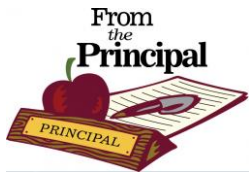




Nun's Cross News

June 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians, We have reached the end of another great year in Nun's Cross. Of course, we have all been working very hard but we have also found time to enjoy our annual events such as sports day, school trips, school disco, Easter egg hunts and No Lunch Box Day to name but a few.

We welcomed new children into our school and said goodbye to our 6th Class. We are sad to see them go but proud of the young teens they are turning into and we wish them all the best in their move to secondary school. I would also like to extend my best wishes to any student leaving our school this year and wish them all the best in their new school.

I would like to extend a massive thank you to our wonderful PTA for all their work this year. They have been creative with fundraising ideas and special events for the children. We are very grateful to them for their continued efforts. Also, to our dedicated library team, who have worked so hard cataloguing and updating our library stocks this year, I thank you for your continued support. To all the staff of Nun's Cross, who have worked tirelessly this year to deliver the best education possible, I thank them. We are very lucky to have such dedicated staff who are so special to us.

Finally, to all our wonderful parents and guardians, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to each of you for all your efforts this year to make the school year such a success.

I hope that you all have a very restful summer. Enjoy the sunshine, stay safe and I look forward to welcoming you all back for another great year on August 31st.

Best wishes

Lisa Ward



Here at Nun's Cross, we are committed to always doing better and to do this each year, we engage in a self-evaluation of the education we are providing. This time last year, upon reflection on the year gone by and informed by teacher observations and standardised test results, we set our learning focus on phonemic awareness for the junior end of the school and spelling as our senior end focus. We are delighted to see that our efforts in these areas have shown great improvements across the school, with the spelling standard rising and the phonemic awareness skills in the junior end also improving. While these targets will continue to be emphasised next year, we have also set a whole school well-being focus for next year and will be working on lots of different projects to enhance the well-being of our school community.

No Lunch Box Day



6th class organised a fantastic No Lunch Box Day this year and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children in the school. This very exciting day raised a huge €830, which covered the cost of the 6th Class tour to Emerald Park.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the day.

Graduation Ceremony

The end of the year has come for our 6th Class students. Their graduation ceremony took place in Nun's Cross

Church last week and was attended by parents and families of the children. Many thanks to Mrs Smith for all her help with the music. We would like to wish all of our students the best of luck with their move to secondary school.



Book Scheme

For the coming school year, following the guidelines from the Department of Education, there will be no monetary charge to cover the cost of any books, workbooks, copies, folders, readers, homework journals, maths equipment, novels, dictionaries, atlases etc. for any of the children. The cost for all of the above, along with various subscriptions to teaching and learning websites and programmes, will be covered under the Book Scheme Grant provided by the Department. A copy of our Book Scheme policy is available to view in the office.

As specified in the guidance from the Department and following a financial review, it is not possible for additional costs to be absorbed by the grant at this time. Therefore, the following items are not included:

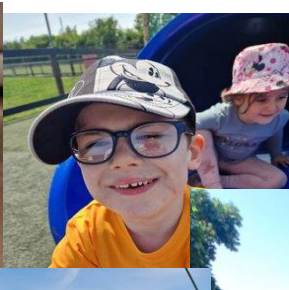
- Stationery for 1st-6th (each child will need their own pencil case with general stationery supplies)
- Arts and Crafts Supplies for the year - €20
- Annual Photocopying Fee - €10
- Music Generation fee - €20
- Pupil Protector Insurance - €8

An invoice for the above fees will be issued in September.



School Tours

All classes have enjoyed school tours over the last few weeks. The infants enjoyed a trip to Kia Ora Mini Farm in Gorey, 1st and 2nd Class had an adventurous day in Clara Lara, 3rd/4th Class went to The Stables Health and Fitness in Gorey and 4th/5th and 6th had great fun in Emerald Park. All of the children did Nun's Cross proud and behaved exceptionally on all the trips with compliments from all tour providers on what lovely children we have. A huge thank you to the parents who have helped in a variety of classes - your help is very much appreciated!





Sports Day

We were delighted to enjoy such fantastic weather for our annual sports day this year. The children participated in various races and activities and had great fun in the sun. We had traditional races such as egg and spoon and relay races

and we also mixed it up with some fun activities and games such as a jumping course, playball, soccer and rugby. Many thanks to all who helped on the day!

The children were treated to hot dogs and an ice cream from an ice-cream van and we would like to say a huge thanks to our wonderful PTA for organising and providing this lovely treat. Big thanks also to Ashford GAA for very kindly allowing us to use their grounds for the day.

Creative Day



Recently, a very exciting day occurred in our school when all books were put away and all classrooms emptied as the children got outside to get creative. We rotated around various art areas, including creating various items with clay, tie-dying t-shirts, creative paintings, jewellery making, coding, rugby and songwriting. We had a huge number of volunteers who came into school and volunteered their time to help make the Creative Day possible and we are so thankful to them all.



School Calendar 2023-2024

30 th August	Staff Curriculum Training Day
31 st August 2022	School Re-opens for children
30 th October - 3 rd November	Mid Term Break
22 nd December	Half Day (School finishes at 12.30)
25 th December - 5 th January	Christmas Holidays
5 th February	Imbolc Day - No school
12 th - 16 th February	Mid Term Break
18 th March	Bank Holiday - No school
22 nd March	Half Day (School finishes at 12.30)
25 th March - 5 th April	Easter Holidays
6 th May	May Bank Holiday - No School
3 rd June	June Bank Holiday - No School
26 th June	Half Day (School finishes at 12.30) for Summer Holidays

Dates For Your Diary

June 28th - Last day - 12:30 Finish

August 31st - School returns at 9:10am



Class Teacher 2023-2024

We are delighted to announce the teachers taking each class for the coming year. We have 3 class teacher positions to fill over the coming weeks as well as 2 part-time special education teacher positions. Interviews will be taking place as soon as possible and the relevant classes will be updated when we have the information.



Junior Infants

Mrs Gannon

3rd Class

Ms Turner

Senior Infants

Mrs Nolan

4th/5th Class

TBC

1st Class

TBC

5th/6th Class

Mrs Wolohan

2nd Class

Ms Bennett

Special Education Teachers

Mrs Pearse & Ms Smith

As we prepare to start the summer holidays, the PTA would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year.

We organised some lovely events this year, and it has been a pleasure to see the children having so much fun and for all of us to have the opportunity to spend time with each other. These events included Santa's Visit, Wellbeing Talk, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies after the Carol Service, Easter Egg Hunt, PTA Coffee Morning, Family Fun Day and our Sport's Day BBQ and Ice Cream.

We also held some additional fundraising activities, including the Halloween Costume Sale, Toy Show Treat Box Sale, Children's Christmas Cards and the School Calendar.



Thanks to the incredible support of our fundraising, we are able to make a large contribution towards the playground expansion. We have also been able to facilitate the school trip to see Ella Enchanted and the school puppet shows. In addition, we have purchased a number of items including treat bags and spot prizes for the Halloween Disco, Christmas presents for all the children, sports equipment for the playground, Easter eggs and craft supplies for Creative Day. We are very grateful to the numerous local businesses who have supported our events and to all the parents/guardians who have provided sponsorship, donated raffle prizes, purchased Easter eggs, donated costumes/plants, baked delicious cakes and volunteered their time. We would also like to express our thanks to Ms Ward, Mrs Gannon and all the team for their time and support of our PTA events and fundraising activities.

We have a number of committee members finishing their term this year. We would be delighted to welcome some new members to join the PTA. If you would be interested in joining the PTA Committee in September, please email pta@nuncross.ie to express your interest.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Board of Management

As we close on another academic year, the Board of Management are delighted to share our agreed report from this year's work, which can be found attached to this newsletter and published on the school's website. The Board of Management consists of 8 members, 2 of which are parent representatives. The current Board's term ends in November and we will seek new volunteers to form the next Board. If you think this might be something that would interest you, please consider putting your name forward for nomination when we return to school in the new year.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Board of Management comprises of 8 representatives consisting of:

- **Chairperson:** Rev Jack Kinhead
- **Principal:** Lisa Ward
- **Teacher Rep:** Lorraine Gannon
- **Parent Reps:** Albert Mahon and Samantha Clements
- **Community Reps:** Tim Hicks & Ashley Glover
- **Patron Rep:** Amanda Mooney

Over the course of the year, the Board met 7 times to discuss a range of matters arising with regards to the running of Nun's Cross National School. The following is an agreed annual report from the Board of Management regarding to the schools operations for the 2022-2023 academic year.

- **Health and Safety:**
 - The Board conducted the Child Protection oversight report at each meeting.
 - Stay Safe programme covered in all classes.
 - Anti-bullying policy was discussed at each meeting. The school has adopted several programmes throughout the school to ensure that incidents of bullying are prevented.
 - Fire drills and safety audits have been completed as necessary.
 - All staff and senior classes were trained in first aid.
 - Efforts to improve the safety of the footpaths leading to the school have resulted in the grass verges being scraped back which provides more walking space on the footpaths. A working group has been established which will continue work on improving the footpaths leading to school.
- **Staffing:**
 - Nun's Cross secured an additional permanent teaching post this year which was filled by Mary Goode. Mrs Goode commenced maternity leave in October and has been replaced by Ms Vickers for the remainder of the year.
 - Mrs Jebb has been on leave this year and her position has been covered by Ms Doyle
 - Mrs Nolan commenced maternity leave in March and is due to return to work in the first term of the next academic year. This year her leave has been covered by Ms Cahier.
 - We have a shared SET position with Gaelscoil which will remain in place for the coming academic year.
 - Following an appeal, Nun's Cross gained an increase in our Additional Needs Assistance allocation which has been filled by Lena Harte.
 - Following the staffing schedule for the school year 2023-2024 issued by the Department of Education, the staffing schedule for next year remains unchanged for Nun's Cross.
 - We have appealed our allocation of SET teaching hours and SNA's provision for the coming year.

- **Policy Development:**

- In line with the policy review schedule the following policies were developed, reviewed, and updated, with staff and parent consultation sought where appropriate/necessary:
 - GDPR
 - Book Scheme
 - Critical Incidents
 - Job Share
 - Anti-bullying
 - Child Protection

- **Curricular Development:**

- Junior end of the school focused on phonemic awareness* while the senior end focused on spellings.
- A play-based approach has been adopted through the whole junior end of the school.
- All staff took part in curricular training provided by the Department for the Primary Language Curriculum
- School Self Evaluation has continued with focus groups, containing children from 1st- 6th participating to inform progress.
- Standardised tests have been completed by all classes and submitted to the Department. Scores were reviewed by the Board. Interventions for next year have been informed by results as well as timetable changes.
- We did the Irish for the first time and the scores for 2nd, 4th and 5th all came back average, despite a poor attitude towards Gaeilge among the children.
- Next year's focus will be well-being and data collection is currently under way

- **School Inspection:**

- Nun's Cross had a one-day incidental inspection from the school inspector in term 2. Feedback from this saw the following:
 - School culture is very positive with positive relationships being observed between children, between children and staff and between staff.
 - School inspector recommended that children receiving additional support from SET teachers should receive support in their classrooms as opposed to being withdrawn for support.

- **School Development:**

- Nun's Cross has finalised building plans to build one classroom and a special needs unit. This building project is fully funded by the Department of Education, and it is hoped that building works will commence during the next academic year.
- Nun's Cross have been kindly gifted a piece of land to the rear of the school by Stephen Collier. This will enable an extension of our outdoor space to proceed, and we hope for it to be in use for the next academic year.

- **Parents Teacher Association:**

- The Board wish to thank all members of the PTA for their continued efforts to support the school by organising various events and fundraising days over the course of the year. The money raised this year will go towards the costs of transforming our new piece of land into an exciting play space for all the children in the school.

*Phonemic awareness: the specific ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words