



December Newsletter

A message from Mrs Lewis

At the end of this term I am amazed at all the hard work that has taken place in the school. We have thoroughly enjoyed the lead up to Christmas. The elves have been busy here with theatre and cinema trips, Christmas performances, baking and craft as well as a visit from Santa himself. I wish to thank our dedicated staff for all the extra effort and hard work they have given in order to enhance the learning in an enjoyable and festive manner.

I am very proud of everything our pupils have achieved and I know every pupil is on the good list! I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2024!



A Visit from Santa

All classes enjoyed a visit from the man in red himself on Monday 11th December. He gave everyone a gift of a Christmas annual, thank you to our Parents' Association who helped Santa fund the gifts.

Concern Primary Debates

5th and 6th Class competed in the Concern Primary Debating competition. They performed fantastically well and were narrowly defeated in the 2nd round. We are very proud of our teams and the entire class who assisted with invaluable research.



Parents' Association

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support in all our fundraising efforts for our school throughout the year it is all much appreciated. Our children benefit so much from it all, from the halloween disco to the Christmas annuals, Easter egg hunts, ice cream truck etc. We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Looking forward to what we have lined up for our children in the new year.



Visit our School Website & Social Media Pages

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

Facebook:

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



Green Schools

We Our fantastic Green School Committee is up and running! We have children from all classes involved and they are looking forward to applying for our second flag in March.

Our Halloween costume exchange and Christmas jumper donation was a great success. Thank you to everyone who donated or collected from the school.

The committee will provide a work pack for each class, in the new year, based on the theme of 'The Water Cycle' We will also organise some experiments to see how we can reduce the amount of water wasted while carrying out everyday tasks such as brushing our teeth, watering plants and washing.

We will organise our annual 'Big Spring Clean' in the spring term.

As a follow on from our theme of Litter and Waste we are recycling materials to make beautiful handmade cards and art and craft Christmas projects.

Here are a few of our tips for a Green Christmas...

Make your own gift tags using cut out pictures from old cards.

Recycle wrapping paper. Remember to remove the adhesive tape.

Dispose of leftover food waste in your compost bin.

Switch off lights when you are not in the room.

Happy Christmas!

Christmas Performances

All classes prepared and participated in Christmas performances. It is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to show their skills particularly those who enjoy this curriculum area the most!



HSCL Home School Community Liaison

Thank you so much to everyone involved in our HSCL activities this term.

The Christmas Shoe Box collection was a great success. The children always love to see the boxes stacked and displayed, ready for collection. Thank you so much for your support with this project and for your donations to our Halloween costume and Christmas jumper collections.

It was a lovely to meet everyone at the Parent/Teacher evenings and welcome our new parents to the school. I am really looking forward to seeing you all again for our Christmas show performances.

Thank you for getting behind the 'Hip, hip, hooray! We're all here today.' I had so much fun popping into the classrooms with certificates and prizes. You can see some of the class photos and video on our school facebook page.

Thank you to Teresa Maguire and to the parents/guardians from our Christmas craft mornings. We crafted, chatted and, under Teresa's watchful eye, we created some lovely cards and decorations.

Thank you also to the parents/guardians using our Bedtime Book library. It is fantastic to see so many children and parents collecting books every Thursday.

I have booked some Dance Fit sessions for parents/guardians in the New Year to give us all a chance to start the New Year with music and dancing! I will send out more information closer to the time.

I would like to especially thank the parents who invited me into their homes, called to meet me in school or got in touch this term. My role is to listen to parents and help in any way can. I am always here to chat or offer support.

If you would like to contact me please email mrsmcginn@holyfamilyballyshannon.ie or by phone 083 0094276.

Have a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Anita

Coaching

We have been so lucky to have Brian Roper, Youth games development co-ordinator, Donegal GAA coaching the children from 1st to 6th class every Friday.

They have enjoyed learning skills and playing games with Brian. He also took our Infants for a special session!

Christmas Lights

Thank you again to Niall, Darragh, James and Annie McCreedy for putting up our wonderful Christmas lights. Our Christmas spirit can be seen from the other side of town!

Christmas Cinema Trips

All classes enjoyed a Christmas trip to the cinema. Everyone had popcorn and a drink while enjoying a Christmas movie.

Thank you to Eclipse Cinema in Bundoran who sponsor a free cinema pass to our Happy Gram Award winners.

Enrolment September 2024!

Enrolment for a school place in September 2024 will open on Monday 12th February 2024.

Enrolment application forms will be available on the school website or call in to see us.



Active School



Pupils from 1st- 6th class have been enjoying practicing their G.A.A. skills with Brian Roper every Friday.

A big thank you to Mr Sweeny who organised a Hurling and Gaelic Blitz in Munday's field with five other schools Creevy N.S., Scoil Naomh Chaitriona, Rockfield N.S., St Peters N.S., Mountcharles and Gaelscoil na gCeithre Máistrí. Pupils from 3rd- 6th class really enjoyed their day and great skill and sportsmanship was demonstrated.

This term some classes enjoyed partaking in the Dare to Believe Olympic Movement Breaks initiative. This was a four-week programme where they partook in different movement breaks which were demonstrated by different Olympic athletes every day.

A special mention to Kayla in Mr Sweeny's class who was named as under 12 "Aodh Ruadh Player of the Year".



Mr Sweeny, Mr McGroary and Ms Sweeney have taken after school sessions in hurling on Thursdays from 3-4pm. This voluntary coaching is much appreciated and was evident in the schools blitz!



Acceptable Use Reminder

We understand that social media groups such as Whats App and Messenger can be very handy for parents to use when organising playdates or activities outside school. However, in the interest of respect and fairness to everybody and as these groups are not moderated, we ask that school staff and policy is not discussed in these groups. Please use one of our other many methods of communication to discuss any issue/question you may have directly with school staff. Our school Acceptable Use Policy has information on the use of social media in our school and is available on our website:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/policies.html>

Amber Flag

Holy Family N.S. aims to be an anti-bullying school by being a 'Reach Out School'. During Anti-Bullying month in November, the Amber Flag Committee informed each class about some of the activities that we have in place in our school that help us to build friendships. These include helping our friends in class, giving compliments and being inclusive in the yard. They also told us about the Poster Competition being held called 'We are a Reach Out School'.



News from the Classes

Click the link to take you to the class page on our school website

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---mrs-curranmr-breslin.html>

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

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

5th & 6th Class: <https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/5th--6th---mr-sweeny.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

February Closures: 5th, (Bank Holiday), 15th & 16th (Mid-term Break)

St Patrick's Day Closure: Monday 18th March

Easter Holidays: School closes 22nd March at 12:30 and re-opens Monday 8th April