

Spring Newsletter 2026



What a busy second term we have had at Annagh NS!

Art Therapy

We are fortunate to have a qualified art therapist, Pat Looby, living in our area. Pat began working with some of our pupils on January 9th, immediately after Christmas. These sessions concluded in March. Pat will work with the 6th class in May as part of the transition into secondary school. Our DEIS grant provides the funds for these sessions and supports our Wellbeing and Transitions in Education focus.

ICT

From our ICT grant, we recently bought eight tablets for the school. These tablets are in addition to our bank of 16 laptops available to the children for ICT skills training. A charging station that enables fast charging for all tablets was also purchased.

Creative Clusters and Eala Dance Company

Aoife, a dance instructor with the Creative Clusters, visited every Monday morning after Christmas to teach Juniors through 4th class Hip Hop and contemporary dance. This will result in a multi-school performance later in the year. Thank you to Ms Doyle for organising it.

Open Evening

We hosted our Open Evening on Wednesday, 28th January, from 6 to 7 pm for prospective junior infants and other new pupils. We had a fantastic turnout. Our wonderful JLT were on hand to help the new pupils settle in that evening. We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of Annagh NS pupils for the 2026/2027 academic year.

STEAM Event

On Wednesday night, 18th January, we hosted our STEAM event, inviting parents, pupils, and community members into the school to see the work our pupils had completed. Mrs McMahon led the event, with Mr Kelly organising the engineering stations. Mr Brendan O'Neill, a parent and maths teacher, collaborated with 5th- and 6th-class pupils to conduct an online survey. Each classroom featured either maths activities or a construction display, including a village in 3rd/4th class and an amusement park in 5th/6th class. The survey results on pupils' online habits from 3rd to 6th class were displayed, while two Data Gatherers asked willing adult participants about their online time. The JLT, along with other

pupils, managed the stations in the junior/senior infant room, the 1st/2nd class room, and the hall. There was very positive feedback from parents, and the children were eager to show their work. A Science Kit was raffled to all families on the night, with a 6th-class girl winning it. Overall, it was a very positive experience, and we plan to repeat it with a different theme next academic year.

Basketball

Our senior pupils took part in the first round of the Marion Keane Basketball Tournament on Monday, 16th February, at Kilmihil Hall. Unfortunately, the girls were unlucky, but the boys progressed to the next round, held in Inagh on 11th March. While the boys fought bravely, they were unlucky. Thanks to Ms Doyle, Mr Kelly, and Mrs McMahon for all their hard work during training sessions and refereeing games in the yard at lunchtime.

Mini Sevens

Our senior pupils competed in the Cumann na mBunscoil seven-a-side football competition held on 26th and 27th February in Quilty. Both girls' and boys' teams played well on the day, but unfortunately, they did not advance to the next round. Once again, we thank Ms Doyle and Mr Kelly for their hard work and dedication to the pupils' training.

Prayer Service for Ash Wednesday

We want to thank Cáit Ní Loinsigh for celebrating Ash Wednesday with us at school. We had a short ceremony where she spoke with the children, told them stories about her time in Guatemala, and then placed ashes on their foreheads. Thanks also to Fr Donagh for organising the visit.

Green Schools Report

Mrs Flanagan, our Green School co-ordinator, has updated us on the Green School Committee's progress, the whole-school initiatives, and the upcoming projects. Congratulations to Mrs Flanagan, her team, and the entire school for all the fantastic work taking place in each classroom and throughout the school.

Theme Focus (Sustainable Development Goals SDG)

- Working under **Global Citizenship: Food & Biodiversity**
- Linked to **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production), SDG 15 (Life on Land)**

Infant Classes

- Completed **Food Dudes** programme
- Learned about healthy eating, fruit and vegetables
- Built positive attitudes toward sustainable food choices

1st & 2nd Class

- Performed **The Bee Musical**
- Highlighted the importance of bees for pollination and biodiversity
- Supported learning on ecosystems and food production
- Participating in **Picker Pals** to promote environmental responsibility

3rd – 6th Class

- Explored the **UN Global Goals**, especially SDGs 2, 12 and 15
- Investigated global food systems, food waste and sustainable farming
- Learned about biodiversity protection
- Connected local actions to global impact

Whole-School Initiatives

- **Food Dudes:** All classes involved
- **Picker Pals:** 1st & 2nd Class

Upcoming Projects

- **Incredible Edibles** and **Grow at School:** Hands-on food growing
- **Cycle Right Training** for 5th & 6th Class in May 2026

First Confession

The second-class pupils received the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Penance) on 4th March at 7 pm in Mullagh Church. This was a wonderful occasion for our pupils and a significant milestone in their lives. We thank Mrs Flanagan and Fr Donagh for all their preparations for the event.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

What an absolutely thrilling week we had at Annagh NS for Seachtain na Gaeilge. The excitement kicked off with our spectacular Lá Glas, where students rocked their vibrant green and Irish-themed outfits. The atmosphere was fantastic as they played polkas, jigs, and barn dances, sang the famous “Killeagh” (as Gaeilge, of course), and showcased their step-and-set dancing skills for our video recording – which can be viewed on our website and on our school Facebook page.

Our Lá Gaelach was a hit, filled with laughter and fun as the children played Biongó. The winners bagged some delicious treats. During our Tráth na gCeist, the competition was close, with the top-performing team narrowly celebrating their impressive scores with sweet rewards.

Pupils also illustrated their interpretations of well-known Sean fhocail. It was a week that truly celebrated everything Irish, and we couldn't have done it without our fantastic Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine, who impressed us with their exceptional use of Gaeilge throughout the week.

To round it all off, our pupils enjoyed a delicious dessert of green and orange jelly topped with creamy white ice cream – a firm favourite that brought smiles all around. What a wonderful week of culture. To experience a taste of the week, please visit our school website www.annaghns.com> School Life>Special Occasions and click on the link that will direct you to the full Seachtain na Gaeilge Slideshow. A big thank you to all the staff for their efforts during the week.

Five-a-Side Soccer

On Thursday, 27th March, our senior pupils travelled to Kilrush to compete in the Five-a-side soccer tournament. Our boys reached the semi-final but were unlucky. Our girls won their semi-final and have advanced to the county final, which will be held at Lees Road after Easter. Thanks again to Mr. Kelly for the time dedicated to training the boys. Congratulations to all the girls and to Ms. Doyle on their success. We wish them the best of luck in the next stage.

Easter Bunny

The students at Annagh National School were delighted to have the Easter Bunny visit on the evening of Wednesday, March 26th. He first visited Annagh Pals After School during the infant hour, bringing an Easter egg for each child. Then, he continued into each classroom, giving every student in the school an Easter egg. What lucky pupils!

Special thanks to Annagh After School Pals for organising this wonderful visit.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our boys and girls had an absolute blast on the thrilling Easter egg hunt around the school. With eggs hidden in every nook and cranny, each class dashed off to discover the treasures waiting to be found. A huge shoutout to Mrs McMahon for her incredible organisation.

Easter Closure

We will be closed for the Easter break from Friday, 27th for two weeks and will re-open on Monday, 13th April.

We would like to wish all our parents, pupils, staff, and the Board of Management a Happy Easter.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh uilig.

