

Ashbourne CNS Newsletter

April 2025



Principal's Address

Spring Address

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to thank all members of our school community for the best wishes and support over the last few weeks since I have taken on the role of principal.

It has been a busy and very positive term at Ashbourne CNS which will make this Spring newsletter a very enjoyable read. It might be nice to share the newsletter with your child/children as well so they can discuss their own school experiences.

Some of the highlights this term included our Senior Girl's Basketball team winning their first ever game, our third/fourth classes learning Spanish as part of the Languages Connect programme, our senior classes taking part in the ESB Science Blast competition and a very special visit from a trainee service dog. We also ran the Scholastic Book Fair which was a great success and of course the pupils and indeed teachers all enjoyed the dress up potato challenge.

As a Community National School under the patronage of the Louth & Meath Education and Training Board one of our key school values is community. We look forward to further promoting parental and community involvement within our school in the years ahead.

Finally, a special thanks to all our teachers and pupils for all their efforts over the last few months. Enjoy the well-earned Easter Break, chocolate in moderation of course, and we will see everybody soon.

Le meas,

Príomhoide Eoin

Credit Union Quiz

On Monday 10th February, two teams from our school took part in the Credit Union Schools' Quiz, a general knowledge quiz, in the Pillo Hotel. Our 5th & 6th class team, and 3rd & 4th class team competed against other local schools like St. Paul's NS & St. Mary's NS to see which school had the best general knowledge. Some questions were "When did Ireland gain its independence?" and "Who is the President of the Irish League of Credit Unions?" and "When did World War 2 end?" It was so close but unfortunately, we didn't end up winning. Although, we did enjoy ourselves. It was good fun, and we got snacks and drinks. It was a great experience. The winning teams were incredibly skilled quizzers.

Written by Caolán (6th Class) and Oliver (5th Class)



School Community News

Green Schools



Our Green Schools Committee have been working very hard this term developing our action plan to reduce water consumption in the school. Over the next couple of months, the Committee will be working towards reaching the school's targets of: reducing water consumption by 20% by June 2025 and increasing awareness of water conservation by 50% by June 2025. To help achieve these goals the Green School Committee will be closely monitoring water usage in the classes. Pupils and staff have been asked to record the number of times they use water, either by flushing the toilet or turning on tap, during the day. This data will be analysed and recorded by the Committee each week to see if there has been a reduction in the water consumption across the school. As part of the awareness campaign, the Green Schools Committee have arranged for the the 5th classes to work on the *Something Fishy* project. This project aims to educate pupils about water pollution and the impact it is having on our rivers. Rory, from Inland Fisheries Ireland, recently paid a visit to the school to talk to the children about the different species of fish that exist in our waterways and what we need to do to protect them. The highlight of this project will be when the pupils get to visit the local river to examine the living things that can be found in the Broadmeadow River!



School Community News

GAA

Our schools GAA training for 3rd to 6th is back and with an exuberant interest level from across the year groups the training is thriving and has never been better! Our girls train on Monday and are excelling with their skills and are improving week by week. Our boys team train on a Thursday and are developing their skills at an exponential rate and we are hoping to have some matches coming up in the third term where our teams can display their hard work and dedication on the pitch.



Rugby Blitz

In February, we had a fantastic opportunity to partake in a Tag Rugby Blitz in Ashbourne Rugby Club. The boys and girls from both 5th classes and 6th class walked down to the club for a day of competitive fun against some other local schools. Right from the start there was some incredible talent on display. One of the 6th class boys was virtually unstoppable with the ball in his hand and we lost count of how many tries he scored. The girls' teams also did brilliantly by their defensive masterclass. They let nobody pass them! There were numerous other top performers, but most impressive of all was the teamwork and collaboration on display. This was our second time attending the local Tag Rugby Blitz and the improvements made over the past year were very noticeable. We have some amazing rugby potential in our school, and it is great to see more and more of our pupils starting to join the local rugby club.



Languages Connect

Our pupils in 3rd and 4th class have begun their exploration of the Spanish language. With the help of our tutor Irene, we have been getting weekly lessons in Spanish. We have picked up lots of useful conversational vocabulary and have even made connections to a variety of languages expanding across the world. This new language has been a welcome and refreshing addition to our weekly schedule and the pupils are really seeing the benefits.

We are delighted that our journey with the Spanish language is not over yet as these weekly sessions will continue into term 3 and we will be speaking more Espanyol than ever come June, just in time for our summer holidays!



Basketball League

This term marked an exciting milestone for our school as we entered both boys' and girls' basketball teams into the schools' basketball league for the first time. Pupils from



5th and 6th class showed great commitment, taking part in weekly trainings and travelling to matches.

We kicked off our season by welcoming Robinstown for our first ever home game, with strong performances from both teams on our new basketball courts. Excitement continued to build as we travelled by bus to Dunshaughlin to face a well-experienced Gaelscoil na Ríthe. Our players rose to the challenge with determination and teamwork.

The momentum carried us to matches in Baconstown and Kilbride, where our teams demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and effort. A special highlight came as the girls celebrated their first wins of the season — a brilliant achievement and a proud moment for everyone involved!

We wrapped up the season with a tough but spirited match against a strong Rathbeggan NS side.

Although it was a tough match, our players held their heads high and showed just how much they had grown as athletes over the course of the season.



Our new courts have certainly seen a lot of action, and the improvement in skills, confidence, and teamwork across both teams has been truly impressive.

A huge well done to all the students who took part and made history this term. Thank you to Múinteoir Angela, Múinteoir Mick and Múinteoir Ellen for coaching and supporting the students who couldn't be prouder!



School Website

Make sure to check out our School Website for more news about what is happening in our school. Check out the 'What We Learn' section to see lots of pictures of different activities happening in school. The 'Learning Resources' section has lots of links to resources, games and information to help your child learn different subjects. The 'Policies' has important information about how we teach and learn at Ashbourne CNS. Finally, the 'Parents' Section' has lots of information about uniforms, payments, Aladdin Connect, etc. We will continue to update the website through Term 3 so please check it out at <https://ashbournecns.ie/>



Class News

Buttercup – Múinteoir Sadhbh

We've had a very busy Term 2 in Junior Infants. In the classroom, we learned all about toys, comparing and sorting new and old toys. We also got to bring in our favourite toys for show and tell. In February, we began to learn about people who help us in the community. Great fun was had dressing up as doctors and nurses! As we moved into spring, the weather improved and what better way to see the signs of spring than a lovely nature walk around the school. We also have spent time learning about lifecycles, farm animals and planting seeds.

A big milestone has been achieved in phonics, as all our sounds are now complete! The children are beginning to read and apply their phonics skills to new words, which is wonderful to see.

We've also had lots of fun during special celebrations in ACNS. We enjoyed a pancake party with our friends in Senior Infants. There was lots of creativity during Engineers week, where we enjoyed the BeeBots and STEM activities with 5th Class. We celebrated all things books during World Book Day and enjoyed going to the book fair and finally, our Seachtain na Gaeilge was very exciting as we took part in activities, songs and dances that celebrated all things Irish. We are looking forward to our last term in Junior Infants after the holidays.



Fearbhán – Múinteoir Ellen

This term in Junior Infants has been filled with fun, learning, and exciting discoveries! We began the year exploring the theme of Toys and Play, learning how toys work and even making our own playdough. In February, we focused on People Who Help Us, discovering the important roles of community helpers while also celebrating Valentine's Day and enjoying tasty treats on Pancake Tuesday.



March brought the joys of Spring and The Farm, with a special touch from Rose, who shared beautiful daffodils from her garden. World Book Day was a highlight, as we created potato book characters and explored our favourite stories. We also had a blast celebrating St. Patrick's Day with all things glás and festive fun. Along the way, we have learned lots of new sounds, how to write our letters and explored exciting new numbers 6 and 7!



It's been a wonderful term of creativity, learning, and celebration, and we look forward to more adventures ahead!



Lus an Chromchinn – Múinteoir Éabha

We have had a very exciting second term in senior infants. We love the season Spring! We have been busy planting our own sunflowers and we can't wait to watch them grow! We have also been taking amazing care of our class plant by watering it each day.

Our love for reading has grown this term! We had an author named Fiona Gill come visit our class and she read us her lovely story named 'I'll Be There'. We had many interesting questions to ask Fiona. We were inspired by Fiona. We created our own mini books for World Book Day. We created lovely drawings to accompany our mini books. Our creativity has flourished!

We have been very active this term too! We learned how to play Gaelic football with our amazing coach Máire. We also had great fun learning how to Irish dance for Seachtain na Gaeilge!



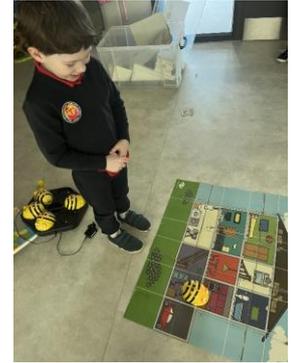
Rose - Múinteoir Rebecca

1st class have been very busy during Term 2, and we can hardly believe that we will soon be heading into the Summer Term. We really enjoyed visiting the Book Fair and showing our skills in creating our Potato book characters. We had a great time dressing in green for Lá Glas, as well as singing and dancing at the whole school assembly. We really enjoyed using our engineering skills to programme some Beebots. Finally, we practised hard for a really cool performance at last week's Assembly – everyone was amazed at our body percussion skills. We are looking forward to spending more time outside with the lovely weather we have been having. Stay tuned for more 1st class fun in the Summer term.



Foxglove - Múinteoir Christina

We have had a great second term in Foxglove Class! We had a great day celebrating World Book Day, we went on a trip to the Book Fair, and picked some new books to read. Pancake Tuesday was a great success; we all created our own pancake faces! To celebrate Engineers Week, we got to play with the BeeBots and had lots of fun making them drive in different directions. We have been learning all about Spring this term, listening to spring songs and rhymes, looking at the flowers growing in the sensory garden and learning all about animals and their babies. We are looking forward to our final term in school!



Daffodil – Múinteoir Anna

Term Two, Senior Infants have been busy exploring exciting topics like Sports and Hobbies, Places, and Spring. We had a fun-filled Engineers Week where we worked with Beebots learning about basic coding and problem-solving. On Pancake Tuesday, we enjoyed making and eating pancakes while discussing the tradition behind the day. During World Book Day and the school book fair, we explored new stories and celebrated our love of reading. Some of the boys and girls excelled themselves with their very creative World Book Day potato decorating skills! In sport we've had a fantastic time learning new GAA football skills with Maura from the local GAA club, improving our coordination and teamwork. For Lá Glas, we celebrated Irish culture with a day full of themed activities, all whilst wearing our green with pride! In Literacy we discovered the magic of the "magic e", learning how it



Nóinín – Múinteoir Kirsty

It has been a busy few weeks in second class! During the week the children work towards golden time by showing respect, kindness, and good participation in class activities. We enjoy our Friday golden time and have been building great friendships and growing together as a class. We learned all about the lifecycle of a sunflower, we even planted our own. We love watching each one grow at their own pace! In art, we learned all about pointillism, we even gave it a go ourselves. We are really enjoying our writing genre *narrative writing*; it gives us the opportunity to be creative and gives us an insight of how an author might structure their work. We have been really lucky to have a GAA coach from Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA club in to work with us to focus on our GAA skills!



Holly – Múinteoir Cian

This term has been filled with exciting activities and learning experiences! We had visits from An Garda Síochána, the fire brigade, and a biologist, giving us valuable insights into their work. In the classroom, we've been busy sowing and growing a variety of vegetables, which we recently transferred into outdoor planters.

In maths, we tackled money, fractions, decimals, and shapes, while our English stations were packed with new learning alongside expanding our Gaeilge vocabulary. Creativity flourished in our art lessons, and we learned plenty of songs

changes vowel sounds. In Numeracy we've focused on numbers 9 and 10 as well as exploring topics such as length and data, all the time developing our skills through hands-on activities and engaging lessons. It's been such a busy and full term we've barely noticed the time flying by. It's been brilliant and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us!

Daisy - Múinteoir Geraldine

During January and February Second Class really enjoyed taking part in the Guided Reading programme we were very lucky to be joined by Múinteoir Niamh, Múinteoir Angela and Múinteoir Alona every day. The students really enjoyed visiting the different literacy stations and working with the teachers.

In March we loved learning about coding and programming using the BeeBots during Engineering Week. We dressed up potatoes to celebrate World Book Day and we took part in a Scholastic workshop with an



author called Laura Baker. She read her new book "The Full Stop that Got Away" and she taught us how to draw the main character in the story.

In April we had a visit from Denise, who is a microbiologist. She told us about all kinds of different micro-organisms and we loved examining them under the microscope.



and tunes in music.

A major highlight was the introduction of Chromebooks, which brought a new dimension to our learning. We also completed our novel, *Charlotte's Web*, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

It has been a busy but rewarding term, and with the brighter days and better weather ahead, we are looking forward to an exciting Term 3!

Snowdrops – Múinteoir Angela/Gillian

Snowdrops Class have had a great term. They have enjoyed all the activities that they have been partaking in, in particular Arts and Crafts. Yoga in the afternoon has been a hit for the pupils! We look forward to more fun learning activities in Term 3.



Honeysuckle – Múinteoir Caitlin

This term has been a busy and exciting one in 3rd/4th Class! In Maths, we explored 3D shapes in a hands-on way by designing and creating our very own models. It really helped us understand the different properties of cubes, pyramids, and cylinders. We also went on a shape hunt, searching for 3D shapes in our school environment.

In Science, we've been getting our hands dirty planting sunflower seeds and basil. We're carefully watching them grow each day, learning all about what plants need to thrive. It has been great fun measuring their growth every day.

We've also been putting our creativity to good use in Art, working on colourful spring-themed pieces. One of the highlights was creating a vibrant window display filled with flowers and butterflies to celebrate the season. This has really brightened up our classroom!

Gorse – Múinteoir Cian

This term has been an exciting and memorable one for 3rd Class! The students have enjoyed a variety of enriching experiences that have brought learning to life.



A visit from the local guards was a major highlight. The children learned about the Garda Síochána's work and explored online bullying, making the session interactive and inspiring.

The introduction of Spanish lessons has also been a hit. Students have eagerly embraced learning a new language, practicing greetings, playing language games and building confidence as they converse.

Lastly, a visit from microbiologists fascinated the class.

Exploring the microscopic world and learning about microbes' role in our lives sparked their interest. Hands-on activities, like viewing slides through



microscopes, added a practical element to their scientific exploration.

These engaging experiences have made the term unforgettable, leaving 3rd Class excited for even more adventures ahead!

Fuchsia – Múinteoir Áine

These past few months have been the busiest yet in 5th class! Our calendar has been jam-packed to say the least with some of our highlights including: a Rugby Blitz, the ESB Science Blast, Engineering Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Book Week. We also had the chance to learn about some very interesting careers. We had a music workshop with a music producer and recorded a song. We looked through microscopes with the help of a scientist. Finally, we had a visit from Inland Fisheries Ireland and learned about the importance of protecting the fish in our rivers and lakes.

We're proud of our work and looking forward to the final term!



Montbretia – Múinteoir Muireann

This term has been a very busy one for Fifth Class. In January and February, the pupils worked extremely hard on their ESB Science Blast project. They created a questionnaire to gather the data they needed to prove that fresh air helps concentration. Once the data was collected, the students analysed the data and created graphs to display the findings. All of this groundwork aided their ability to present their findings at the ESB Science Blast in March. The pupils did themselves proud on how confidently they were able to present their work and answer questions about their research on the day.

In March, we celebrated Engineering Week. During this week the pupils were given the opportunity to code with Lego WeDo and Beebots. This was an exciting challenge for them, and they demonstrated great teamwork in creating the code patterns. We marked Book Week and World Book Day by creating Potato Characters. This activity was very popular with the pupils as they made some very creative characters. As well as this, we celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge. The highlight of this week was the collective dancing of 'An Dreoilín' at assembly.

We look forward to what is in store for us in the last term.



Another highlight from this term has definitely been the introduction of brand new Chromebooks into our classroom. In the short time that we have had these devices, we have already engaged in coding, programming, graphic design and typing.

This has been such an exciting term in our class, however, the best is yet to come...watch the space!!



Sunflower – Múinteoir Mick

We have had a jam-packed term in 6th class and it is really hard to believe how much has happened since coming back.

From February to March, many 6th class pupils represented the school in their inaugural basketball league campaign. There was massive excitement around this, and the pupils put on several displays to be proud of against more experienced oppositions. We had three away trips and two home games in the league campaign and were very well represented. School football kicks off properly in the last

Special Thanks

World Book Day

A huge thank you goes out to parents for their donations of children's books as we celebrated World Book Day. We have lots of happy readers here at Ashbourne CNS thanks to your generosity!

Anti Bullying

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who completed the Anti-Bullying survey. We were overwhelmed with the response and it really helps us as we create our new BÍ Cineálta Anti Bulling policy. We are working very hard to develop this policy and we will notify all parents when it is published.



Visitors from Our Community

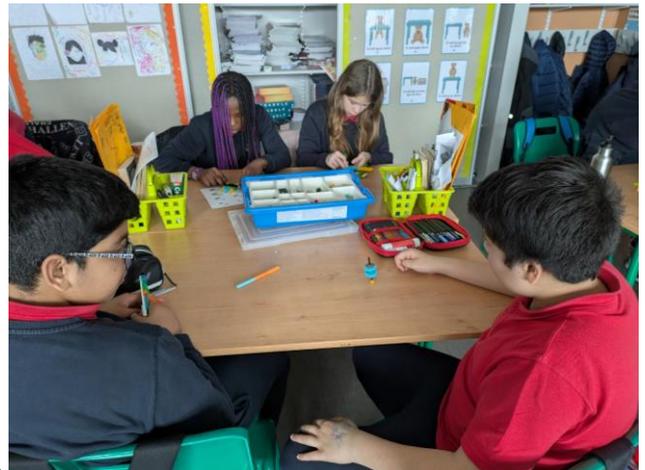
Thanks to all the parents who volunteered their time to present their work to the pupils in Ashbourne CNS. They really enjoyed the presentations and practical experiences. They learned lots about the various industries and have a better understanding of what is involved in each of the roles.



term and there has been plenty 6th class representation in the training sessions up to this point.

It's not all sports though! 6th class had a great time attending the fantastic "ESB Science Blast" in RDS Simmonscourt. The 6th class project entitled "In what ways does listening to music affect our experience of homework?" Was well received by judges and other participants alike. We discovered through pupil-led investigation, that listening to music has little to no impact on our experience of homework, despite our predictions that it may either be very beneficial or distracting. The findings were that the majority of people had noticed no difference.

In class we have been working hard to pack in lots of learning around external events. We have been having interesting debates in our persuasive writing unit and learning more about Irish History, particularly around the events of the Easter Rising in 1916. The class novels read this term were "I am David", a wonderful story of hope and persistence in a difficult setting, and we are finishing "Guns of Easter" at the moment to support us in our history work.



School Wide Celebrations

Eid Celebrations

During this term many of the pupils in our school community were fasting for Ramadan. And after a long month of fasting the pupils enjoyed the celebration of Eid.



Engineering Week

During the first two weeks of March, the pupils in Ashbourne CNS celebrated all things STEM in our celebration of Engineering Week. The classes took part in various engineering activities, such as Lego WeDo, Beebots and a QR code treasure hunt. Junior Infants also were given the opportunity work with the Fifth Class pupils to construct houses made of sticks in response to *The Three Little Pigs* story. All in all, the pupils had a fantastic week of engineering experiences.



School Wide Celebrations

Book Week

The recent school book fair was a fantastic success, bringing excitement, learning, and a love of reading to our school community. Pupils eagerly browsed through a wide selection of books, discovering new stories and sparking their imaginations. One special highlight was welcoming the parents of the infant classes, who were invited in to browse the fair with their children—making it a lovely shared experience that encourages early reading habits.



Events like this not only promote literacy but also create a positive reading culture that supports lifelong learning.



Alongside celebrating a huge amount of books making their way home with our pupils, one of the most rewarding outcomes of the fair was the significant funds raised for our school library. These funds will help us purchase new books

and update our library resources. This in turn creates an even more engaging space for our pupils to explore and enjoy reading.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents, families and pupils from the Action Team for School Partnership for your incredible support. Your generosity and enthusiasm made this event a success, thank you!



Important Dates for your Diary

Spring Holidays

School will be closed from Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025.

Bank Holidays

School Closed on Monday 5th May and Monday 2nd June.

Summer Holidays

School will be close on Friday 27th June for summer break.



Happy Spring Break



Enjoy the well - deserved holidays. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 28th April 2025.

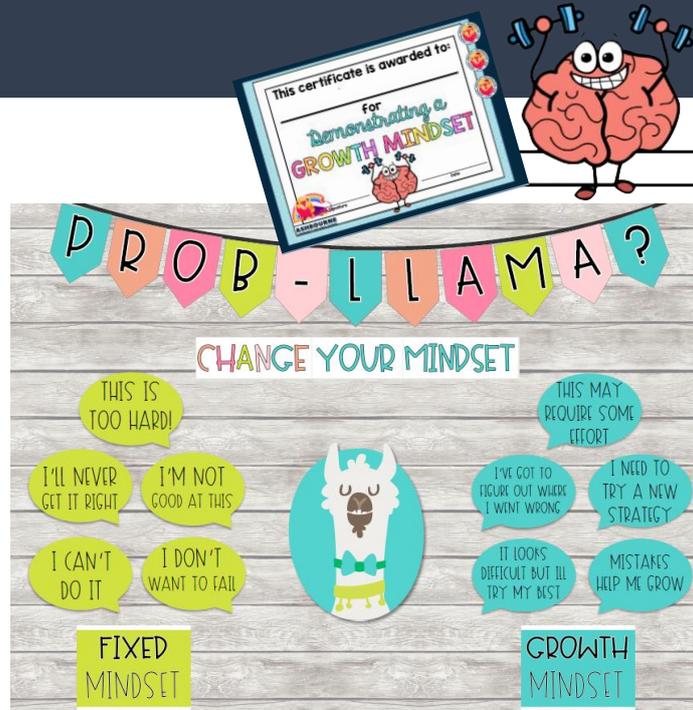
Growth Mindset

Have You Got a Prob-llama?

Our Growth Mindset Awards continue to inspire and encourage our pupils to foster a Growth Mindset.

We use our 'Prob-llama' display to remind the boys and girls about the differences between having a Fixed Mindset and having a Growth Mindset and to promote positive language around developing a Growth Mindset.

At ACNS we believe that the language we use when we talk to others and ourselves can shift how we think, feel and learn. We make subtle, yet conscious choices around the language we not only use but also teach our pupils helpful ways to talk to themselves. We remind them to believe in the Power of Yet.



Heartiest congratulations to all the pupils who won Growth Mindset awards over Term 2. Your positive attitude to your school work has paid off. Thanks also to the Action team for all their organising in gathering the award winners each week.

Congratulations to all pupils who were awarded Attendance Certificates for good attendance since the start of the school year





ASHBOURNE

COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Newsletter April 2025