

**St. Michael's & St. Patrick's N.S.,  
Cootehall,  
Boyle,  
Co. Roscommon,  
F52 TV26.  
Tel. No: 071-9667264  
[www.cootehallns.com](http://www.cootehallns.com)**

12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Dear Parents,

**Christmas:** We wish everybody in our school community a very Happy Christmas. The first term has flown by in the blink of an eye. Well done to our students for all their hard work, good nature and friendliness they have shown this term. Thank you to Joan and the some of the students for setting up our Christmas tree. (See photo on our school website [www.cootehallns.com](http://www.cootehallns.com))

To celebrate Christmas in the school, the students can wear their Christmas Jumpers instead of their uniform jumpers on **Thursday and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December**, if they wish.

The school will close at **12.30 p.m on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** for the Christmas holidays. The school will re-open on **Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>** at 9.30 a.m. for our second term. The school buses have been re-arranged to collect the students at 12.30 p.m. on the final day of term.

**There is no breakfast club or afterschool service available on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Christmas Mass** Fr. Brendan will be celebrating the School Christmas Mass on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00 a.m.** in Cootehall Church. The First Class students will put on a short Nativity play during the Mass. All are welcome. The school bus will bring the Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> Class to and from the Church. The students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class will walk to and from the Church, weather permitting and should wear high vis vests for their safety.

**Junior Entrepreneur** As part of the 6<sup>th</sup> class Junior Entrepreneur Project, our 6<sup>th</sup> class students will be setting up their business 'Wix' in the school yard next **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** after Mass where they will be selling Christmas candles. The money they raise for their business will go towards a class activity at the end of the school year.

**Music Generation** Pdraig from Music Generation Roscommon is now teaching all classes in our school. We look forward to Pdraig returning in January to continue teaching our students music. We will be asking parents for a contribution towards the cost of these lessons in the New Year.

**Design a Card for Christmas** The Christmas cards have been given out to the students last Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. We were delighted with how they turned out and we are sure you are too. If you have any queries, please let us know.

**Supervision** Please do not park in front of the school gates for the safety of the children accessing the school. This space is reserved for the school buses only. To ensure the smooth running of this, supervision starts at 9:15 a.m., and finishes at 3:20 p.m. The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for any pupils on the school premises outside of these hours. We ask that all students remain in their cars until a member of staff opens the gate at 9:15 a.m. Infant students are dismissed for the end of their day at 2.10 p.m. The infant teacher uses the remaining hour for class preparation and organisation. Students from first to sixth class are dismissed at 3.10 p.m.

**Shoe Box Appeal** There was a great response to the shoebox appeal again this year. 63 shoeboxes were donated from our school. Thank you and well done to all!

**Science Week** Science week in the school was as usual great fun. Loads of interesting science was shared in the classrooms. Well done to Ms. Gilhooly's, Ms. Tansey's and Mr. Duffy's Class for their Science Show, the students from the other classes really enjoyed seeing the many amazing experiments. Check out the photographs on our school website [www.cootehallns.com](http://www.cootehallns.com) The students from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class went to the Abbey Community College in Boyle to see a Science Show on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

**Dome Day** The students from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class went to the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence for a 'Dome Day' on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December to take part in GAA drills and activities with other schools. See some photos on our school website [www.cootehallns.com](http://www.cootehallns.com)

**Applications for Enrolment for 2025/26 School Year** Applications for enrolment for the 2025/26 school year has commenced and will remain open until early January 2025. For more details, please see our school website [www.cootehallns.com](http://www.cootehallns.com) or contact the Principal's Office in the school - phone no. 071-9667264.

**First Holy Communion** First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11:30 a.m. in Cootehall Church.**

**Confirmation** will be held on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 a.m. in Cootehall Church.**

**Absence Form** If your child is absent from school for any reason all parents/guardians must complete an Absence Form. Please complete the absence note which is located in the centre of your child's Homework Notebook or click [here](#) for the online Absence Form.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Yours sincerely,

*Cian Duffy*

Principal.