

# School Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

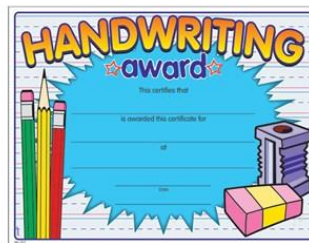


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**INCHICRONAN CENTRAL N.S.  
CRUSHEEN, CO. CLARE.**

**SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA ÍNSE CHRÓNÁIN  
CROISÍN, CO. AN CHLÁIR.**

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



## Handwriting Awards:

**Senior Infants:** Fionn O'Grady & Ian O'Donnell

**Senior Infants:** Donnacha O'Sullivan

**1st Class:** Kayla Dillon

**1st Class:** Oisín O'Dea

**2nd Class:** Donnacha McNamara

**3rd Class:** Tommy O'Connor & Landon Morrish

**4th Class:** Ciara O'Connor & Michael O'Reilly

**5th Class:** Clodagh Moroney & CJ O'Doherty

**5th Class:** Sophie Guerin & Sinéad O'Reilly

**6th Class:** Caoimhe O'Brien & Aoibhe Donnellan



## Assembly

We had a school assembly in the school yard today. Mr Millane welcomed everyone to the gathering and spoke about Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day which both fall on the same day this year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which is a period of 40 days when we prepare ourselves for Easter. 'Dalta na Seachtaine' and handwriting certificates were presented to pupils from each class. Mr Millane reminded the pupils about Friendship Week which everyone enjoyed. To bring the assembly to an end, the school sang this year's friendship song 'You can Count on me' by Bruno Mars.



## Dalta na Seachtaine

**Junior Infants:** Avril Linnane & Dan Ryan

**Senior Infants:** Maria Flor Xavier & Annabelle Meaney

**Senior Infants:** Óran Johnston & James Ryan

**1st Class:** Ethan O'Rourke & Pearl Drumm

**1st Class:** Darragh Griffin & Chloe Hassett

**2nd Class:** Mia Jasinka & Síún O'Sullivan

**3rd Class:** Faye Colleran & Seán Darcy

**4th Class:** Ryan Holian & Andrew Farrell

**5th Class:** Dara O'Rourke & Sarah Harkin

**5th Class:** Luke Hanrahan & Lily Hassett

**6th Class:** Odhran Hassett & Éadaoin Barry



We celebrated Friendship week in our school last week. We brought our favourite Teddies to school on Friday to join us for the day. We started the day by going on a Friendship walk with our friends from other classes. It was a lovely morning out and about in Crusheen and we finished the walk with a lap around the GAA pitch. After lunch we had hot chocolate in our classroom. The whole school has learned the song "Count on Me" and we are all going to sing it at assembly tomorrow. It was a great week! *by Junior Infants*

Friendship Week was held from the 6<sup>th</sup> February to the 9<sup>th</sup> February. During the week all the classes did lots of fun things. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes went to the astro pitch and played some friendship building games with hoola hoops, footballs and cones. On Friday morning the older classes took the younger classes on an adventure walk with their teddy bears! The older classes did 'blindfold trusting' games and pairs had to work together to get to the other side of the pitch in only 7 hoops! Everyone loved Friendship Week because we all had lots of fun and we played extra nicely together.

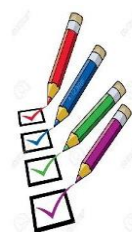
*By Ailbhe O'Brien, 6<sup>th</sup> Class*

Senior Infants and 1st Class really enjoyed learning the song 'Count on Me' for this month's assembly as part of Friendship week. They loved taking part in the 'Teddy Bear' walk around the village. First class also created beautiful friendship flowers while learning about the qualities required to be a good friend. *By Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> class*

First & second classes celebrated Friendship week through lots of fun activities last week. They created friendship rainbows & they went on a "friendship walk" on Friday with the rest of the school. This was a lovely time to meet & chat to pupils from other classes. They continued friendship week by having a boardgame hour. This was a lovely time to play with their friends and learn valuable friendship skills.



Crusheen N.S. is now accepting enrolment applications for children who will be starting school in September 2024. Parents can download our enrolment form from the school website <https://www.crusheenns.net/2024-25-enrolment-information.html> and email/post it to the school. Alternatively, you can contact the school secretary at 065 6827183 or by email at [crusheen@crusheenns.com](mailto:crusheen@crusheenns.com) and request to have an enrolment form sent to you.



### Standardised Tests

The standardised tests will be administered to classes during the weeks 20<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure that all pupils are available to sit their standardised tests during those two weeks.

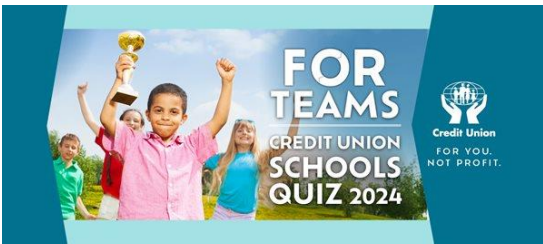


### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated for second class pupils on **Wednesday March 13th at 6.30 p.m.** in St. Cronan's Church, Crusheen.

### Celebration of Family Masses

A Family Mass for pupils receiving the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year will take place on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am** at St. Cronan's Church, Crusheen.



### Credit Union School Quiz 2024

The school entered four teams in the Credit Union table quiz on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The pupils enjoyed the quiz and it was a great opportunity to meet children from other schools and test out their general knowledge. The teams were:

Eadaoin Barry  
Sarah Jane Moran  
Emily Slevin  
Aoibhe Donnellan

Sarah Harkin  
Evan Wherrett  
Emily Griffin  
Nial McGreal

Oisín Collins  
CJ O'Doherty  
Patrick Mulkere  
Eilí Hanrahan

Ryan Holian  
Gearóid McNamara  
Ella O'Donnell  
Ciara Wallace



### Marion Keane Basketball Tournament

The Marion Keane Basketball Tournament for the boys took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February in Gurteen N.S.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class boys competed in the Marion Keane basketball blitz in Gurteen hall. We played Barefield N.S. in the first game and lost by one point. After a short break, we played Knockanean N.S. It was a very close game, but the Knockanean N.S. team scored late on and went on to win the

game. In the final game we played the Gaelscoil. Again, it was a tight game, but in the end the Gaelscoil came out on top. We enjoyed participating in the tournament and hope to be back again next year! *By: CJ O'Doherty, 5th Class*

Sixth class girls played in the annual Marion Keane basketball tournament on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. The girls played against Barefield NS, Gaelscoil and Knockanean NS and they had a great day out.



### Acres CP school Visit

ACRES is Ireland's new agri-environment climate scheme under Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan. This new agri-environment scheme is a farmer-friendly scheme to help address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for up to 50,000 farm families in Ireland. Many thanks to Project Officers Shane and Keith who visited the school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to present a workshop on 'How we can support Biodiversity' to the senior classes.

### ACRES Visit

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes had a visit from Keith & Shane from Acres (Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme). Shane spoke to us about Biodiversity, and he also taught us how we can help wildlife by putting up birdfeeders and not cutting the hedgerows down. There were bird activity sheets, word search and habitat colouring sheets as well as lots of learning about biodiversity, wildlife and the different habitats of birds and animals. We also played a good web game that we all really enjoyed. I hope that Acres will come back next year!

*By: Oisín Collins 5th Class*

Keith and Shane from Acres came to visit 4th 5th & 6th classes to tell us a little bit about biodiversity and nature. First, they told us what biodiversity is. Then they told us what ACRES does to help people and animals. ACRES tries to get farmers to work with them to protect nature and wildlife. After the presentation we went outside and played the 'animal game'. It was very enjoyable.

*By Evan Wherrett, 6th Class*



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February was the feast of St. Brigid. Pupils enjoyed learning all about her associated stories and customs including the making of the St. Brigid's cross which was placed over the front door in each house to bless it for the coming year. The St. Brigid's cross was made in many of the classes. Here is a link to simple directions, [https://youtu.be/Yn\\_MG4HZVOo?si=Hj\\_mznqSRgaabRVFI](https://youtu.be/Yn_MG4HZVOo?si=Hj_mznqSRgaabRVFI).



## PANCAKE DAY

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day is celebrated on the day before Ash Wednesday. All the classes enjoyed pancakes on the day with various toppings for added flavour and enjoyment! Today Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and the preparation for the Easter season. Fr. Des visited the school with ashes on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February to put ashes on our foreheads.

## School Closures

The school will be closed on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 21st February 2024** to facilitate staff training in the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum.
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** for use of the school as a Polling venue.

## Whole School Gymnastics Programme 2024



Gymnastic classes will take place over five Thursdays in the Crusheen Community Centre.

The dates are as follows:

**Thursday 22nd and 29th February**  
**Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st March 2024.**

The cost for the gymnastic classes is €15 per pupil and parents are asked to transfer payment into the school bank account - Bank of Ireland IE16 BOFI 9042 1076377090 BIC BOFIIIE2D by Monday 19th February 2024 please.

## Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment

The Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Management and all child safeguarding documents are available on the school website under the link on **school policies**. The documents have also been circulated to the School Parents' Association.



## Crusheen Ballinruan Tubber Community Games Hand Writing Competition

Crusheen Ballinruan Tubber Community Games intend to hold the Handwriting Competition during the week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. More details will be available next week.



### Crusheen National School Parents' Association

Crusheen National School Parents' Association will hold a meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.30 pm in the school. Please support. All families are welcome.

### Sponsorship Card funds spent

Some of the funds raised from the Christmas Card fundraiser have been used for a new sleeveless kit for basketball and athletics teams and for resource books for literacy. Funds will also be used for the purchase of footballs and basketballs. Thank you again to the Parents' Association, families and friends who raised these funds.



### Trócaire – Lenten Campaign 2024

Catherine Brigdale called to visit the classes to speak about this year's Lenten Campaign for Trócaire. This year Trócaire will focus on supporting the people of Malawi, a country in Africa. Here the people are suffering from the effects of climate change on farming and their way of life. The Trócaire boxes will be given out to all families in our school after the mid term break. If you would like to support Trócaire's appeal this year, you can return your Trócaire boxes to the school or alternatively give them to Fr. Des before or after Mass in the weeks leading up to Easter.



CLARE

### Boys Indoor Hurling

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class boys set off for Ennis National School to participate in an Indoor hurling tournament. In the first game we played the C.B.S. Ennis. It was a tough game, but we came out on top! In the second game we played Ennis National school. It was a great game of hurling from both teams, but the Ennis lads were the winners! In the final game we played the Holy Family N.S. team. It was a very enjoyable game of hurling, and we were unlucky to lose out in the end. Although we did not progress to the next round of the competition, we really enjoyed our day out and will be looking forward to getting involved in the tournament again next year.

*By John Scully, 4<sup>th</sup> Class.*

### Girls Indoor Camogie

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, the girls from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes travelled to Ennis NS to play in an indoor camogie tournament. We played three games. In the first game we beat the CBS Ennis 6-0. In the second the Ennis N.S. beat us 5-1. In the final game we played the Holy Family N.S. and beat them 2-1. The games were tough and we did very well to win two of our games. We had great fun and we look forward to getting involved in the tournament next year. *By: Lily Hassett & Sinéad O'Reilly*



### School Transport

#### Applications for School Year 2024/2025

Please note that the School Transport Family Portal will be closed from Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 to facilitate the changeover for the new school year. Applications for the upcoming school year will open towards the end of this month. Further details will be posted on our website in due course.

Families are advised that no further school transport applications for the current School Year 2023/24 can be made after February 19th 2024. Only applications for the new school year will be accepted when the Family Portal re-opens.

From Monday 4th December, the contact numbers for Bus Eireann School Transport will change. Details of the phone numbers to call for your region are available

<https://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=256>



### Safer Internet Day 6<sup>th</sup> February

This EU-wide initiative aims to raise awareness of a safer internet for all users, especially children and young people. Children are increasingly accessing the internet and digital technologies from a younger age, and the online world is very much a part of their lives. While there are many benefits to using the internet and digital media, there are also many challenges facing children and their families.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to consider their children's internet usage, and how they too can support their children to have a safe and positive experience online.

'Webwise.ie' is a website that aims to provide parents with information and advice on apps, games, and topics like gaming, consent, image-sharing, cyberbullying, screen time, and more. Information can be accessed at the following link

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

The school will be helping to promote this topic over the coming weeks but having regular open conversations at home is one of the most effective ways of supporting your child online. We would encourage parents and guardians to be conscious of their child's internet usage.

<https://www.webwise.ie/category/videos/videos-for-parents/>



During February Webwise are hosting a series of free online safety webinars for parents/guardians. Click here for the link to register for the online webinars <https://www.webwise.ie/trending/free-online-safety-webinar-for-parents>. Please take time and register for one of the webinars.



### Keeping children safe at the school gate

Some simple things you can do to help keep children safe around the school gate are as follows:

- Drive safely and obey the speed limits.
- Park so that your child can leave the car on the footpath side away from traffic.
- Pay attention to other children at the side and behind your car when parking, dropping off or setting off.
- Park so you don't block the flow of traffic or access for emergency vehicles (don't double park).
- Do not stop or park where there are yellow zig-zag lines along the edge of the road
- Do not park in a way that would block the school entrance or exit, residents' driveways or junctions.
- Do not park at bus stops or private parking spots.



### Support Crusheen Community Centre

Please consider buying a brick, [www.crusheecc.ie](http://www.crusheecc.ie)  
 Thank you for supporting the Crusheen Community Centre weekly lotto draw. Your contribution will help towards making necessary improvements to our halla. Please support Crusheen Community Centre. This link will allow you to purchase tickets for yourself or a friend, <https://bit.ly/310vlkX>

### Headlice

Please find attached a useful link on how to deal with lice.  
<https://www schooldays.ie/articles/Dealing-with-head-lice>

### School Calendar February – June 2024

- The school will close on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 for Maths curriculum seminar
- The school will close on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March for Polling Day**
- Wednesday March 13th at 6.30 p.m. in St. Cronan’s Church, Crusheen – First Confession for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils who are receiving their First Holy Communion
- The school will close on **Monday 18th March 2024** for the St. Patrick’s Day holiday.
- **Easter Holidays**  
 The school will close on **Friday 22nd March 2024 at 12:30 pm** and will re-open on **Monday 8th April 2024.**
- **May Closures**  
 The school will close on **Monday 6th May 2024**  
 The school will close on **Friday 31st May 2024**

- **June Closures**  
 The school will close on **Monday 3rd June** and **Tuesday 4th June 2024** and will re-open on Wednesday 5th June 2024.
- **Summer Holidays**  
 The school will close on **Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 12:30pm.**
- Please note that the school calendar may be subject to change as part of any contingency arrangements.

### Important Dates for your Calendar

- The First Holy Communion Mass will take place at 1.00 pm in St. Cronan's Church, Crusheen on **Saturday 11th May 2024.**
- The Confirmation Mass for Crusheen, Tubber & Boston Schools will take place at 11:00 am in Crusheen Church on **Saturday 8th June 2024.**



## **Star Camp - Easter Egg-Stravaganza 2024**

Open to all boys and girls aged 4 – 12.

9.30am – 2:30pm Tuesday to Friday (4 Days) for the  
midterm 25th – 28th (Mon-Thurs) & 2nd – 5th April  
(Tues-Fri).

Check out <https://starcamp.ie/easter-camps/> and  
updates and many fun competitions are on

[www.facebook.com/starcampireland](http://www.facebook.com/starcampireland)

<https://www.instagram.com/starcampireland/?hl=en>

[www.twitter.com/starcampireland](http://www.twitter.com/starcampireland) and

[www.youtube.com/user/StarcampIreland](http://www.youtube.com/user/StarcampIreland)