



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



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,
Wishing all our pupils, families and staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year and to all that 2026 will bring.
Regards, Geraldine Whiteford.



We are delighted to welcome our new school bus escort, Colin Case to our school community. We wish him every success in his role.

Child Protection Training

In line with Child Protection Procedures 2025, all staff members attended Child Protection and Safeguarding training during December. This training reinforces our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and protection of all pupils in our care.

Hockey

Well done to our senior pupils who took part in a Hockey Blitz in December.



Our 5th and 6th Class pupils recently took part in the Cycle Right Programme with Jim and Jason.
Cycle Right is the national standard for cycle training.

It provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists. The children learned essential road safety and competency skills such as bike handling, correct use of helmets, negotiating roundabouts, traffic lights, traffic signage, travelling at appropriate speeds for the road surfaces and conditions, moving between major and minor roads, meeting pedestrians/animals/vehicles, etc.



Child Protection Information:

Designated Liaison Person:

Geraldine Whiteford

Deputy Liaison Person:

Orla Mythen

Staff Update

Ms. Jackson will be taking extended parental leave for the remainder of the school year. We wish her all the very best this time.

Ms. Phelan will continue teaching Junior and Senior Infants, ensuring continuity for the children.

Christmas **CAROL SINGING**

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our senior pupils for their wonderful carol singing at Abbeyleix Credit Union and Abbeyleix Hospital. Their performances were greatly appreciated and brought a sense of Christmas cheer to all who listened.



Christmas **SPIRIT WEEK**

Our Christmas Spirit Week was a fantastic celebration of festive fun and community spirit throughout the school.

On Monday, pupils enjoyed a cosy start to the week with Pyjama Day, arriving to school in their favourite PJs. Tuesday saw a very successful Bake Sale in aid of PATH and we thank everyone for their generous support. On Wednesday, the school was filled with colour for Christmas Jumper Day, followed by great excitement during our Drop Everything and Dance activity. Thursday was all about fun and teamwork as classes took part in a range of Christmas games. We finished the week on Friday with Santa Hat Day, relaxing with a festive Christmas movie to round off a wonderful week.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our **Wellbeing Committee** and **Student Council** for combining their ideas and putting this creative and festive initiative forward. Their hard work and enthusiasm helped make Christmas Spirit Week such an enjoyable and successful experience for everyone in our school community.



WE ARE GOING ON A
REINDEER HUNT
WE NEED TO FIND THEM ALL!
THE CHRISTMAS REINDEER ARE OUT TO PLAY!
LET'S GO FIND THEM RIGHT AWAY!
THEY ARE HIDING, LOOK HIGH AND LOW.
TWELVE LITTLE REINDEER ARE ON THE GO!
WHEN YOU HAVE FOUND ONE, MARK IT OFF THE LIST!
WE DO NOT WANT ONE TO BE MISSED!

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On Thursday 11th December, our school staged a heartwarming Christmas nativity play, "Are We Nearly There Yet?", in St. Michael and All Angels' Church. Our senior pupils did a fantastic job narrating the story, while all our pupils sang their hearts out, filling the church with festive cheer. It was a truly memorable event, bringing together the whole school community to celebrate the joy of Christmas.



