé Oisín O'Flynn well on their wedding day on Saturday. We wish them both every happiness in their future together.

Board of Management:

A new board of management will commence its term from December 1st, 2023. The school would like to sincerely thank all members of our current Board of Management (Fr. Patrick Murphy, Stephen Cunningham, Loretta Clabby, Michael O'Connell, Elaine Sheridan, John McGlynn, Geraldine Kenny, Marie McLoughlin, John Connellan and Tom Flahive) for their support and guidance over the past four years. After Hallowe'en, parents/guardians will be notified regarding the election of parent representatives to the new board.



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Whole School Evaluation Report:

The report from our schools Whole School Evaluation last February has recently been published and is available at the following link [Coosan NS WSE report](#) . The report was shared with everyone previously via Aladdin and is now available on our schools website. The report the school achieved is an accurate reflection of all the great work that happens everyday in Coosan N.S. and has been happening for a long number of years now-well done to everyone.

Official School Opening:

The school community will be celebrating an official school opening before the end of this year. Preparations are already underway and the school will provide more information when finalised.

School Self-Evaluation:

Our school's new focus for SSE 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.
- 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 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.



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Jersey Day in aid of Goal:

The school recently celebrated "Jersey Day" on Friday, 13th of October. The school raised €1,063 and wishes to thank parents/guardians and members of the Coosan School Community for their generous support. A sincere thanks to Ms. Harney for coordinating.



6th class visit to Our Lady's Bower:

Our Sixth Class girls had the opportunity to visit Our Lady's Bower on Wednesday, 25th of October. The girls had the chance to explore the school, as well as experience some of the classes that are on offer. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we would like to thank Ms. Beades, the staff, TY students and in particular, Cayleigh O'Neill (past pupil) for their hospitality and kindness shown.

Appreciation:

We wish to thank you for having the children so well prepared for school and for the effort you have put into getting uniforms ready, labelling items, ensuring children have healthy lunches, tying back hair, getting children to school on time etc.

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.



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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.

Assemblies:

Our school assemblies take place in the school GP Hall on Tuesdays (JI-2nd classes & pupils from our SEU) and Thursdays (3rd-6th classes & pupils from our SEU). These provide a lovely opportunity for pupils to meet together, to share important information and to celebrate special events.

Lámh:

This term, at assemblies and in our classrooms, we are all learning about Lámh as a lovely way to communicate with each other. Through using Lámh, everyone feels welcome, heard and appreciated in our school.

So far, we have learned "Hello", "Thank You" and "Happy Hallowe'en". Please practise these at home too! Sincere thanks to Ms Harney for coordinating and to some of our wonderful pupils for teaching everyone what they have learned at assemblies!

<https://www.lamh.org/communication/about-l%C3%A1mh-list-signs>

Morning Supervision:

- There are staff on the yard from 9.10 am every morning to allow parents/guardians to leave promptly after dropping their children to the yard. We would appreciate your full support and cooperation in order to keep everyone as safe as possible, to provide the children with ample space to walk to their lines in the mornings and continue to develop their sense of independence.
- On very wet mornings, pupils are admitted at 9.10am.



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Covid-19:

As a result of Covid-19, there continues to be changes to the way our school now functions.

- Children are encouraged to wash/sanitise their hands and use appropriate coughing etiquette throughout the day.
- There are hand sanitising stations in every classroom and at all exit doors in the school.
- These and other measures are in place to safeguard the children, staff and parents/guardians in our school community.
- Thanks for your help, goodwill and understanding as we do our best to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as we enter the winter season..
- Please note the school is not in a position to advise regarding whether it is safe for pupils to come school when unwell or following an injury. We ask that all families consult their G.P. and continue to follow HSE guidelines.

Aladdin:

It is most important that addresses/emails and phone numbers of all our students are up to date. If your address/phone number/email has changed, please update details on Aladdin Connect or inform Pauline, our secretary, as they are required for correspondence purposes. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Aladdin Connect, if you haven't please contact the office and we can resend access codes.

Absences/Appointments:

Please document all of your child's absences using the Aladdin Connect app or inform the office, to avoid any unexplained absences.

Maths Week 2023:

This year during maths week the children engaged in a range of fun activities. The senior classes acted as buddies to the junior classes. Each day a few members from a senior class visited the junior classes for maths activities. Both groups really enjoyed this activity. Every class in the school took part in a maths trial, finding maths all around us. Lastly, a special mention to the children in 6th Class, they took part in an online target board competition coming 4th in Ireland. Well done to all involved!



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Sporting Achievements:

Athletics:

Congratulations to our Cross Country Athletics Team who competed in the Primary Schools Cross Country competition on Wednesday, 18th October in Belvedere Mullingar. Thanks to Ms. O'Carroll and Ms. McElvaney for taking the children on the day.



Gaelic Football:

Congratulations to our boys' Gaelic Football Teams who recently played against St. Colman's Mullingar in the Cumann Na mBunscol competition and achieved a great victory down in Mullingar! Thanks to Mr. Ronaldson and Mr. Kenny for their support and coaching with our boys team.

Best wishes to the Girls Football Team as they begin their campaign in the Cuman na mBunscol competition next term. Thanks to Mr. Keogh & Mrs. H. Kelly for their support and coaching with our girls team.

Swimming:

Maja Jadesko, Tara McLoughlin, James McLoughlin and Paul Fallon represented Coosan NS at the Connacht Minor Schools gala in Leisureland, Galway last weekend:

Maja won 2 golds in the 50m Breaststroke and the 50m Butterfly

Tara won silver in the 50m freestyle

James came 5th in the 50m freestyle and had a PB of 36 seconds

Paul achieved 2 PBs and came 5th in the 50m back crawl and 7th in 50m Freestyle

We wish the swimmers well in the National swimming finals next March-well done all!

A huge thank you to the dedicated group of parents who support our school team



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Schoolyard Activities:

After the Halloween break, we will begin to roll out the next stage of our yard games initiatives. In the first term, the soccer league took place and sports equipment was available on the senior yard. Behind the scenes, an extensive list of suitable yard games has been sourced for our school. The equipment for these games is now subdivided into storage boxes for the 8 types of games. External storage was bought, constructed and is on site ready to go. The 5th and 6th Class teachers have been using their PE time to teach a selected list of yard games. The senior students have been practising coaching these games on one another. A list of volunteers from the 5th and 6th Classes is being drafted. There will be a rota of these students going to the various yards to help the younger classes play these games, allowing for the development of leadership skills in our senior students. This will happen two days a week, Tuesday and Thursdays. Over time we will expand further as children become familiar with the various games. Our target yard for the next term will be 1st and 2nd. We will expand to the other yards in stages after this. The children will have two weeks on one type of game- for example skipping ropes (getting four sessions learning various skipping rope games). Then after two weeks, they may have ball games-(dodgeball for example) and this continues to rotate so as to keep it fresh for the children. We hope this will enrich the children's play time along with the various other activities that will be available on alternative days to the yard activities.

A sincere thanks to the Parents Association for generously supporting this initiative.

A big thank you to Mr. Keogh and the school yard committee for coordinating these lovely activities.

Lunchtime Activities:

After Mid-Term Break, we will be introducing a range of fun lunchtime activities. Chess will be offered to 6th class pupils initially, led by Ms. Crowley. Kids Yoga will also be offered to pupils in 2nd class, led by Ms. Whyte. A creative kids club will also begin, led by Ms. Beirne. Hurling and Football will continue on the pitch coached by Mr. Ronaldson, Mr Keogh, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Broderick, Mr Kenny, Ms O'Donohue and Ms. Brophy. Our School Music group will also continue next term with Ms. Harney and Ms. Crowley. Lunchtime breaks are certain to be a hive of activity with something for everyone to enjoy.

A big thank you to the Teachers and SNA involved for volunteering at lunchtimes and to Ms. Beirne for coordinating.



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Outside Coaches:

Basketball and GAA coaching continues next term. All pupils in the school will receive basketball, Gaelic Football and hurling coaching over a 7/8-week period at different intervals throughout the school year. These coaching programmes are delivered by experienced, highly skilled coaches and sessions are designed to support and complement the P.E. Curriculum lessons being taught by your child's teacher every week.

Swimming:

Swimming returns on Tuesdays after Halloween:

- November 7th - December 19th 7 weeks 4th Classes

Please ensure your child brings all necessary items.

Labels:

Please label all items of clothing to ensure that items that go missing are returned to their rightful owners as soon as possible.

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.

When dropping/collecting your child/ren please drive forward to the furthest point in the Set Down area in order to facilitate other parents/guardians and prevent a build up of traffic both on school grounds and on the main road.

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.

Christmas Cards:

Christmas Card Templates for your child/children were returned to the printers and we are awaiting the order cards/forms after the Mid-term.



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Parents Association:

The Parents Association were delighted to organise the Halloween disco for the Junior and Senior classes. The children put in so much effort dressing up and getting into the "spirit" of things! Many thanks to all the parents and guardians who volunteered on the night.

Also huge thanks to those who helped with the Halloween/Pumpkin display. They have definitely outdone themselves this year.

We are now starting preparations for our Christmas activities; Santa and his elves will be visiting the children again this year and we will be holding our annual Christmas raffle. We look forward to parents and guardians supporting this fundraiser.

Our next meeting will take place on the 7th November 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 and we will happily add you.

We also encourage parents and guardians to join our volunteer list, to be up to date on how you can support the Parents Association. Please text Caoimhe on: 0872958341 if you would like to be added to the group.

Happy Halloween everyone and have a great Mid-Term.

Internet Safety information Session with Paul Hensey:

Guest speaker Paul Hensey facilitated internet safety talks with the pupils from our 3rd to 6th classes on Friday 13th of October in Coosan N.S. Paul will now host an information session on online safety for parents to support their child on **November 7th 2023 from 7-8:30pm in the school.** We hope that many parents will be available to attend.

Birthday Invitations:

The school would appreciate it if birthday invitations were distributed outside of school hours to prevent upset. Thank you for your support in this matter.



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Mid Term Break:

Our school will close tomorrow at 3pm for our Mid-Term Break.

We will reopen on Monday, 6th November at 9.20am.

Thank you for your continued support, the school sincerely appreciates it- *Ní neart go cur le chéile.*

Wishing everyone an enjoyable Hallowe'en Break

Gach Beannacht

Ms. S. Cunningham

Principal

Coosan National School