



What a week!! All of us in Courtenay National School were proud and impressed by the talents of everyone displayed inside and outside the school this week. I invite you to share the newsletter with your child this week and ask them to tell you about something they learned about another child and about different talents that others have this week ....

I also want to say a huge thank you to the dedicated and committed staff of the school, who put so much time, effort and thought, both during and after-school, into ensuring that every pupil is safe, respected, participates, achieves and shines on a daily basis.

We are so very lucky to have a team of dedicated professionals leading learning and teaching and caring so well for our pupils to ensure that their days in Primary school are positive and fruitful.

Thank you to one and all.

### **Creative Assembly**

Assemblies are so important in schools to help bring everyone together and to highlight gifts, talents and news from around the school. As our school has grown, assembly becomes even more important as we don't have many opportunities to share and acknowledge our wonderful achievements across classes. Assembly on Friday was a model of how it can be done in a way that ensures that every child plays a part and feels they have something to contribute.

All classes gathered in the hall for a Junior Assembly first and later in the day, a Senior Assembly. The significant work and preparation that went into the event by every class was obvious.

The learning for both adults and children in the school last Friday was that although we are all different, we all have a variety of talents and we can respect, appreciate and get to know each other so much better when we share these talents with each other.

Bravo to one and all for this display of inclusion



There was silence in the hall when Abi played for us...he is extremely talented and watching him get lost in the music was just a treat for us all ...WOW!!! We look forward to more from Abi at Grandparents Day again on Tuesday!

and creativity at assembly on Friday last!!

Some Pictures of the Art, Music, Mime, Rap, Science Experiments, Construction and many many many more talents that were shared during the week:







### School Hurling

Well done to the boys from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class who played in the West Limerick Primary Schools G.A.A, Indoor Hurling 5-a side competition on Thursday. The boys played four matches and represented themselves and the school brilliantly. Maith Sibh a bhuachaillí, all in the Courtenay are very proud!

A lovely video describing the day has been prepared by Ms. O'Donnell who of course was on the sideline watching every puck of the ball. You'll find it attached to the newsletter this week.



### After School

We met with Aoife, our after-school coordinator recently in relation to trying to create more places in after-school as it is difficult to meet the growing

### Swimming

numbers requiring after-school care.

We are going to bring this to the attention of our Board of Management to try to begin looking at ways of expanding this service for next year hopefully.

In the meantime, **Tag- Rugby** and **soccer** takes place for some classes when weather permits and **Chess** club is extremely popular across the school on Wednesdays also. These clubs are a vital part of school for those that attend.

Our thanks to Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Ruddle, Mr. Devine and Mr. Shepherd for giving of their time to organise and deliver these after-school activities.

Just some forward planning to notify 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class parents of Swimming which will begin for these classes in April:

5<sup>th</sup> Class April 18<sup>th</sup> – May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Class April 16<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

Weekly Cost will be €10.00 which includes the swimming lesson and the bus to the swimming pool.

### Music for All

We are looking forward to Chloe from Music Generation coming to provide music lessons for all children from Junior Infants – 2<sup>nd</sup> class every Wednesday for the next 6 weeks.

This will complement Music for All which takes place with thanks to Mrs. Brosnahan and the talented music staff in the school every Wednesday.

We look forward to hearing the school choir perform at Grandparents Day on Tuesday.



### Sensory Room

A committee of staff, parents and pupils are working hard to complete our sensory room project currently. This is a very important room to have in our school and it will benefit learning and participation at school for all pupils.

We are struggling a little to stay within budget as equipment quotes are coming in at €9,000 at present

which is significantly over-budget, but with the support of our dedicated committee and the PA, we hope to press on with this project and complete it shortly.

### Irish Sign Language

4<sup>th</sup> Class sign "Thank you" to John Patrick who concluded his Irish Sign Language Lessons with children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> last Wednesday.

Although some children in the school are fluent in sign language, this initiative enabled us to take time out to develop this language for everyone to now use and share.

We feel that this will give us great opportunities to engage in positive communication both at school and throughout our lives.



### Parenting Workshop

Primary Care Services have asked us to share details of "Understanding and supporting a child who has experienced trauma". This workshop is most suitable for parents/professionals who are seeking information in relation to supporting children following a trauma experience. Register for this workshop which will take place on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> online by contacting: Claire Bennett (087) 4607429 OR Elisha Minihan (087) 9734925.

### School Closure on February 14<sup>th</sup>

The early school closure day on February 14<sup>th</sup> gave us a great opportunity to meet and plan for improvement across the school. Staff spent considerable time and effort gathering resources, organising them and ensuring that they are easily accessible and available to support teaching and learning. Groups also met in relation to the organisation of Grandparents Day, Upgrading play and Equipment both indoors and Outdoors, Promoting wellbeing across the school and ensuring that safety, health and welfare remains a priority at all times was also on the agenda. It was a very necessary and hugely impactful day, we are reaping the benefits already.

### Digital Citizenship Training – FINAL REMINDER

A final reminder that a digital citizenship information day will take place tomorrow, Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> next for children from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class as well as school staff and families.

**Tomorrow evening, an information session for parents, guardians and family members of pupils in all classes is being held at Courtenay National School from 7-8 p.m.**

Family members who attend tomorrow night will receive a homework pass that can be used by their children on an evening of their choice.

The session will provide information in relation to what children will have learnt during the day and focus on the role of families in educating children to engage with technology and the online world in a positive way. It will also focus on how to encourage children to ensure they are safe online and to understand their legal responsibilities and rights when they are online.

Although attendance is optional for parents, we would strongly encourage parents to make every effort to

attend, if possible. The digital world affects children whether they have their own devices or not. Educating them about how to engage positively with technology and the online world is the responsibility of all.

### **Grandparents Day – FINAL REMINDER**

With huge thanks again to our organising committee for Grandparents Day, a massive amount of work has been put into this event, which will take place on Tuesday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> (this week) and will build on the success of this day in previous years.

10.00 a.m. - Mass at the Church followed by a brief concert by the children.

(NOTE: Children will sit with their classes for this and not with their families)

11.00 a.m. - Children will meet their grandparents inside the church to take photographs etc. Children who do not have grandparents or family members at the event will place a token on a tree at the altar, guided by staff members and or any family members that attend.

11.15 a.m. - Children will walk back to school with their classes. Grandparents are invited to travel to the school for refreshments and to visit classrooms. Parking will be available in the staff car park and in the set down area outside the school for Grandparents and Family Members. We would ask that cars parked in the set down area are moved prior to 1 p.m. as this area will be needed at that time for collections.

11.30 a.m. - Grandparents and family members are invited to the school hall where our Parents Association will provide tea/coffee and treats.

12.00 p.m. - Grandparents of children in 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Ruddle's Class will visit classrooms.

12.30 p.m. - Grandparents of children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class, Second Class, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Hannon and Ms. Flavin's class will visit classrooms.

12.45 p.m. - Event Concludes

Note: We ask that all cars parked in the set down area outside the school are moved ahead of collections that commence at 13.00 p.m.

For children whose Grandparents will not attend the event, for whatever reason, grandparents will be acknowledged and remembered also.

We would be most grateful if you could please share this information with grandparents and family members who will attend, to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible on Tuesday.

Many thanks to everyone again.

Enjoy the evening and looking forward to the week ahead.

Mrs. Horgan.