



Holy Family NS, Newsletter April 2022

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

The pupils in our school have worked very hard this term and I am very proud of their efforts. We enjoy our learning here in Holy Family National School, we promote a strong work ethic and plenty of fun, this combination is enjoyable for everyone! We continue to develop our learning resources and I'm sure you will see the children here benefit from all the hard work and training that our staff continue with.

I know this has been a difficult time for everyone, events unfolding at home and around the world have affected us all. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome anyone who has come to our community from difficult circumstances and to offer any help that may be needed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you all a very happy and safe Easter!

Sarah-Jane.

Our Response to Covid-19

We are continuing to adopt and adapt guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills. Even though many restrictions have been lifted, we continue to reinforce messages of hand washing, sanitising and hygiene. We also continue to monitor and provide ventilation in our classrooms.

Thank you for your continued patience & support.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE



Enrolment

Enrolment for September 2022 took place in February. Due to new national guidelines our enrolment was announced with relevant dates in our Admission Notice published on our website and Facebook Page. We had a fantastic response and are delighted so many families wish to have their children's primary education journey with us. We will be welcoming new pupils to our school for a visit next term to help with their transition to our school.

Board of Management

Our Board of Management work continuously in the background on governance for our school. They are extremely supportive to the school community and wade through lots of paperwork such as policies and guidelines to promote good organization, teaching and learning in our school.

The Agreed Reports from our Board of Management meetings can be viewed on our school website: www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie. Thank you to our BOM for all their hard work.

Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have continued to be very busy and have worked together to continue to support our school. The **Lá Glas**, Quiz in Owen Roe's and **Bunny Hop 5k** fundraisers will contribute towards our new climbing wall and the purchase of treats for the Easter hunts taking place in all classes this week. The Parents' Association are also making plans to have tea/coffee in the school P.E. Hall following the First Holy Communion Mass. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for their hard work and

support! 🙌🙌

iPads: I am delighted that we are continuing to upgrade our ICT infrastructure at school.

A suite of ipads will be purchased with a charging trolley so that every child will have weekly access to ipad educational technology. We are looking forward to creating books, practising



our mental maths and participating in Kahoot quizzes along with lots more!

Active Schools Programme

It's great to have sports leagues back in school and we have really enjoyed the return of the school league and some other inter-school games.

Captains Darragh Mc Cready, Jack Gormley and Connor Grennan led by example in some sporting games in the school league with Darragh's team overcoming Connor's team in the final. All pupils were out on the school field to enjoy the final and it was great to see a well contested game and excellent sportsmanship.

The school participated in a Seachtain na Gaeilge blitz organised by Aodh Ruadh and this year for the first year we have been invited to join the North Leitrim / South Donegal league involving Creevy NS, St Macartan's Bundoran and Kinlough NS. We have already played Kinlough and will have some more games after Easter in this league.

We will also take part in a blitz organised by pupils in the TY GAA Leadership Program in Coláiste Cholmcille and of course Cumann na mBunscol football and Rounders.

In March, we took part in an *Active Break Every Day Challenge*. Every class had an active break every day for a week and we really enjoyed the fresh air and the sunshine.

Swimming will take place for 1st to 6th and our Rock Hub classes. We are delighted to be able to use the fantastic facilities in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre to develop water

confidence and water safety skills.



We hope to take part in the Run Around Ireland Challenge in the summer term and we are all looking forward to Active School Week which is set to take place from 30th May – 3rd June 2022.



Siopa na Scoile

The Siopa na Scoile will be back next term. 6th Class will run a small school shop each Friday for other classes to visit so pupils can purchase a treat if they wish. This is a great opportunity for our senior class to work on their business skills. Details of the Siopa and how it will work will be sent to you early next term.



Online Applications



Remember to check your child's online application to see their homework. These online portfolios are also a great place for you to check progress by looking at all the stored completed activities.

Sensory Room & Trampoline

The installation of our new Sensory Room and mini trampoline took place this term. All of the children have enjoyed visits to the room and have participated in wellbeing activities such as relaxation and mindfulness. We have also used the room as a peaceful place to problem solve.

The mini trampoline is located on the corridor outside Ms McNally's room. We use it to regulate and bounce away excess energy. We love that we can do this even when



it's raining!

Boxes

Boxes will stay in school during the Eater break but please check with your children to see if they need any items replenished such as glue/colours/pens/rubbers/pencils/copies etc.

Green Schools

The application for our first Green School litter and waste flag has been submitted. The Green committee would like to thank the staff, pupils, parents and volunteers for their help and enthusiasm. A huge thanks in particular to Áine O'Loughlen for taking time to talk us through all the steps and giving enormous support and encouragement.

We are continuing with our Big Spring clean activities. Ms Maguire's class attended an amazing workshop on plastic pollution and the issue of plastic waste in the sea and on our beaches. The photos include some of the amazing art work the children created as part of

the event.



Amber Flag

The Amber Flag Committee have been busy discussing the importance of maintaining our Amber Flag status for this year. They have been planning some activities to take place in our school. All of the classes will be invited to take part in a Wellbeing Week during the Summer



Term.

Sacraments

First Penance will take place on Thursday 7th April at 11:00.

Confirmation will take place on the 8th May in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Bundoran at 2:00.

First Holy Communion will take place on the 14th May in St Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon at 11:00.

School Snacks

We have changed snack providers and the children receive snacks from Fresh Today Mon-Thurs and from Spar, Ballyshannon on a Friday. As our pupil numbers have increased and payment for snacks is decided a year in advance, unfortunately we will only have funding to provide snacks up to the beginning of May. We hope to be able to continue with the Friday snacks until the summer holidays. We will let you know in advance when changes will be made.

World Book Day: We enjoyed a wonderful World book day and classes participated in fun activities linked to stories and books. Every class also visited our library for a special story with Mrs Lewis and received a World Book Day token.

News from the Classes!

Mrs McGinn, Junior Infants

Junior infants have lots of news from the last few weeks. The good weather has put a spring in our step! We have put on our Hi Vis jackets and joined the Junior Hub for their morning walk. Our 'Walk on Wednesday' has given the boys and girls a great opportunity to identify some signs of spring and enjoy a chat with their partner along the way.

We celebrated World Book Day with lots of fun activities. The children listened to some wonderful stories. We fed a Very Hungry Caterpillar and painted beautiful butterflies. We discovered there really is such a thing as a Gruffalo, joined him for a walk in the woods and even sang a song about him. Mrs Lewis invited the children to the library and read all about the Gruffalo's child!

The children demonstrated their wonderful Irish dancing and listened to some traditional Irish music to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The girls and boys took part in our class fashion show for Lá Glas.

Our song for Mother's Day was very special to the children and they made a huge effort to sing sweetly for Mum!

We opened a restaurant for Aistear. I was treated to wonderful food and fantastic customer service. I was even given the choice to pay by cash or card!

I am sure the Easter Bunny has enjoyed listening to our bunny songs and poems and will have a little treat for everyone.

Have a very Happy Easter break!



Ms Mullaney's, Senior Infants

We have been developing our reading skills this term by taking part in the Literacy Lift Off Programme. We have also been working on the theme of 'The Restaurant' during 'Aistear' and we have had great fun role playing some very busy Chefs, Waiting Staff and Customers; some satisfied and some not so satisfied!

For our Spring Project, we have gone on Nature Walks to find signs of spring and we have been planting some seeds and watering them each day to help them grow. During Art lessons, we have been experimenting with modelling clay and we have been making our own pots to take our Easter Eggs home from our Easter Egg Hunt! Happy Easter Everyone!



Mr McGroary's, 1st & 2nd Class

We have had a busy term in first and second class with lots of fun activities in all subjects.

In Maths we learned all about pictograms, bar charts and line graphs and surveyed our class on different topics before displaying these results in graph form. We also learned about weight and length and had lots of fun taking measurements of different lengths and weights in the school environment.

In English we have been continuing with station teaching and are currently benefitting from the Literacy Lift Off programme. We have enjoyed welcoming Ms Sweeny, Ms Martin, Mrs Mc Ginn, Mrs Lewis and Mr Foley to our class room to teach the different stations.

In Art we made St Brigid's Day crosses and did art work to celebrate St Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Mothers' Day. For PE we have been enjoying playing movement and ball handling games with Brian Roper and look forward to starting swimming lessons after the

Easter holidays. We also really enjoyed attending the school league Gaelic football final and cheering for both teams.

In SESE we went for a nature walk to observe signs of spring in our environment. We learned about the history of toys and set up a class museum displaying a selection of toys and books that were popular in our parents' and grandparents' times. We also learned to play games that were popular in the past such as draughts, dominoes and card games. We learned all about Spain and completed projects on this. We carried out experiments to demonstrate that plants need sunlight and water to grow. We recently began clear out the garden bed in preparation for planting in a few weeks. We have just started to learn about different types of bridges and are working on bridge construction projects.

Preparations are well underway in second class for the sacraments of Confession and Communion. We have been busy practising our prayers, mass responses and songs ahead of the first of these ceremonies this week.



Ms Maguire's 2nd & 3rd Class

We have all had a lovely term in second and third class and we are working hard on handwriting and reading this term.

We took part in Literacy Lift Off with the SET Team and we read James and the Giant Peach, George's Marvellous Medicine, Fantastic Mr Fox and some of the school's new PM Benchmark readers.

Second class have been getting to grips with renaming and third class have worked hard on fractions and decimals this term.

Both classes have done a lot of work on length and weight and are continuing to work on tables.

We made lovely posts of gold with rainbows in art for Saint Patrick's Day and we are looking forward to a good rest over Easter. Wishing everyone a happy Easter from us all in Rang a dó &



trí!

Mr Sweeney's 4th Class

4th class have had a busy term in school. We did some great work this term in SESE with a lot of hands-on activities such as designing and building our Motte and Bailey castles and our lollipop catapults. We undertook science experiments relating to electricity and forces which can be viewed on our class page on the school website.

We did poster projects on China and digital projects using Jamboard on Endangered Animals.

Our class had a very active term with a high level of participation in the school league and Cycle Bus. We have regular in class movement breaks and weekly sessions with Brian Roper. In PE we are midway through an Athletics Ireland designed program called Fit 4 Class.

We continue our music education with weekly lessons on the tin whistle and Ukulele and hope to record a class music performance next term.

4th Class are benefitting from regular team teaching sessions with Ms Martin and daily in class support from Kay Drummond and are progressing well in all subjects.



Ms Curran's 5th & 6th Class

5th/6th class have had a very busy term! We began our 'Couch to 5k' programme just after Christmas and each week we completed laps of Mundy's field. Everyone put in a tremendous effort and we celebrated by completing our 'Graduation' run in March. As you can see from the photos we had a few very tired participants! Well done boys and girls!

We also participated in a number of webinars this term. We got an insight into the daily work of Dr. Theresa Corbett, a Psychologist who gave us plenty of tips on our attitudes and outlook on achievement and how to stay healthy. We also participated in a 'sketch note-taking' workshop - an alternative way to take notes. This was particularly useful for our 6th class who will be moving on to secondary school next year!

We celebrated a number of special days this term. On Pancake Tuesday we became Café owners and competed against each other to make the cheapest pancake! We made St. Brigid's crosses to honour one of our patron saints, we participated in a number of events for Seachtain na Gaeilge as well as dressing up in green for our 'lá glas.' We also completed class projects on South America, The Amazon Rainforest, Brazil and the Incas.

Confirmation preparation is well underway and our Confirmation children have been very active in their contribution to the parish by reading at Sunday mass each week in the Rock chapel. They have done a fantastic job so far and we are looking forward to a very special day on May 8th. Our Summer term is shaping up to be a very busy one and definitely one to remember!



Ms Brennan's Rock Hub

The students in the Senior Rock Hub have been doing great work reading about Tom Crean and his adventures in Antarctica. They have been learning about electricity and circuits and assembled a wind powered car. They have been learning to read music notation to play rhythms to songs. The boys have been having fun learning new games like Uno and Monopoly. They did fantastic work in clay art. The students have been really enjoying time in the new sensory room.



Ms McNally's Rock Hub

Spring is here! We planted potatoes in tubs on March 3rd.



They are inside at the moment so the frost won't get them.
We hope they'll be ready to bring home for dinner just before the summer holidays!

Mary brought a little black lamb to school today. He was only a day old and we were very gentle.



We also had great fun dressing up for St. Patrick's Day!

On world book day, Mrs Lewis read Jack and the Flumflum Tree. It was a very funny book.

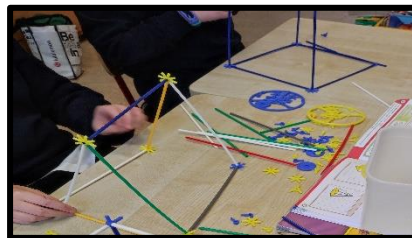
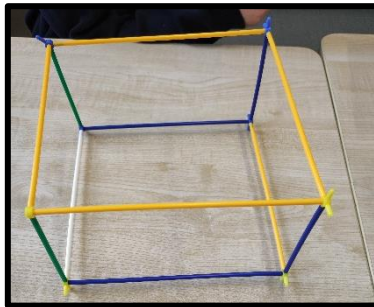
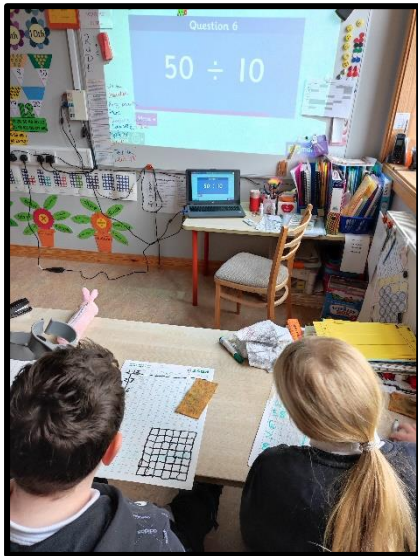


Ms Martin SET

It's been a busy busy term and the boys and girls have been working so hard, especially in Maths. We are practising our tables in 3rd and 4th and we're getting very fast at remembering them. We really enjoy playing the online games 'Hit The Button' and 'Daily 10 Challenge'...we try to beat our own score from the previous day!

We also learned lots about 3d shapes and we used straws and matchsticks to make cubes, cuboids, prisms and square based pyramids! We also set up a shop and had to calculate the total amount and the change needed for our items.

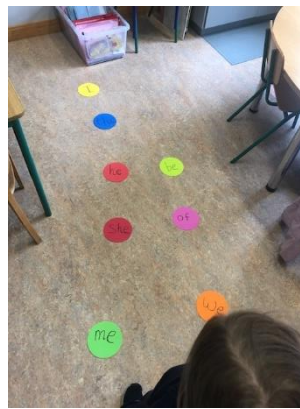
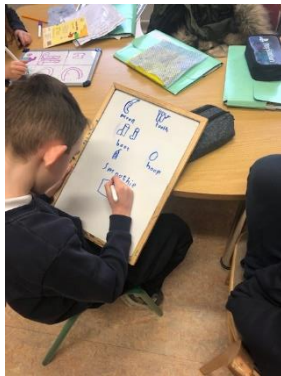
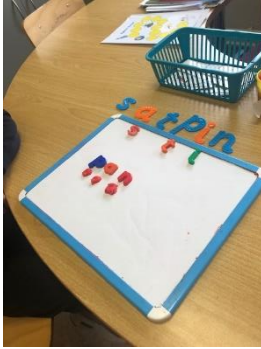
The Sensory Room has also been a fantastic addition and all the boys and girls have really enjoyed visiting it. Keep up the great work! 😊



Ms Sweeney SET

The junior classes have been working very hard over the last couple of months practicing their phonological awareness, (syllable counting and rhyming), phonics, sight words and blending skills. Have a look at the photographs below that show you all of the fun ways that we have been practicing these skills!

5th and 6th class have been making a concerted effort to use a variety of comprehension strategies when reading so that they are actively engaged in the reading process. They have also been trying out lots of fun ways to practice their spellings such as the game "Word Wipe-out". I hope everyone enjoys their well deserved Easter holidays.



Dates for next term:

School re-opens on Monday 25th April 2022

May Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 2nd May 2022.

June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 6th June 2022.

Summer Holidays: School closes Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 12:30pm

Remember to check out our website:

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

and to like us on Facebook:

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

Have a lovely Easter and stay safe
everyone!

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