



Ardrahan National School



Issue 24: June 2026 Email: secretary@ardrahanns.ie, Ph: 091 635466

Summertime

Dear Parents,

We have had a fun and busy year at Ardrahan N.S. It has been great to see the children discover their strengths and grow and flourish during the year. We have had a hectic last term—both academically and with sports, clubs, competitions and music—your children have made us incredibly proud.

A child-centred school relies on an amazing team. My sincere thanks to our hard-working teachers, SNAs, secretary and to our voluntary Board of Management who give their time so generously.

This week, as we welcome our new Junior Infants and prepare for a bittersweet goodbye to our lovely 6th Class, I want to thank you, the parents, for your constant support. Have a wonderful, safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on August 26th.

Le gach dea-ghuí, Ms Hughes

Farewell, 6th Class!



As another school year draws to a close, we would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to our wonderful 6th Class pupils as they prepare to graduate on June 19th.

Over the years, they have brought energy, enthusiasm, kindness, and friendship to our school and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. We have enjoyed watching them grow into confident, capable young people.

While we will be sad to see them leave, we know they are ready for the exciting journey ahead.

Chess Champions

Another great year for our budding chess enthusiasts. Our Junior team, pictured here, progressed to the Con-naught Community games finals where they took 2nd place.



Reading Challenge

Well done to our Star Readers from Junior Infants to Sixth Class who put in a fantastic effort throughout the reading challenge.

There were 52 prize winners in total throughout the school for book reports, trivia quizzes, 'design your own book cover' and much more. The aim of the Reading Challenge is to highlight the importance and benefits of reading for enjoyment. Well done, everyone!



Communion

Congratulations to all the children in 2nd Class who recently celebrated their First Holy Communion. The children worked very hard in preparation for their special day. They learned their prayers, practised their roles and deepened their understanding of the sacrament through our Grow in Love lessons.

We are incredibly proud of the children, who represented our school exceptionally well. Finally, a special word of thanks to Ms. Hill for preparing the children so thoroughly and helping them feel confident and ready.



Heritage visitor

Tom Cuffe came to visit Senior Infants and 5th and 6th class this term. Infants spent time learning about Irish birds whilst the older classes were taught how to make winged creatures through Origami.



Fieldtrip to the Burren

This year, Third Class learned about the Burren's unique landscape, biodiversity, and heritage. Their learning began with a visit from Karen from the Burrenbeo Trust, who spoke about winterage farming, local ecosystems, and native species. They then brought our learning to life with a field trip to the Burren in County Clare.



Travel, Budget, Explore!



5th and 6th Class completed a fantastic 'Staycation' project, where they planned a 10-day holiday around Ireland for the Simpson family. The children organised 6 days in the Republic of Ireland and 4 days in Northern Ireland, carefully budgeting €60 per day for food and a total of €300 for fuel, accommodation and activities. The children developed valuable life skills, including budgeting, problem-solving and research skills. Maith sibh, Rang a Cúig agus Rang a Sé!



School Tour Fun



Junior and Senior Infants spent a wonderful time at the Aquarium in Salthill, followed by an energetic session at Monkey Business to end their day. Meanwhile, First and Second class had an exciting day at Loughwell Farm where they spent time meeting the animals and squeezed in lots of play throughout the day too! Third and Fourth Class enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Adventure Camp located on the grounds of the University of Limerick—lots of challenges, water slides and Olympic Handball kept them entertained! Fifth and Sixth class spent their day in the chilly waters at Bay Sports in Athlone. Lots of energy spent climbing up and sliding down the obstacles of Lough Ree.



Nature walks

A number of classes took the opportunity this term to explore our local area, enjoying nature walks while looking for signs of summer in the plants and trees. The children also kept a watchful eye out for birds and other small creatures, making some wonderful discoveries along the way.



2nd class engineers

2nd Class designed and built their own sailboats using recyclable materials, thinking carefully about buoyancy, balance and sail design. They then tested their boats in water to see if they would float and sail, before creating colourful sailboat paintings during a directed drawing and painting art lesson.



Sporting Events

Sporting activities were a major part of school life this term. Infants to Second Class enjoyed weekly hurling and camogie sessions, while the older children displayed excellent teamwork in their matches. Over 30 pupils represented our school at the Christy Kennedy Athletics Competition in Craughwell, competing in events including sprints, relays, long jump, triple jump, long-distance running and sliotar throw. Children also participated in County Sports and Community Games events such as chess and quizzes. A tennis coaching was provided to all classes this term also. Congratulations to the ladies Gaelic football team who reached the 13-a-side County finals! Ar fheabhas gach duine!



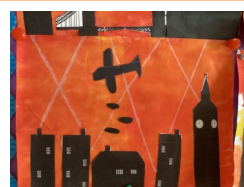
Class Market

Third Class had great fun organising and running a class market for the school community. As part of our Maths learning on money, the children gained valuable real-life experience handling and using money. The children worked hard preparing a fantastic range of items for sale, including baked goods, second-hand books and toys, and handmade crafts

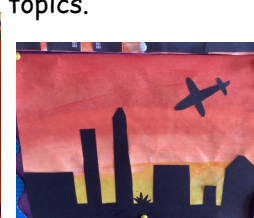
such as bracelets and origami creations. The money raised went towards an end-of-year celebration, with a portion also being donated to Galway Hospice.



The Titanic



4th and 5th class have been working hard. They loved exploring WW2 and the Titanic in History and Art and created some lovely Art work on both topics.



Butterflies



Senior Infants were delighted to welcome butterfly eggs into our classroom. As part of our learning, we explored the butterfly life cycle and carefully observed the eggs hatch into caterpillars. We watched them transform into chrysalides, patiently waiting for the next stage of their journey. Our patience was rewarded when four beautiful Painted Lady butterflies emerged! The children proudly named them Pat, Neymar, Rosie and Ronaldo.



Special mention

A huge congratulations to Maeve Corbett on qualifying for The Dublin Horse Show in a showjumping event in the RDS later this month. We wish her every success and an enjoyable experience at the competition.



Sensory walls

We recently installed sensory walls to provide children with a fun, interactive way to support sensory regulation, focus and wellbeing. These walls offer opportunities for movement and tactile engagement, helping children develop self-regulation skills while at school.



Readers galore!

This term we had lots of opportunities to engage in buddy reading between classes. It is a great experience for the children to read to others as well as listening to other children reading. They were working on their fluency skills as well as reading with expression! Junior Infants also enjoyed swapping their books with their peers—such a treat :)



Sunshine

During the sunny days of May, the children embraced every opportunity to take their learning outdoors. Enjoying the fresh air and some much-needed Vitamin D, they engaged in a variety of activities including reading, building, exploring, and creative play. These experiences supported active learning and encouraged the development of social, physical, and problem-solving skills as the children worked and played together.



Sports Day

The weather was certainly on our side as Sports Day was filled with fun, excitement, and plenty of energetic activities spread across two days this year. The first morning began with races, followed by a wide range of activities including a challenging obstacle course, water races, and benchball. Day 1 concluded with an exciting soccer blitz, while the highlight of Day 2 was the much-anticipated bouncy castle, which brought smiles and laughter to all.

