

Scoil Ailbhe Newsletter

Staff 2022-2023

- 2nd Class Ms. Eadaoin Doyle
- 3rd Class Ms. Joanne Phelan
- 4th Class Ms. Barbara Ryan
- 4th Class Ms. Laura Grace
- 5th Class Mr. Denis McCullagh
- 5th/6th Class Mr. Ger Fogarty
- 6th Class Ms. Deirdre Lanigan
- Learning Support Team: Ms. Paula St. John, Ms. Siobhán Power, Ms. Gráinne O'Halloran, Mr. Peter Donnelly, Mr. Michael Russell, Mr. Niall McGovern, Ms. Nessa Murray.
- SNAs: Nathalie O'Callaghan, Janey Troy
- Caretaker: Ger Kerrigan
- Secretary: Peggy Costello
- Principal Ms. Bríd Ryan

After-School Club

Our new after school club is off to a flying start and in huge demand.

Following their homework, the children are enjoying the various activities and it's easy to see why very few places remain, and only on certain days.

For further information, contact

Teresa Treacy

086-8989220.



Breakfast Club in full swing!

Confirmation Date



The date for our Confirmation this year is **Saturday, 11th March, 2023.**

The time is still to be decided.

First Communion Date

No date has been provided by the parish as yet but as soon as it does we will pass it on. We hope to have it before midterm break.

New Clevertouch Boards



ICT

The 2022-2023 school year saw the arrival of our new **Clevertouch panels into our classrooms.** These are sophisticated pieces of technology, which allow students to interact with the

screen, and are invaluable teaching tools, bringing the learning alive. They replace the projectors and screens which have served us so well for so long. The Clevertouch panels

compliment our other technology. We have class sets of ipads and laptops, all of which are in constant use as teaching and learning tools. As well as using them for research, the boys are developing their coding skills and becoming internet safety aware.

Boys in 1st Class, Senior Infants and Junior Infants

There has been a lot of confusion with regard to the Co-Ed Status talks and we are very aware of this as a school.

We want to absolutely reassure all parents who wish to transfer their boys to us next September - and indeed the following two Septembers—that we are most definitely welcoming our 2nd class boys ,as we always have, for the next three years.

We will have a place for each and every one of them and will continue to strive to make the transition as seamless as possible for them and to make it a very enjoyable experience.

Lots of parents of young boys in the other schools have been in contact in recent weeks, and indeed many have come on a little short tour of the school to get a little taste of life here.

We so welcome that - and we will facilitate such a visit on any day, evening or even at weekends—whatever suits you best.



Please pass this message onto your friends also, who may feel they don't have the same options as before ,and with whom we can't make contact.



Junior Infants 2023



Next September, we really look forward to also welcoming our very first group of Junior Infant girls and boys. We are very excited about this and are really looking forward to welcoming prospective parents and children to our Open Day. This will take place most likely in November. (Exact details will be advertised soon)

Our Junior Infant intake will be limited due to the transition arrangement between the three schools in the town.

Parents' Council

Please consider sending your name in to the school to add to our Parents Council. The A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at 7p.m. and they would welcome the involvement of new parents.

We are indebted to this group of people who give the school terrific help with our different events.

If the group has a few representatives from each class, the commitment from everyone is small and only if/when you are available.

So newcomers to the Council will be so welcome - just ring the school secretary , Peggy ,to give in your name .



Chess Club and Chess Lessons

Ms. Lani-gan and Mr. McGovern have started a **chess club** for boys in **5th and 6th class**. The club meets on **Tuesday from 2.45p.m. to 3.30p.m.** We have new chess sets and already, there is great excitement amongst the boys. As the year progresses, we look forward to introducing chess to all the boys



in the school, beginning with introductory lessons for beginners and advancing the skills of the more advanced players. Chess teaches us respect; winning with grace and accepting losses; good sportsmanship; impulse control and dealing with consequences to actions. It also promotes mental resilience and confidence.

We look forward to some of our students taking part in chess tournaments later in the school year.



Athletics



Following weeks of training on the Scoil Ailbhe track, nearly **80 boys from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class** took to the cross-country track in Crokes' Athletics Grounds, on September 28th. Every single boy completed the course,

and there were outstanding individual and team performances along the way. Rytis took the individual gold, with Odhran in the silver medal position in the 3rd / 4th class race. They were joined by Conall and Conor for

the team gold.

In the 5th / 6th class race, Liam took the gold in 1st place, closely followed by Calvin who was awarded the silver medal. Scoil Ailbhe also received the gold team medal, after great efforts by Devin and Pierce who finished very strongly.

2nd Class Athletics

The boys in 2nd class had their own cross-country event in Páirc Ailbhe, as they are too young to participate in Crokes.

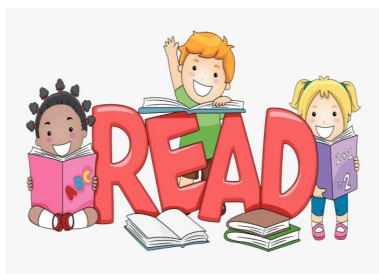
There were great crowds there to greet them—parents, grandparents, siblings and the entire school community”

Every single boy received a medal for his participation, and the boys were led home Darragh and Tadgh. Photos on the next page!



Library

Our Librarian Eve Molony is buzzing with excitement, with the enthusiasm and appetite for reading since the return for this school year. All classes are visiting the Library weekly and enjoying the incredible selection. It would be great if you as parents could encourage this reading at home too and chat to the children about the books they bring home.



Halloween Dress

On **Friday, 28th October**, we look forward to having a fun day. Children can dress up to their hearts content to get into the spirit of Halloween!



Halloween Competition

Our Librarian Eve Molony is once again running our renowned **Halloween Competition**. Children can do art & craft pieces poems, pictures – the sky is the limit – with an emphasis on home produced and recycled.

All entries will be displayed in Reception for the next 3 weeks for all to admire and appreciate.

Closing date is Thursday week 20th October

Balance Bike Appeal / Donations

As we prepare for our infants, we are asking you for any **balance bikes or indeed any small bicycles for aged 4/5** your family have finished with, to donate to our school for our new infants.

As Open Day is not far away, we would love to have them ready to go as soon as possible. So we would be so grateful if you could drop them into the school.



Credit Union Art Competition

For those with a special interest in art, Thurles Credit Union are welcoming drawings and paintings on the theme, "It's a Wonderful World." Please see specific details on the school noticeboard.

Closing date: Friday, 21st October.



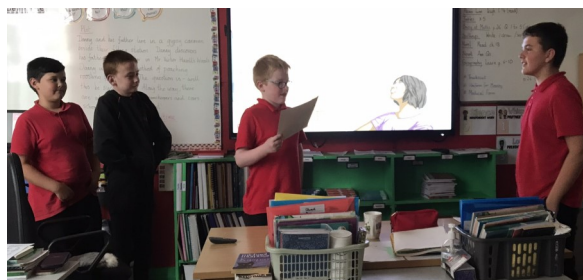
Debating Club

Following on from the success of the Debating Club last year, Ms. Lanigan is once again running the club for students in 5th and 6th class. The club meets on **Thursday afternoons from 2.45p.m. to 3.30p.m.**

The boys are learning the skills of public speaking through a variety of games and activities, as well as the art of researching and delivering a debate speech. This will develop confidence

and presentation skills as well as the boys having plenty of fun!

A team will be entered in the **Concern Primary Debating competition** in the near future. Last year's team made it through to the regional knockout stages, so the boys will be anxious to build on this success.



Music

Instrumental music returns at the start of October. Every student in our school takes music lessons with the rest of his class once a week, and we already have set our **Music Recital for Thursday, June 8th, 2023.** We are delighted to welcome back **Mary Callanan** again this year. She will be teaching **guitar** to all of the boys in **5th and 6th class** and **tin-whistle** to the boys in **2nd and 3rd class**. Mary has a passion for music and enjoys bringing the boys the most up-to-date music in her lessons!

This year, we welcome former pupil, Kevin Sutton, on board. Kevin will be teaching ukulele to the boys in 4th class. Kevin is a gifted musician in his own right, and tells us he can't wait to bring his love of music to the boys in his alma mater. We welcome Kevin to the Music Team!

Alongside this, we also have an **Instrumental Music Group** comprising of **boys from 4th, 5th and 6th class.** The group meet on **Wednesday mornings** in the Music Room from 8.40a.m. to 9a.m. These students are learning music outside of their class music, and look forward to performing for you all at Christmas!



School Choir

Following two difficult years for the choir during Covid, the full school choir are delighted to be back rehearsing in the Music Room twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. Under the baton of Ms. Lanigan, Ms. Doyle and Mr. Donnelly, they are delighted to have nearly 90 students from

4th, 5th and 6th class in the choir. Their enthusiasm and commitment to music is fantastic. They have brushed up on their Peace Proms music from last year's amazing concert with the Cross-Border Orchestra of Ireland. They are also currently learning an Abba Medley and a Musical

Medley. The choir are looking forward to performing for an audience in the near future!



Gaelic Football

Training continues every Monday and Wednesday 2.45 – 3.45.

Under 11 teams

Our two U-11 teams take part in a blitz next Tuesday, 18th Oct. We will compete against Holycross, Templemore, Cashel and Corville.

Venue: Templemore park at 10.30am.

Under 13 Championship-This year the group will be completed in a blitz format on Tues. 25th October. We will play Cashel, Templemore and Corville. Two teams will qualify for the county semi-finals.

Venue: Holycross at 11.15am

Best of luck to all our teams.



Visit of I.N.T.O. President



We were delighted to welcome Mr. John Driscoll, I.N.T.O. President, to Scoil Ailbhe. He spoke to boys in senior classes, toured the school and visited classes. He was very impressed by the staff and students of the school, and looks forward to popping in again on his journeys to and from Cork!

Playground Fundraiser

We are coming towards the last part of our Playground Fundraising drive.

Once the deadline has come, we will work with whatever the budget is at that time and begin making it happen.

We are so grateful to all who have helped us out in any way so far,. We know that these are difficult times in which to be fundraising.

Please help us to give one final push to this project, and help to make our dream playground come alive. Playground equipment is extremely expensive, as you all know, not to mind the fencing needed around it to keep it a safe space.

If you ,your family or friends can help with donations, or with labour/ a skill set required to get it there, we would be indebted to get that assistance.

If you know of any business who could help us also, please do your best for us to encourage their involvement.



Donations are being accepted in school and online:

<https://gofund.me/45b202f0>

Paypal Giving Fund—Scoil Ailbhe No. 20205692



Playground Equipment



Many of you will have seen the **beautiful tree house** in the front of the school since September.

This was a very **kind donation** from one of our families and has already given hours of fun and interactive play to so many of our children.

We are so, so grateful for this really generous gesture.

