

Ashbourne CNS Newsletter

June 2025



Principal's Address

Summer Address

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This school year has been a very busy and exciting year at Ashbourne CNS. There have been many highlights, but I must give a special mention to the opening of our "An Ghairdín" classrooms last September. We are very proud of our continuous efforts to create an inclusive school community that welcomes and supports all pupils. With each passing year we create the memories and highlights that will become part of our school's rich history in time.

There are many people that I would like to thank. Firstly, to all the pupils within our school. You have all worked very hard this school year and hopefully you had some fun along the way. I hope you all have a great summer break and look forward to hearing all your stories when you return.

To the parents and Parents' Association, many thanks for your support over the course of the school year. It has been great seeing so many "grown-ups" around the school and the pupils really enjoyed welcoming you. We look forward to welcoming you again in the new school year!

To our Board of Management and patron body, LMETB sincere thanks for all your support and guidance as always.

Finally, to all the staff at Ashbourne CNS the dedication, care and commitment that you have shown has been a credit to our profession. It has been commented upon time and time again about the positive school culture at our school, and it is the staff who contribute greatly to fostering a warm and caring learning environment for all pupils. It is now time for some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the summer months.

Le meas,

Príomhoide Eoin

First Communion Celebrations



During the month of May, some of the Second-Class pupils received their First Holy Communion. The boys and girls were excited to tell the school community at assembly about the ceremony and the celebrations that they had afterwards.

School Community News

Green Schools



As part of the school's work on the Green Schools' theme of water, the pupils in Fifth Class took part in the Something Fishy programme. This was one of the actions that the Green Schools Committee had included in the school's Action Plan in order to educate the school community about the importance of caring for our local waterways. Below is a recount of what the pupils learned about on the day.

On Friday 31st of May, our 5th classes went to the Broadmeadow River in Ashbourne. When we got there, the people from Inland Fisheries told us to get into groups of five. In these groups, we wrote down what we saw living around and in the river. First, we went around the riverbank to find living creatures and plants. After, Inland Fisheries put on waterproof boots and went in the river with little boxes to catch some small fish. We caught some krill and we were able to pick them up with a spoon. After ten minutes, Inland Fisheries went back into the river. This time with a big bucket and an electric net, they stunned the fish so they could put it in the bucket. After five minutes, they finally caught some fish, which were two big eels. The eels were in the bucket for people to look at and if you wanted, you could hold them. Finally, we went back to school.

By Ryan and Vlad, 5th class.



Intercultural Week

Intercultural Week was celebrated the first week of June. This week the children learned about countries of their choice. They carried out project work and art activities which were showcased to parents. Both pupils and parents learned many new facts about countries throughout the world.



School Community News

Active Week

Active Week in school was a whirlwind of energy, excitement, and non-stop movement that brought everyone together in the spirit of fun and fitness. Each day was supercharged with activity, with a midday run that got hearts pumping and spirits soaring, giving everyone a much-needed burst of energy for the rest of the day. One of the highlights was dancing with Alona—her vibrant energy, catchy music, and creative routines had everyone laughing, learning, and truly enjoying the moment. Midweek brought a special treat: a gymnastics session led by an



external club, where we challenged ourselves with new skills like balancing, tumbling, and stretching, all while cheering each other on. The grand finale arrived on Friday with Sports

Day, filled with friendly competition, teamwork, and sunny skies. A massive thank you goes to the Parents' Association, whose thoughtful involvement and cheerful refreshment station kept everyone cool, hydrated, and energized throughout the day. Their support added a warm community feel that made the celebrations even more memorable.

Cycle Safety



Every Wednesday, the fifth classes took part in Cycle Safety. During the first week, we learned about weather checking, bike checking and helmet checking.

During the second week, we learned about turns and right turns around the yard.

Then on our third week we learned about signaling and looking back. On our fourth and fifth week, we revised the left and right turns, signaling and looking back. We also played some games.

Finally, during our last week, we got split into two groups. One group went cycling through Millrace Estate while the other group played football on the yard. After roughly thirty minutes, we swapped roles.

The six weeks were fun and enjoyable and we would highly recommend it.



By Patricia and Alonzo, 5th Class.

Class News

Buttercup – Múinteoir Sadhbh



What a wonderful Term 3 we've had in Junior Infants! With the beautiful weather on our side, we enjoyed lots of hands-on and active learning outside. We had fun putting our learning on capacity to the test with counting how many cups of water it took to fill trays and also enjoyed playing with our toys in the sunshine! This term, we completed exciting projects on Italy, learning all about the country's culture, food, and landmarks. We were so proud to welcome our families into the classroom to share our projects and perform a special song for them!

Our first school tour was a big highlight as we visited Newgrange Farm. Everybody had a fantastic time meeting the farm animals, going on a tractor ride and playing in the sand and water. We also took part in Active Week and Sports Day, and had great fun taking part in the different activities. To finish off the term, we enjoyed a sunny Teddy Bears' Picnic, which was a perfect way to celebrate all our hard work this year.



We are now excited and ready to move on to Senior Infants!

Lus an Chromchinn – Múinteoir Éabha

We have had a very exciting term to end Senior Infants! We have explored many new places. We learned all about Portugal for intercultural week. We learned how to greet others in Portuguese and all about Portugal's culture from our Portuguese classmates. On top of this, we were lucky enough to explore Newgrange Farm on our school tour. We had so much fun on the farmer's trailer, playing in the sand pit and seeing all the lovely animals!



We are a very sporty class! We had lots of fun taking part in Active Week in school. We really enjoyed all the stations on Sports Day, running laps around the yard and learning fun dance moves! We've had an amazing year in Senior Infants and we are all very excited to start First Class! Have a lovely Summer everyone!

Fearbhán – Múinteoir Ellen

Term 3 has been an exciting and eventful time in Junior Infants! We were delighted to welcome some new friends into our class and explore fun new themes such as food, healthy eating, and summertime. A big highlight was our very first school tour to Newgrange Farm! We had a fantastic day holding baby chicks, feeding lambs, going on a tractor ride, playing in the sand, and running through a maze.



In class, we continued learning in maths using concrete resources and made great progress in our phonics and reading, with support from our wonderful 6th class reading buddies. We celebrated Intercultural Week by learning all about Spain – its language, songs, landmarks, food, and culture – and welcomed our parents in to share the fun. During Active Week, we stayed moving with morning dances, yard walks, and afternoon yoga and finished off the week with a fun-filled Sports Day. We're now looking forward to a sunny summer ahead!



Daffodil – Múinteoir Anna

Senior Infants had a fantastic final term filled with fun and learning! Our school tour to Newgrange Farm was a big highlight, feeding animals, riding on the tractor, and learning about farm life brought big smiles all around. We also loved taking part in Intercultural Week, where our class explored the beautiful country of Greece. We learned about the Parthenon, the Olympic Games, Greek food, the Greek alphabet,



Nóinín – Múinteoir Kirsty

It has been a busy few weeks in 2nd class! We have been making use of the good weather and taking some of our lessons outdoors. We really enjoy working outdoors! We had an amazing time on our school tour to Fort Lucan, we sang the whole way there and the whole way home, the helter-skelter slide was a favourite of the children. We really enjoyed active schools' week, particularly Múinteoir Alona's dance class, where we engaged in dance routines to some of our favourite songs! We are ending the year with a countdown activity; each balloon reveals an exciting activity for us to look forward to. We've learned so many new things this year, made great friends, and had lots of fun along the way. We are ready and excited to see what adventures 3rd class brings us!



Holly – Múinteoir Cian

As 4th class comes to an end, we've had a busy and exciting time! Our school tour to Explorium was a definite highlight—we experienced lightning shows, gravity rooms, beds of nails, and even dancing robots!



We were honoured to welcome Minister Thomas Byrne, European Commission representative Peter Power, and several ambassadors to present our EU projects. They were very impressed with our work and enthusiasm.

We also completed our Languages Connect Spanish lessons with our tutor Irene, who taught us lots of new words and phrases. With continued practice, we'll be fluent in no time!

The sunny weather brought us outdoors, where we wrote letters to President Michael D. Higgins—and we were thrilled to receive a reply! His response inspired us to keep writing and sharing our ideas for Ireland.

It has been a busy term, but an unforgettable one in 4th class!



and even how to count to ten in Greek! The children created stunning Greek-inspired art, and the highlight was welcoming other classes and our families into our classroom to proudly showcase everything we had learned. Active Week kept us moving, with our favourite activity being the fun dance lesson that had everyone joining in. We finished the week on a high with Sports Day, where we ran, raced, jumped and cheered our friends on. All in all, Term 3 has been truly memorable, the perfect ending to a wonderful year!

Rose - Múinteoir Rebecca

This term has been jam-packed full of learning and fun! We went to Fort Lucan on our school tour. The weather was kind to us and we played and played all day long! During Intercultural week we learned about Mexico. We drew maps, sang songs in Spanish and we even made very cool art all based in Mexico. We were so proud to show what we had learned when our grown-ups came to visit our class. During Active week, we watched the boys and girls in 5th class play a basketball match against another school. We made posters and cheered for them so loudly! Finally, we showed all of our Sports skills during Sports Day. It was a very warm day but we had so much fun doing all of the different activities. We can hardly believe it is almost time to say goodbye to 1st class and hello to 2nd class!



Daisy - Múinteoir Geraldine



Term three was a very busy term for Second Class!

On Friday May 30th we went on our school trip to Fort Lucan. The sun was shining and we had a brilliant day. The students had great fun running around for the day enjoying the various activities like the playground, sand pit, climbing frames, go karts, mini golf and Helter

Skelter slide. There were lots of sleepy heads on the bus on the way home!

We loved learning lots about South Africa and working in groups to complete our projects for Intercultural Week. It was lovely to visit the other classrooms and see their projects too.

We were very lucky to have a workshop from Coolmine Gymnastics Club on June 10th. The coaches were really kind and patient as they guided us through the different stations they had set up. We had a great time getting involved in all of the different activities during Active Week, Múinteoir Alona hosted a dance class for us and we loved learning some cool new moves. We had

Snowdrops – Múinteoir Angela/Gillian

What a magical year we've had in *An Ghairdín*! Our special class has truly blossomed like the garden it's named after — full of colour, energy, and joy. From the very first day, we set out to create a warm, nurturing space where every child could grow at their own pace, explore their interests, and most importantly, have fun! Throughout the year, our days were filled with exciting activities tailored to spark curiosity and build confidence. We got hands-on with sensory play, explored sounds, music, art, P.E and much more. We worked on communication through songs, stories, and interactive games, and our circle time quickly became one of our favourite moments of the day — a time to share, listen, and connect with each other.

We celebrated every little win — whether it was a new word spoken, a shoe tied independently, or a brave try at something new. The progress each child made was unique and inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of them.

As we wrap up the year, we want to thank all of you, our wonderful parents and guardians, for your support, your trust, and the joy you bring to our class community. *An Ghairdín* has been a very special place this year — a place where learning was joyful, friendships bloomed, and every child shone in their own way.

Here's to another year of growing together!



Honeysuckle – Múinteoir Caitlin

As we wrap up the final term of the year, it has been a busy but exciting few weeks! One of the highlights was our school tour to Explorium, where we had the chance to explore a range of interactive exhibits. The robot dogs and lightning show were fascinating, but the real standout for everyone was the gravity room - an experience that we will not forget!

Our sports day was another memorable event, with great weather



Sports Day on June 20th which was a terrific way to end Active Week. We really enjoyed Sports Day and we were very excited to wear a jersey to school.



Gorse – Múinteoir Cian

What a fantastic term it has been in Third Class! We've explored the wonders of **Ancient Egypt**, created our own hieroglyphics, and even performed a special Egyptian dance that brought the past to life.



We made a splash at **Gym Plus**, where our swimming lessons were full of fun and progress. Our trip to **Explorium** had everyone wide-eyed with curiosity—it was a day of hands-on learning and scientific surprises! During **Active Week** and our **Sports Days**, the energy was high and the team spirit even higher, with games, races, and smiles

all around.

In maths, we tackled shapes and patterns like pros, and in English, we stretched our imaginations with new stories and writing adventures. Most importantly, we've been building friendship, confidence, and lots of great memories.

Fuchsia – Múinteoir Áine

Term 3 was our best yet in 5th class! It was packed with fun, active learning through swimming, cycling, our fishing trip, school tour, Intercultural Week and Active Week. The great weather meant we could enjoy lots of outdoor learning. Cycle Safety lessons helped us improve our cycling, signaling, turning, and overall road safety. One of the biggest highlights was our school tour to Let's Go in Gormanston, where we tried zorbing, go-karting, rock climbing,



that made the day even more enjoyable. We had a great time participating in penalty shootouts and all of the other fun games. It was a fantastic way to end the term, even if we were all tired by the end of the day!

As the summer holidays approach, we're all looking forward to a well-deserved break. We've had a wonderful year, and we cannot wait for the new adventures in the next school year!

Montbretia – Múinteoir Muireann

Term 3 has been a very active and energetic one for Fifth Class! We began our term with a six-week block of swimming followed swiftly by a six-week block of Cycle Safety. After this, we went on a Fieldtrip to the Broadmeadow River to learn about all things fishy. Following this, we headed to Gormanston for our 'Let's Go' tour which entailed jumping and sliding on bouncy castles, zorbing, climbing walls, archery and much more. And to finish off the term, we took part in a fun filled Active Week which included dancing, running and our infamous Sports Day! It is safe to say that this term has been our best yet. We look forward to all that Sixth Class has in store for us.

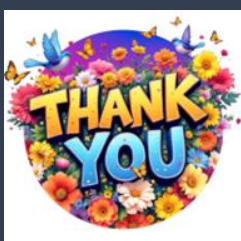


Special Thanks

Thanks to all the members of our school community, parents and members of the Parents' Association, who have helped and supported the school in making 2024/2025 school year a memorable and inspirational one for our pupils. We appreciate all the voluntary work that you have done throughout the year.

A special thanks to our wonderful Secretary, Lisa, who deftly keeps the show on the road. Your patience and adaptability are second to none.

Thanks also to our cleaners, Sonata and Yolanda, for keeping our school pristine throughout the year. Your smiling faces are always nice to see at the end of the day.



and bounced on a variety of inflatables. It was an action-packed and exciting day. Overall, it's been a brilliant year—bring on 6th class!

Sunflower – Múinteoir Mick



It is finally time for us to wish our 6th class of 2025 farewell and good luck as they move on to bigger and better things in secondary school! We have all been so incredibly lucky to know this truly special group of pupils and as an entire school community we would like to say thank you for all the incredible and pivotal work you have put into shape the school that we have today. This is just the second class to graduate in the new school hall and in many ways have helped to develop the school environment that we are lucky to have.

6th class have really exemplified the positive role model behaviour that we worked on all the way back in September in many ways. Every day, 6th class pupils give up their yard time to help out on the infant yard, leading games and playing with smaller children. They show positivity and kindness to the smaller children and show them how to have fun with friends. 6th class also took part in a reading buddy scheme with Junior infants, where they share their love of reading by reading to their buddies. Some of the bonds made in these sessions will last a long time and both 6th class and Junior infant pupils talk fondly about these sessions. Finally, in the last few weeks of term, while busy working on their Graduation, a group of 6th class pupils volunteered to help out in group work in Junior infants helping them to use phonics and decode tricky words.

There are far too many individual moments to begin to name, but as a class this group have raised the bar in terms of being role models in class and conduct around the school. The phrase that I believe sums this group up is "How can I help?" as they are always busy around the school supporting staff, other classes and individuals in getting things done.

This week, we had the opportunity to wish our 6th class a happy graduation. What a wonderful event, with parents, siblings and extended families in attendance. I was so inspired watching the 6th class pupils stand up and read speeches, poems and sing and dance. The bravery and confidence to do this in front of a crowd at such a young age is truly incredible. The graduation ceremony ended with a guard of honour, whereby the pupils were clapped out of the school for a final time.

Important Dates for your Diary

Summer Holidays

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

New School Year

School will reopen on Thursday 28th August at 9:00a.m.



So, to the wonderful 6th class, I wish you all the best. You have shown strength, resilience and adaptability that will give you every advantage as you make this transition. A fresh start and an opportunity to create your own path.



School's Out for Summer!

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

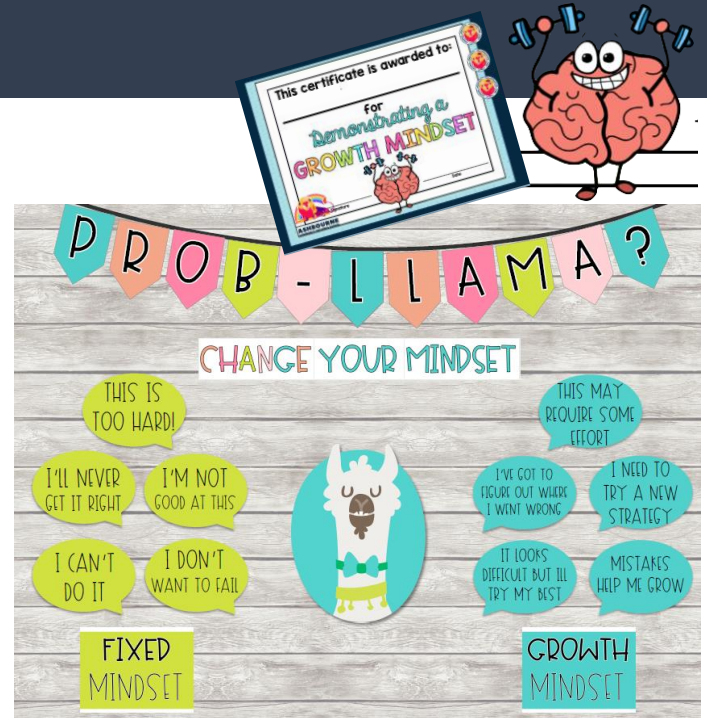
Growth Mindset

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 3. Your positive attitude to your schoolwork 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

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