



April 2025 Newsletter



A message from Mrs Lewis

We have had a long and busy term since our return in January! The variety of educational experiences as ever has been vast here in Holy Family National School.

The children have enjoyed activities in sport, the arts, STEM education and we have also made the most of our wonderful outdoor spaces.

This includes a special project organised by Mr. Sweeney, where our specially licenced tadpoles took residence in the outdoor classroom so we could watch them grow and develop, we are wondering if it will be jumping with frogs when we return!

Never a dull moment in our school a jam packed term full of adventures for our wonderful pupils.

We are ready for a rest and some chocolate!

Happy Easter to you all.



Board of Management

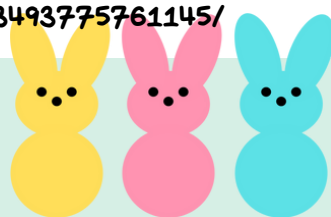
Our Board of Management work constantly behind the scenes to ensure we can deliver the best quality of education for all. Thank you to our Chairperson, Canon Munster and board members, Marie, Bernie, Siobhán, Aiden, Adrian and Lorraine for all their hard work. For more information and Agreed Reports check www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie

Visit our School Website & Social Media Pages

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Elementary-School/Holy-Family-National-School-443493775761145/>



Active Schools

The active committee continued their vibrancy this term with the following activities:

Football, Hurling, Athletics, Skipping (Around Europe!), Dancing (An Dreolín & Céili)

Futsal, Soccer, Cycling (Cycle Right Prog.) and Swimming. To see it all click on:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/active-school-2425.html>



GAA Skills

We were delighted to welcome Brian Roper back to the school to coach GAA skills every Tuesday this term.



Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association continue to support our school by consulting on policy and fundraising for opportunities for our pupils. This term they very generously sponsored the competition t-shirts for the VEX team. They hosted a delicious Pancake Tuesday. They have also organised our annual Easter Hunt and have planned fun fundraisers for next term! Thank you to all our wonderful parents for this support.



Seachtaine na Gaeilge

We had loads of fun activities as Gaeilge. We learning An Dreolín, had a céili, searched the school with our Tóráíocht Taisce le codaí, enjoyed a Tráth na gGeist with our friends from Gaelscoil Eirne. We even had a Seomra Foirne as Gaeilge!



Green Schools

We are working on our new flag "Travel" and have been working with Dolores McWeeney on safety and walkability on our route to school. We have also continued to look into a bus route option for our school to reduce traffic. See information on our school webpage: <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. We recently reviewed our Code of Behaviour and Attendance Strategy.

HSCL Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

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

Some of this term's activities are:

- Stronger Start Grocery Bags
- Crafts with Teal this Thursday! 1-2pm
- Our Shoes Campaign
- Kidstalk in Junior Infants

For more news and information, click:

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



Water Safety Workshop

All children in the school attended a Water Safety Ireland workshop with Rosie where they learned all about keeping safe near water and even practiced throwing a ring buoy.



Amber Flag



Our Yard Buddies are back modelling positive play on our Infant Yards. Everyone is really enjoying working together and both our senior and junior pupils are getting loads out of it. We had a wonderful week in February where we "Spread the Cloak of Kindness". The school community continue to work on the new Bi Cineálta Procedures that have been launched by the Department of Education and a half day closure took place to facilitate this work and our Student Council have been designing a Student Friendly Policy too.

Play & Art Therapy

Thank you to Suzanne (Play Therapist) and Jackie (Art Therapist) for continuing to provide these special opportunities for our pupils.



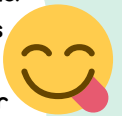
World Book Day Activities

Everyone enjoyed a reading with Mrs Lewis and shared the love of books and stories through book centered activities. Book tokens were given to pupils. Our Library Committee also reviewed our class libraries which have been stocked with new titles throughout the year and some classes visited Ballyshannon library.



Hot Lunches

Free hot lunches continue and our provider Fresh Today let us know of any changes occurring, they are emailed on to parents/guardians so keep a look out for this. You can change the children's choices weekly. Please ensure your choices have been made by Thursday each week for the change to come into effect the following Monday. More information is available on the Fresh Today website www.freshtoday.ie Mrs McGinn can assist anyone having difficulty logging in.



Student Council

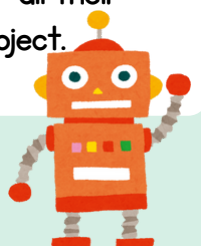
Our Student Council were fantastic at conduction tours around the school during our Open Day and they have been consulting with their classes and Mrs Lewis in relation to the new Bi Cineálta Anti Bullying Procedures.

VEX Robotics

Mr. Foley's 5th & 6th Class were so successful in reaching the All Ireland Finals of the Vex Robotics competition in Cork. We are so proud of our team!

Thank you to all our sponsors:

Centra Ballyshannon, SDM Mulligan Ltd., Lawrence Engineering, Abtech Precision, TMC Ballyshannon, Key Call Locksmith Services, Allan Curran Architects and Shannon's Corner. We also wish to thank our whole school community for their support with our fundraisers and thank you to Steve and Julie Dowling for all their guidance with this amazing project.





Ukulele Programme DMEP

Our ukulele programme is up and running again this year in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes. Nao has been working hard with the classes and they are working on new tunes such as Country Road, Shotgun and Green Grass.



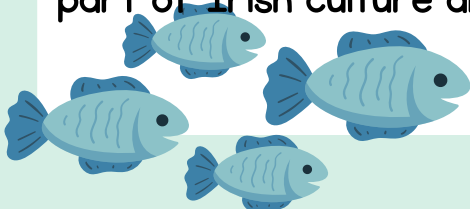
Dance Fit for Second Class

Next Term Second Class will participate in a Dance Fit class with Caroline, we are really looking forward to busting some moves!



Something Fishy! Fisheries Presentation

All our classes attended a very special fisheries presentation in the school hall. We got to find out all about fish native to Ireland, we looked at specimen, asked questions and even handled the fish! Thank you to Oliver and his team. We loved learning about fish, they are a huge part of Irish culture and industry.



Enrolment for September 2025 is now closed. Any inquiries must come through the office. A transition programme will take place next turn for all our new pupils who will have the chance to visit our school before beginning next September.



Create a **POSITIVE**
and **INCLUSIVE**
Learning
ENVIRONMENT

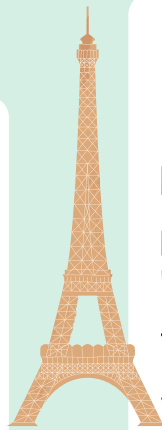


Hurling

Club Aodh Ruadh and the Transition Year students from Coláiste Cholmcille completed their visits to our school and we are very grateful for all the tips and experience they shared with us. Our Cumman na mBunscoil 5 aside Team were incredibly successful at the Ulster finals and made it all the way to the semi finals! Congratulations to James and Axel who participated in the Preliminary Donegal half time game last weekend. We also hosted a blitz this week with schools from Donegal Town and Ballybofey.

Say Yes to Languages

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class have been learning French as part of our Say Yes to Languages Programme. Our tutor Eva says their language skills are très bien!



merci!

School Ethos

As a catholic school our pupils from Second to sixth Class have attended mass fortnightly. We had a special Grandparents Day mass and tea party. Second Class made the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sixth Class will visit Lough Derg on Thursday.



Coláiste Cholmcille TY Science Experiments

Our Infant classes enjoyed science experiments with the TY students and their teacher Mr. Picken.

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.html>

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

First Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/1st-class--mr-mc-groary.html>

Second Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/2nd-class--ms-curran.html>

Third Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/3rd-class--mr-sweeny.html>

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

5th & 6th Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/5th--6th-class--mr-foley.html>

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

Rock Hub, Ms Brennan: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/rock-hub-2--ms-brennan.html>

SET Ms Maguire: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/set--ms-maguire.html>

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

Dates to Remember

- School reopens 28th April 2025.
- School closed Monday 5th May 2025, Bank Holiday.
- Confirmation Saturday 17th May 2025 at Ilam, Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Bundoran.
- First Holy Communion Saturday 24th May 2025 at Ilam, St. Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon.
- School closed Monday 2nd June 2025, Bank Holiday.
- School closes for Summer holidays at 12:30 on Friday 20th June 2025.
- School reopens Wednesday 27th August 2025.

