

# NUAHT NA SCOILE



## Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine



On 14th May, 20 6<sup>th</sup> Class boys travelled by train on pilgrimage to Knock Shrine. They enjoyed glorious sunshine as they explored the Knock Museum, took part in a reflective workshop with the Youth Ministry team, and toured the shrine grounds. The group then attended Mass in the Basilica, where the boys read the Prayers of the Faithful and presented the

gifts at the altar. Before returning home, they selected special gifts and gathered holy water to share with their families. A meaningful day of faith, history and prayer was had by all.

## Hurling



Our Division 2 hurling team delivered an outstanding performance in the shield final against Gaelscoil Phortlaoise, clinching victory by just one point! We are incredibly proud of all the boys for their skill and determination, and we congratulate them along with their coaches on this achievement.

## Rounders

We were delighted to enter three teams in this year's Cuman na mBunscol Rounders competition.

### 4th Class Team



Captain: Andrew McCallum

Win vs Emo B: After a slow start, the boys found their rhythm and took the win.

Loss vs Mountrath A: A strong opponent, but the team battled well.

Playoff vs Emo A: A tough game where the boys gave it their all, just missing out on a finals place.

### 5th Class Team

Captain: Luke Langford

Loss vs The Rock: Strong bowling from Luke and good batting, but the win went to The Rock.

Loss vs Emo A: A hard-fought match, but Emo's experience made the difference.



### 5th & 6th Class Team

Captain: Dominic Wyse

Win vs Killeen: Great fielding and batting helped turn the game around.

Win vs Mountrath B: A close match, sealed with a run in the final inning.

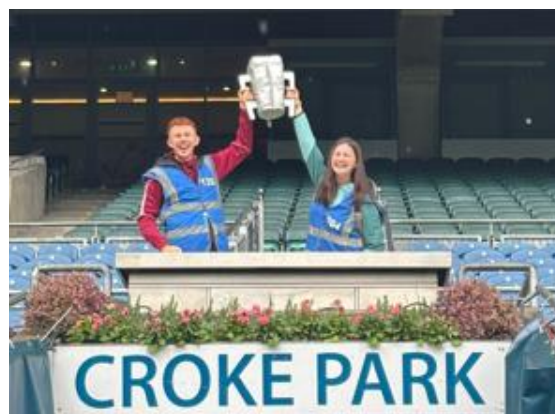
Win vs The Rock: Composed performance secured a spot in the finals!

### Finals Day – June 17<sup>th</sup>

Semi-Final vs Emo A

Fielding highlights: Bowling by Enoch, catches by Luke Langford (3rd) and Dominic Wyse (2nd). Batting contributions: Daniel Grehan, Luke Lawrence, Dominic Wyse, Luke Langford. Despite strong play, Emo A took the win, Shield Final vs Mountmellick. Big bats from Mountmellick kept Marcel, Dominic, and Baylee busy in the outfield. We tried hard to catch up while batting but came away with a well-earned silver medal. Reaching the finals in just our second year playing rounders is a brilliant achievement. A huge well done to all players and mentors — we're already looking forward to next year!

### School Tours



The boys from our school enjoyed some fantastic school tours in recent weeks to celebrate the end of the school year — and what a variety of experiences they had! From the excitement of paintballing in Redhills, to the thrill of climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand in Croke Park, to the relaxation of cruising down the River Shannon, there truly was something for everyone. A big thank you to all the teachers and SNAs who worked so hard behind the scenes to plan and organise these memorable trips. What a great way to wrap up the year!

### Breakfast Club

A heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated staff members who generously volunteer their time each morning to prepare 20 to 30 hot, delicious breakfasts for our fantastic Breakfast Club boys. We are also incredibly grateful to our main sponsor, LIDL, for their continued support in helping us keep this wonderful initiative running.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Ms Cunningham and Ms Brazil on the safe arrivals of their little boys and Mr Minnock on the safe arrival of his daughter in the recent months. Wishing them and their families the very best.

### Best Wishes

Best wishes to Ms Draper on her upcoming nuptials over the summer. We wish her and her partner a very happy life together.

### Career Break

The school would like to wish Mr Burbage the very best as he embarks on a career break next year. Four times World Champion Irish dancer, Mr Burbage will be taking to the stage to perform as part of the new era of Rhythm of the Dance.

### Communion

Our wonderful 2<sup>nd</sup> class boys made their First Holy Communion on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all and special thanks to the teachers for their preparation on the day.



Also thank you to our wonderful school choir. They sang beautifully on the day. The school treated all the 2<sup>nd</sup> class boys and the choir to an ice-cream from the ice-cream van to celebrate the following week.

### Fís Film Project

Our FÍS Group has been busy creating their short film *The Third Floor* for the national FÍS filmmaking competition. The boys planned, filmed, and edited the entire project themselves, using only school spaces and their imagination to bring a mysterious, tech-filled story to life.

The final cut, blending humour and suspense, will be submitted this week and shared on our school's FÍS YouTube

Channel. Well done to all boys and staff involved.



*"Sometimes, the more connected we are to technology, the less connected we are to reality."*

### Sports Day

This year's School Sports Day was a fantastic success! The boys enjoyed a full day of fun and activity, taking part in handball, basketball, track races, novelty events, and a range of cooperative games. It was wonderful to see everyone participating and having such a great time in the sunshine. Our Junior and Senior Infant classes held their own special Sports Day and had just as much fun with age-appropriate games and activities. A big thank you to all the staff who helped organise the day — it was a brilliant way to celebrate fitness, teamwork, and the end of another great school year!

### Talent Show

Our traditional end-of-year Talent Show took place once again this week — and what a show it was! The school was treated to a fantastic display of talent, including singing, dancing, musical instruments, and hula hooping, to name just a few of the brilliant acts. Well done to all the boys who took part — it was a joy to see you perform with such confidence and enthusiasm in front of your peers.



## Graduation

This year, 87 boys graduated from our school — and what a wonderful celebration it was! The ceremony was a special occasion filled with songs, photos, and proud moments shared with families and staff. One of the highlights was the presentation of a time capsule, where our Junior Infant boys helped illustrate the amazing journey of growth over eight years in our school — a powerful reminder of just how far our boys have come. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our graduates and we wish them all the very best as they begin this exciting new chapter in secondary school. Go n-éirí libh, boys!

## SNA Review

Thank you to all the parents who completed consent forms for our recent SNA review. Our Special Needs Assistants work tirelessly to support the care needs of many children in our school, and their dedication is essential to our daily functioning. With an increasing number of students requiring their support, we are actively seeking to secure additional SNAs for the upcoming school year. We appreciate your support and patience as we await the outcome of the review. We remain committed to providing the best possible care and support for all our pupils.

## Swimming

Boys from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd classes recently completed their six-week block of swimming lessons. We are very proud of how far they have come and the progress they have made. Learning to swim is an important life skill, and it's fantastic to see the boys growing in confidence and ability in the water. Well done to everyone involved!

## Teacher V 6<sup>th</sup> Class Match



The much-anticipated annual Staff vs 6th Class soccer match took place last week. The excitement was electric in the McCann stands. With the Maria Russo Memorial Shield on the line, both teams brought their A-game. The match was evenly contested, despite the teachers suffering the blow of new principal Ms Murphy being harshly red carded early on. The staff rallied and secured a 5–3 victory. Well done to all the players for a fantastic match filled with energy, skill, and great sportsmanship!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Soccer Tournament

The boys from second class finished out the year with a fun soccer blitz. All teams were named after Irish League teams. The finals are on tomorrow!!



## Summer Camp

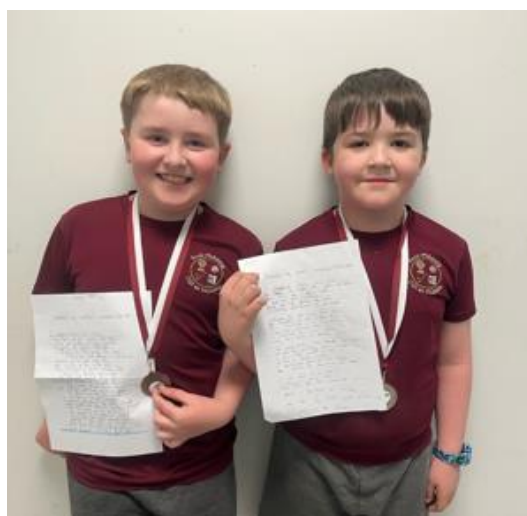


preparation for the big competition. When the girls arrived, you could hear a pin drop — not just because of concentration, but because the boys were feeling a little shy! It turned out to be a lovely way for the boys and girls to get to know one another, while also building confidence, strategy, and good sportsmanship.

## Fire Brigade



## Handwriting Competition



Over the past few weeks, our local firefighters made several visits to the school, giving students a fantastic and educational experience. They spoke to classes about fire safety, demonstrated the fire truck and life-saving equipment, and even let the children try on helmets and use the fire hose. Pupils also had the chance to learn about CPR and ask plenty of questions. A wonderful surprise for many of our long-serving teachers was seeing some of their former pupils return — now proudly serving as firefighters. A big thank you to our local fire service for such an inspiring and memorable visit!

Congratulations to Kai Byrne and Casey Cahil who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Community Games Handwriting Competition. They will represent Laois in the Nationals in September.

## Draughts

This term, the 2nd Class boys and girls enjoyed a special draughts playdate, with visits to each other's schools. The boys had been practicing for weeks in





## Wicks and Sticks

Our Junior Entrepreneurs had a fantastic day showcasing their mini-company, Wicks & Sticks — and yes, the candles really do smell amazing! For months, the boys of 6C have been busy crafting their own candles under the expert guidance of Mr. O’Riordan, with a little help (and maybe some wise words) from real-life business mentors. The classroom definitely smelled better than usual!

We’re incredibly proud of the creativity, hard work, and business savvy the boys have shown. Who knew candle making could be so fun? We hope everyone enjoys their candles — just don’t leave them unattended or you could be getting a home visit from our firefighter friends!!

## Team Ukraine



A team of our Ukrainian boys proudly represented the school in their first-ever GAA match, playing a friendly against Sandy Lane NS. They showed impressive skills on the field and great sportsmanship throughout the game. What a milestone!

## Parish Team Cup

Scoil Phádraig was delighted to participate in the first ever parish football tournament this term, alongside teams from Emo, Rath, and Killenard. The boys played with great enthusiasm and skill throughout the day. While Rath ultimately took home the Parish Cup, everyone enjoyed the competition and had a fantastic time.

## Pickle Ball

Our school pickle ball team hosted a competition last week against Maynooth. Well done to all the boys that participated.

## Parents Evening & Playdate

This month, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Junior Infants for a special playdate. The boys had the chance to visit the infant classrooms and meet some of the staff. It was a lovely, relaxed way to help break the ice ahead of September — and everyone had a great time. Parents were also invited into the school, where the infant team and school management delivered an informative presentation about school life, routines, and what to expect during the Junior Infant year. A big thank you to all who attended — we’re looking forward to welcoming our newest pupils properly in August.

## Holidays

School finish this Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

11:30am All Bus Pick-Ups

11:40am ARC, Sonas, Junior

Infants, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Classes

11:50am Senior Infants,

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes

