

Nuachtlitis Mí Eanáir 2026



January Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

- Primary Curriculum Framework In-Service Training Day 1 will take place for staff on Wednesday 11th February, School will be closed for all pupils on this day
- Parents Association Cake Sale will take place on Monday, 16th of February, 2026
- Wednesday 18th February - Mr. Cunningham's final day as Principal of Coosan National School
- Mid-Term Break - Thursday 19th & Friday 20th February
- Book Week will take place from 23rd to 27th February 2026 with lots of engaging activities planned for our pupils. Two writers-in-residence will visit the 4th, 5th and 6th classes. A book fair will also visit the school, giving all pupils the opportunity to browse and purchase books. In addition, a puppet show has been organised for all classes, along with our usual dress-up day, which will be held on Friday 27th February. More details to follow.
- We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting our very first Chess Tournament on March 5th, 2026. We will be hosting a number of other school pupils from the Westmeath and Roscommon area. We will be entering 8 chess teams from our two third classes and are really looking forward to improving our chess skills on the day in some friendly competition
- 1st Confessions - for our pupils participating in the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 5.30pm in Coosan Church
- School will be closed for St. Patrick's weekend on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of March - School will re-open on Wednesday 18th March at 9.20am.
- Ceremony of Light - for our pupils participating in the Sacrament of Confirmation, Tuesday 10th of March @8pm in Coosan church
- Confirmation Ceremony for 6th class pupils in Coosan National School will take place on Saturday, 21st of March, 2026, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11am.
- Easter Holidays - School will close at 12 noon on Friday 27th March and re-open on Monday 13th April at 9.20am
- 1st Holy Communion Ceremony for 2nd class pupils will take place on Saturday, 16th of May, 2026 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Coosan at 11am.

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Enrolment (2025-2026):

Any parent/guardian wishing to enrol their 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, along with our Schools Admission Policy and Admissions Notice are all on our school website.

Please download and complete the form in full and return it to Pauline, our secretary in our school office (or by email), to our school's email address coosanns@gmail.com.

The final day for receipt of applications is Friday, February 27th 2026, at 3.00pm.

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

Music in Coosan National School:

Fiddle, Banjo and Guitar in 5th Classes:

Pupils in 5th classes are being afforded the opportunity to learn a traditional Irish instrument (fiddle, banjo and guitar) again this term. We hope all the pupils involved thoroughly enjoy this experience and we thank Mr. Kelly and the music tutors from Music Generation for supporting this initiative.

Ukeleles:

Pupils in 4th classes in Ms. Blaneys' and Ms. Lantry's classes are currently enjoying this experience until Easter and then it will be the turn of our 3rd classes Mr. Ronaldson and Ms. Beirne's after Easter until the Summer. We hope all the pupils thoroughly enjoy this experience and we thank all teachers involved and also the tutors from Music Generation Westmeath for supporting this initiative.

Catholic Schools Week 2026:

Catholic Schools Week 2026 took place last week in our school from the 19th to the 23rd of January inclusive. The theme for this year was "Normal life called to holiness".

Fruity February:

We are hoping to do something a little bit different and introduce Fruity February, which will take place throughout the month of February. Fruity February aims to encourage children to increase their intake of fruit and vegetables and will build on the success of the Food Dudes programme, which concluded before Christmas. As part of this initiative, we will continue to use the Food Dudes certificates and encourage children to bring their Food Dudes lunchboxes to school each day packed with fruit and vegetables.

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To promote participation and make the initiative fun and engaging, we will be conducting a weekly survey (Tuesdays and Thursdays), recording how many pieces of fruit and vegetables each class brings to school. Each week, there will be a winning class from the junior end and a winning class from the senior end. The winning classes will receive weekly prizes in recognition of their efforts.

We will also be planning some nutrition talks, and health promoting activities along with some planting and growing of our own fruits and vegetables. Seeds, pots and soil have kindly been donated by Fernhill.

We hope that this will continue long after February and the ideas of eating fruit and vegetables, fueling our bodies correctly and healthy eating in general will outlast this initiative.

Student Council Litter Picking Initiative

In order to maintain our commitment to being a green school and to keep our green flag we will be working on reducing litter on our school grounds and disposing/recycling our rubbish correctly in classrooms. To give pupils some ownership over keeping our school grounds clean, classes will be asked to litter pick once a week for 15 minutes. Our Student Council is taking a leading role in leading this initiative by helping to co-ordinate the school litter-picking rota and reminding classes of good recycling habits. We have lots of litter grabbers, plastic gloves and bags in order to pick up litter from the school grounds in a safe manner.

Student Council Focus Group

Members of our Student Council will take part in a consultation event on the development of guidance for Student Councils in primary and special schools. This event, organised by the Department of Education, will be held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Tuesday, 10th February, 2026. Our Student Council members are looking forward to sharing the views and ideas of our school community on how student councils can operate more effectively in schools.

Cake Sale:

Our 'Annual Cake Sale' will take place in the GP Room this year. It will take place on Monday, 16th 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). Please see below information.

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parents' Association annual Cake Sale will take place on Monday 16th February this year. This is always a very enjoyable event for our whole school community.

We ask that families bring along baked and bought treats for us to sell. These items can be left into the GP room before 9.20 on the morning of the 16th. All students will have the opportunity to come to the cake sale to buy some treats along with their classes. Junior Infants and Senior Infant classes should bring a maximum of €2 to spend and all other classes a maximum of €5.

We invite parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends to come along to our Coffee Morning in the GP room of the school from 10.30- 12.30.

Many thanks, as always, for your support of our event.
Coosan National School Parents' Association.



Smart Devices:

Mobile phones and any other smart devices eg. watches, in general are not allowed in Coosan NS. This is in the interest of safety and wellbeing of the children and staff in our school. If any parent/guardian needs to contact his/her child, they can contact the school office on 0906478356.

In the event of an emergency, the 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 home address.

School Self-Evaluation:

Our school's current focus for SSE this year is Wellbeing. The school will be organising lots of activities to promote wellbeing. The school will provide more information in due course.

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School Fees:

Swimming: Pupils from Coosan NS will attend swimming lessons similar to last year. The charge per pupil will be €55.

- School tours: Fees for school tours this year will be placed on Aladdin in advance this year.
- Art & Craft: We would like to thank all who have paid the fee of €55 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 school office-thank you for your support

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 in the first instance-Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

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Sport in Coosan National School:

Hurling:

Hurling training takes place each week at lunchtime. We await our grouping and fixtures for this year's Cumann Na mBunscol competition. A sincere thanks to Mr. Kenny, Mr. Creavin, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Broderick for supporting with training.

Boys Gaelic Football:

Training sessions take place at lunchtimes for the pupils in our senior classes. A sincere thanks to Mr. Ronaldson and Mr. Creavin for supporting with Boys Gaelic football.

Girls Gaelic Football:

Training sessions take place at lunchtimes for the pupils in our senior classes. A sincere thanks to Mr. Keogh, Mr. Creavin, Ms. H. Kelly and Ms. Holloway for supporting with Girls Gaelic football.

Soccer:

Coosan NS will take part in the upcoming Primary 5's competition similar to last year. Training for the boys and girls in our senior classes takes place at lunchtimes. A sincere thanks to Mr. Keogh Mr. Creavin and Mr. Ronaldson for supporting.

Swimming:

3rd classes are attending swimming lessons presently in the Athlone Regional Sports Centre, until February 17th.

Swimming for 4th classes commences from February 24th - April 28th.

Junior Infants Fundamentals in TUS:

Junior Infants are currently participating in a three week FUNdamentals programme. The primary focus of these sessions are Fundamentals of Movement (FOM) and Fundamental Sports Skills (FSS). The secondary focus is on developing the children's co-operations skills through group activities and team games. Each session follows a similar format where the sports hall is divided up into 5 stations with each station focusing on different aspects of FOM and/or FSS, as well as the strands and strand units from the Athletics' curriculum. For example, catching and throwing, running, balance, bouncing, striking, jumping, understanding and appreciation of Athletics. A sincere thanks to Ms. Eagney, Ms. Casey, Ms. Brophy, and Ms. Larkin for arranging.

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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.

Set Down Areas:

In the interests of everyone's health and safety the school kindly asks that all members of the school community respect and use the car park and set down areas as they are designed and adhere to the guidance on the signage displayed. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Parents Association Update:

Spring is in the air and the Parents' Association are busy getting ready for this our annual Cake Sale and Coffee morning on Monday 16th February in the GP hall. This is always a lovely event which always goes down a treat with the children and the local community. We have neighbours, friends and family and past pupils all popping in for a coffee and a cake throughout the morning. It is always a popular event we hope to have the biggest turnout ever this year! All proceeds from the cake sale and coffee morning goes to the Parent's Association for new equipment for the children every year.

The school garden will be up and running again later in the year. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn about food and nature while getting stuck in planting, weeding and growing. This project is only possible with the wonderful help of the teachers, parents and local community. The response last year was overwhelming so we expect the same fantastic community effort again this year! We would like to mention our parent volunteers who go above and beyond every year; the cake sale, Halloween disco, Halloween display, Christmas display, all the coffees and teas that have been made to welcome , to celebrate, all the events big and small that happened because of parents of Coosan School. Thank you!

If you have any questions about the PA please contact Olivia on 0862679441. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd of March at 8.30pm in the school. All welcome always!

The Parents' Association want to take this opportunity to congratulate our wonderful Principal Stephen Cunningham on his new appointment as the Principal of Scoil Bhríde in Galway. We would like to thank him for his dedication, patience and the unwavering support he has shown towards the PA over the past few years. His enthusiasm and kindness will be greatly missed here at Coosan and his brilliant legacy will live on. We wish him well on his new adventure.

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Mid-Term Break:

The school will close on Thursday, 19th and Friday 20th of February, 2026 for Mid-Term as per school calendar.

New Pedestrian Crossing:

Works to the pedestrian crossing outside Coosan NS are now completed. The school would like to thank Westmeath County Council and our local representatives for their support in bringing this to its very successful completion. Míle Buíochas chuile dhuine.

School Works:

The Board of Management has recently approved works to extend the 3rd and 4th class playing area. The works include moving and recreating our school garden in a new location and creating a new grass playing field with a walkway around for everyone. It is hoped that all of these works will be fully completed by the end of this school year so everyone can enjoy them.

New School Jerseys:

The Lunchbag have kindly agreed to sponsor our school with two new sets of jerseys for our school teams. We hope to have these in the coming weeks to support all of our school teams.

Solar Panels:

The Board of Management has recently approved the installation of a larger solar panel system to compliment and further enhance our current system. It is hoped that the new system will be installed and generating lots of electricity for our school very soon.

An Focal Scoir:

Míle buíochas ó chroí do chuile dhuine i pobal Scoil an Cuasán. Guím gach rath oraibh go léir sa todhchaí. Is mór an onóir dom a bheith mar príomhoide anseo linn le tamailín. Ní dhéanfaidh mé dearmad oraibh-Cuasán Abú!

Beir Bua,

Ms. Stephen Cunningham

Principal

Coosan National School