



**Abbeyleix South
National School**
Scoil Náisiúnta Mainistir Laoise Theas

Newsletter



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

As we come to the close of another wonderful school year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm. It has been inspiring to see our pupils grow, learn, and thrive in such a positive and supportive environment.

To our pupils, well done on all your achievements, big and small.

To our staff, your commitment to nurturing each child's potential is truly appreciated. And to our parents, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead!

Warm regards,
Geraldine Whiteford.

Parents' Association

The Family Picnic

Our Family Picnic was held on
Sunday 14th June.

A big thank you to our Parents' Association for organising a fantastic Family Picnic at the school! It was a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter, games, and great company. Families enjoyed connecting with one another, and the sunshine made it even more special. We're so grateful for the sense of community that events like this bring!



Junior Infant Introductory Day

Wednesday 11th June

We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infant pupils and their families for a special Introductory Morning at the school. The children had a lovely time getting to know their future classmates and spent some time connecting with some of our Senior Infants too — helping them feel right at home!

Meanwhile, parents enjoyed a friendly chat over tea and treats, kindly organised by our wonderful Parents' Association, thank you for the warm welcome and delicious refreshments!

We're looking forward to seeing all our new pupils again in September for the exciting journey ahead!

School Tours

Our senior pupils had a memorable day out at Redhills Adventure Centre, despite the rain! Spirits were high as they took part in team games, obstacle challenges, and adventure activities that tested their teamwork and resilience.

The wet weather only added to the fun (and the mud!), and there was plenty of laughter throughout the day. Pupils showed great determination, energy, and enthusiasm from start to finish.

Well done to everyone for embracing the adventure, come rain or shine!



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

As another school year comes to a close, we say goodbye to our wonderful Sixth Class pupils. It has been a joy to watch you grow, learn, and shine during your time in primary school. We are so proud of everything you've achieved and the people you've become. As you head off to secondary school, take with you the memories, the friendships, and the confidence to embrace new adventures. Believe in yourselves, you are ready. Wishing you every success and happiness in the exciting journey ahead.



Annual Prize Winners

Congratulations to this year's prize winners! We are incredibly proud of all our pupils in the school for their hard work, kindness, and achievements throughout the year.



Caoimhe Lally
The Lochaden Shield
for joined handwriting.



Lucy Sweetman
The Clonking Cup
for exceptional test results.



Fleurette Clancy
The Telford Trophy
for the most helpful
and diligent pupil.



**Elliot Carroll &
Taylor Grace Nolan**
The Wallace Endeavour Cup
for 'All-round contribution and
commitment to school life'.

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and ensuring the best possible environment for our students, I would like to remind you that several important policies are available for your viewing on our school website.

These documents outline our approach to key areas of school life and are vital in ensuring a safe, supportive, and structured environment for all students.

The following policies can be accessed at your convenience on our website:

- **Code of Behaviour**
- **Admissions Policy**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy**
- **Child Safeguarding Statement**
- **Administration of Medicines Policy**
- **Internet Acceptable Usage Policy**
- **Parental Complaints Procedure**
- **School Self-Evaluation Documents**

<https://www.abbeyleixsouthns.ie/policies>

We encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with these policies.



SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Day took place on Monday 9th June.

The day was packed with energy, fun, and fantastic memories for all! Pupils took part in a wide variety of races, including the much-loved balloon race, which brought plenty of smiles and laughter.

Junior Room, First, and Second Class pupils teamed up for an exciting Summer Trail. With Second Class acting as confident captains, the children raced around the school grounds to find clues to 26 summer-themed objects. Congratulations to Robin Gyves, who was awarded *Best Team Player* for his enthusiasm and teamwork during the event.

Senior pupils enjoyed their own challenge, a clue-hunting trail around the school, where they worked in teams to solve Mrs. Whiteford's clever questions. Their curiosity and teamwork shone through!

Throughout the day, all classes enjoyed a variety of games and activities, creating a lovely buzz of excitement around the school.

One of the highlights was a thrilling basketball match where the teachers and SNAs showcased their skills against our spirited Sixth Class pupils. We won't say who actually won the match!

The day ended with great excitement (and plenty of water!) as Ms. McCarthy and her Sixth Class pupils took to the pitch for a well-earned and thoroughly enjoyed water fight!

Well done to everyone for making Sports Day such a fun and memorable occasion!





School Self Evaluation Update

As part of our ongoing School Self-Evaluation (SSE) process, this year we focused on two key areas: **Wellbeing** and **Literacy**, in line with Department of Education guidelines.

In **Wellbeing**, we reviewed current practices and gathered feedback from pupils and staff to ensure that the school continues to support the emotional and social development of every child. A range of initiatives were implemented to promote kindness, inclusion, and pupil voice. Looking ahead to the new school year, we will work towards new Wellbeing targets—one of which includes the **establishment of a Student Council** to further encourage leadership and participation among pupils.



In **Literacy**, feedback was gathered from pupils in First to Sixth Class. The responses were very positive and provided valuable insights into pupils' learning experiences. As a result of this feedback, teachers identified **spelling development** as an area for further focus and improvement.

A summary of both our **Wellbeing** and **Literacy** SSE work will be available in the near future on our school website under the *School Policies and School Self-Evaluation* tab.

Choral Festival Service

Over the past few weeks, the Bishop hosted workshops and services for 650 senior pupils from the twenty-five diocesan Church of Ireland primary schools.

These events were held in his six cathedrals in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.

At each event, senior pupils from the schools participated in three short workshops, which were developed by Dr Jacqui Wilkinson.

Our pupils attended Bishop Adrian's Cathedral Festival service in St. Laserian's, Old Leighlin on Thursday 5th June.

This video gives a flavour of the six cathedral workshops and school services.

<https://youtu.be/DI4bGSeYlhQ>



Thank you! ♥

We take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you and farewell (for now) to three very special members of our school community.

We say goodbye to Ms. Hogan, who will be taking some time away from her role as SNA. Quiet and calm, she has brought a gentle strength and a deeply caring approach to her work with our pupils. Her kindness, support and her unwavering commitment to the pupils she worked with have been truly valued. We will miss her warmth, presence and positivity in the school each day and we send her our very best wishes.

We extend our deep appreciation to Ms. McCarthy who has been our Fifth and Sixth Class teacher this year. Her infectious laugh, bright presence and natural connection with the pupils brought so much energy and warmth to the classroom. She has made a lasting impact on her pupils and we are truly grateful for the care and dedication she showed each day.

We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

We would also like to extend our deepest thanks and best wishes to Mr. Broderick, our talented musician and dedicated teacher, who has brought so much joy and learning to our infant pupils. Your meaningful contribution to our school will be remembered.

We wish you all the best in your next adventure.

