



March 2026 Newsletter



A message from Mrs Lewis

We have had another very fast and exceptionally busy term here in Holy Family NS! The variety of educational experiences for our pupils has been vast, we've had something for everyone which is fantastic. You will see how we have immersed ourselves in music, sport, knowledge, art, cookery and drama! With quizzes, fashion shows, robots and tadpoles being just some of the varied activities. We are filled with wonder through all this experiential learning and we are also ready for a break! I do hope the sun shines so everyone can enjoy the outdoors and soak up some vitamin D! Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!



Active Schools



The Active Committee continued to provide movement and healthy activities for all this term including: Croke Park Active Breaks, Cumann na mBunscol U12 5 a side Indoor Football and Indoor Hurling County Finals in Burt. We look fantastic in our new football kit! We also trained and competed in the Sports Hall Athletics competition in Donegal Town. Cian from Golf Ireland introduced 4th and 5th Class to "Unleash your Drive" golf skills. They really enjoyed the sessions and the school also benefitted from receiving new golf equipment to be used throughout the year.



Board of Management

Our Board of Management met again this term and are working on the review of our Internet Acceptable Use policy and our three year Deis Plan. Thank you to our Chairperson, Canon Munster and board members, Marie, Bernie, Siobhán, Aiden, Adrian and Lorraine for all their hard work. For more information and Agreed Reports check www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

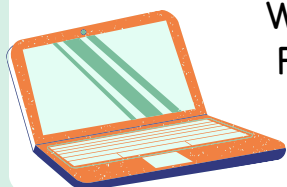
Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association continue to meet and plan to support our school. It would be great to have more help as many hands make light work, Ní neart go cur le chéile! You don't have to be on the committee to help out. This term our PA made pancakes for everyone and will provide the traditional Easter Hunt for the children and they are organising the annual raffle to take place early next term. Please contact the school office if you would like to help out.



Re-Turn Bin

The Parents' Association have arranged to have a re-turn bin here in school and all proceeds will go towards activities/resources for our pupils. The bin is to the left of the front door if you wish to donate your empty cans/plastic bottles towards our school.



Visit our School Website & Social Media Pages

Website: www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

Facebook: Holy Family National School

Instagram: holyfamilyns

Hot Meals



Fresh Today continue to provide us with snacks and hot lunches. Please change your lunch order by Thursday each week. Mrs McGinn can help with any difficulties or contact Fresh Today on office@freshtoday.ie

Green Schools

Dolores our Green School's Officer was working with our Committee and classes again this term. We had a Food Miles information session and our application for the Travel Green Flag has been submitted. Mrs McGinn organised the "Our Shoes" campaign again as well as hi vis and gloves for our Big Spring Clean. Cycle Bus and Scoot to School will take place next term. For more click:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/green-schools.html>



School Policies

Our school community work together on the formation and review of school policy. Many of our policies are available on the school website or by request at the school office. This includes our new Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Anti Bullying Procedures: Bi. Cineálta Policy. Our Child Friendly Policy is displayed around our school.

HSCL Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

Mrs McGinn is available to support the families in our school. She is available on 0830094276 or by email on mrsmcginn@holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

Some of this term's activities are:

Grandparent's Day, St Bridget's Cross Craft, Pancake Tuesday, Food Tasting with Fresh Today, Attendance Campaign and Our Shoes collection.

For more news and information, click:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/home--school-support.html>



School Uniform

The online shop is open for any extras you might need. Stock is now available. Please remember when choosing to wear shorts, plain navy shorts are the uniform requirement. Some clever parents have repurposed school uniform tracksuit bottoms into shorts which are sustainable and look great too!

See link below for the online shop:

<https://oreillysofficial.com/product-category/club-shops/holy-family-n-s-ballyshannon/>

Amber Flag



We continue to work on maintaining our flag.

Ms Mullaney organised the Yard Buddies Project between Senior and Junior Classes has also been set up where our senior pupils mentor the junior pupils at playtime. A 'Lap and Chat' initiative was held recently where the children were encouraged to chat with their walking buddy about anything that was bothering them. Mrs Lewis also spoke about sharing our problems with one another and asking for help at Assembly.

A problem shared is a problem halved!

BE KIND
TO ALL
KIND



Art Workshops

Jacqueline (Art Therapist) once again provided emotional wellbeing art workshops, we are very grateful for these special opportunities for our pupils and we look forward to having Jacqueline back with us in the future.

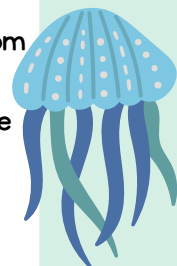
World Book Day Activities

Everyone enjoyed stories with Mrs Lewisin the school hall. Book tokens were given to all our pupils. World Book Day art and interactive activities took place in all classes to celebrate our love of books.



Marine Explorers

David from Marine Explorers started work on this programme with 3rd, 4th and 5th Classes. They had a classroom session all about marine life from global oceans to local seashores. The children learned new words for sealife as gaeilge and received a seashore workbook. They will visit Creevy next term to explore local marine life further.



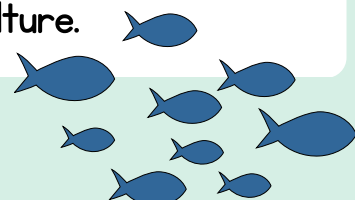
Student Council

This term our Student Council participated in food tasting with our lunch provider Fresh Today to help inform their classes about the changes and nutritional value of our school meals. They gave great feedback and represented their classes really well.



Something Fishy! Fisheries Presentation.

All our classes attended a very special fisheries presentation in the school hall. They were able to study local marine life. They got to find out all about fish native to Ireland, looked at specimen and some even handled the fish! Thank you to the fisheries team. We loved learning all about an industry that is so important to Ireland and our culture.





Ukulele Programme DMEP

Our ukulele programme continues again this year and the children in 4th, 5th and 6th Class have begun to learn tunes with their tutor Nao. It is wonderful to hear live music in our halls and work with Donegal Music Education Partnership. The children are becoming skilled ukulele musicians and it is wonderful to hear their music in the corridors.



Quizzers!!

Well done to all our Quiz Teams who represented the school in the Garda Quiz Competition, Cumann na mBunscol Quiz and the Credit Union Quiz. They certainly were a credit to us!

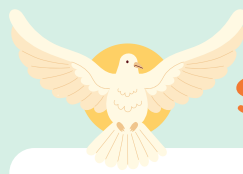


Seachtaine na Gaeilge

Bhí a lán imeachtaí againn le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí dáin agus amhráin i ngach rang agus bhí an scoil go leir ag damhsa An Dreoilín. Bhí Trath na gCeist agus Comórtas Éalaine againn freisin. Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste!

Summer Programme 2026

The Department Guidelines for Summer Programme 2026 have not yet been released. We plan to run a two week Summer Programme from 21st June to 3rd July. Numbers will be dependent on staff availability and criteria as set out in the guidelines will be adhered to. Parents/Guardians will be contacted via email next term regarding how this will work.



School Ethos



Second to Sixth Classes have continued to attend mass in St. Joseph's church every fortnight in preparation for sacraments. Second Class had a very special mass with their families for Grandparents day and celebrated the sacrament of First Penance with Canon Munster on the 11th March. The children in 6th Class have been Ministers of the Word at mass in St. Joseph's Church. Thank you to Anne and Seamus for their support and the gifts to 6th Class.

All classes had the option to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. We had an assembly with our Chairperson Canon Munster in honour of St. Patrick where Canon Munster explained the close relationship between St. Patrick and Ballyshannon. He had a special message from St. Patrick allowing every pupil to receive a bar of chocolate! Our Diocesan Advisor visited the school and was very impressed with all our preparations for Easter.

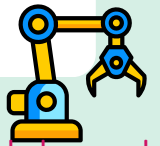


Frog Spawn



Once again we have Frog Spawn to study in our Outdoor Classroom. We obtained a special licence to do this and every class has the opportunity to check in with our visitors and watch them grow and change over the coming weeks. Thank you to Ms Ward and Mr Sweeny for organising this.

Robotics



This term Mr Foley and the team travelled to two events, one in Letterkenny and the other in Longford. The pupils represented our school very well, and in Longford the team held their own finishing above many secondary school teams! Our fantastic team picked up a trophy for the project work they completed across the year. Pupils also created lovely artwork, an engineering notebook and designed a fantastic new jersey for the team.

Swimming

Starts first week back next term. The days for each class are as follows:
Mondays: Rock Hub 1 & 2
Wednesdays: 1st & 2nd Class
Thursdays: 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Class



★
Create a **POSITIVE**
and **INCLUSIVE**
learning
ENVIRONMENT
★



News from the Classes



Click the link to take you to the class page on our school website
If your browser won't bring you to the page you can access everything on www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

Junior Infants: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/junior-infants-ms-martin--ms-delaney.html>

Senior Infants: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/senior-infants-ms-mullaney.html>

First Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/first-class-mr-mc-groary.html>

Second Class: [Link to 2nd Class](#)

Third Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/third-class-mr-sweeny.html>

4th & 5th Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/4th--5th-class-ms-currin.html>

5th & 6th Class: [Link to 5th & 6th Class](#)

Rock Hub, MS McNally: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/hub-1-ms-mc-nally.html>

Rock Hub, MS Luke: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/hub-2-ms-brennan.html>

SET MS McGirr/MS Martin: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/set-ms-maguire.html>

SET, MS Sweeney: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/set-ms-sweeney.html>

Dates to Remember

- School reopens Monday 13th April 2026.
- School closed May Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026.
- School closed June Bank Holiday Monday 1st June 2026.
- School closed Dept Sanctioned Staff Training, Tuesday 9th June 2026.
- School closes for Summer holidays on Friday 19th June at 12:30

School Calendar 2025/2026 is available at:

https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/uploads/8/7/3/8/87385194/school_calendar_2025_2026__5_.pdf