



Holy Family NS, Newsletter June 2021

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

I can't believe it is the end of our school year and it has been a very eventful one! I'm delighted with the spirit and resilience shown by everyone in our school community. Nothing could stop the enthusiasm for learning and fun here in Holy Family National School.

This term we embraced the good weather and used innovative ways to enjoy the summer term regardless of restrictions. We managed to go on trips and tours and to have our Sport for Fun Day. We also transitioned our new student intake to and 6th Class from the school using all the tools available to us while keeping everyone safe.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff, parents and friends of our school for the warm welcome I have received during my first year at Holy Family NS. I would also like to thank the incredibly supportive Board of Management, Chairperson Father Munster and Parents' Association who always work hard behind the scenes for the betterment of our school. Wishing you all a very happy and safe Summer!

Sarah-Jane.

Our Response to Covid-19

We will continue to adopt and adapt guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills. We have a Covid-19 section on our school website where you can access documents and information at any time.

We will continue to deliver government advice and follow procedure and restrictions accordingly in the new school year. We ask that you reinforce these messages at home. There are also updates available to parents on www.education.ie

Communication with the school is extremely important, thank you to those of you who have kept us informed, this gives us the opportunity to seek advice in a timely manner.

All information is treated with confidentiality, Due to Data Protection, the school staff cannot identify any case or suspected case of Covid-19. If it is decided that close contacts need to be informed, this will be done by the HSE.

Thank you for your continued patience & support.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE





Farewell Ms. Timoney

Ms. Timoney will be retiring at the end of this school year. We are so sad to lose one of our most experienced and dedicated teachers. During her time at Holy Family NS, she has impacted the learning and development of so many pupils. She has been a wonderful teacher and the staff and children have benefitted from her commitment. She will be missed as a colleague and a friend. We wish Ms. Timoney a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

Slán 6th Class

We are also saying goodbye to our fantastic 6th class who will be transitioning to post primary schools. They have been wonderful role models as our senior class this year and we are very proud of them. They are celebrating with a pyjama day today and a graduation ceremony tomorrow. We wish them every success as they continue their educational journey.



Welcome to our new pupils!

We have been working hard to help our new pupils transition to our school. We sent a virtual tour of our school to them along with updates and information via email and post. We also continue to update our social media and school website regularly.



Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have continued to be very active and have worked together to sponsor many events and treats for our pupils. Their fundraisers have contributed to our coaching costs for our Sport for Fun Day and Active School Week as well as the yummy treat of ice-cream for everyone 😊 They are currently co-ordinating a clothes collection for school funds. All funds the Parents' Association raise go straight to our pupil's education activities and enjoyment and it's great to be able to treat our pupils with their

help. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for their hard work and support!



Music and the Environment:

2nd and 3rd Class participated in a wonderful programme promoting music and the environment this term. They had weekly zoom sessions with Anette McNelis and really enjoyed the workshops.



New Music Programme

Next year we hope to introduce the Donegal Primary Music Programme and every child in 4th, 5th & 6th class will have the opportunity to learn the ukulele, more details will follow in September.



Ocean Awareness Project: 6th Class also participated in workshops and presentations based on ocean awareness and conservation. The children presented their work to their tutor Mark O'Connor via Zoom and learned about ocean life. We were very impressed with their knowledge and dedication to leave no trace.





Online Applications

We will be archiving our current Seesaw Classes and Google Classrooms. If you wish to download a copy of your child's work please use the following link for instructions: <https://help.seesaw.me/hc/en-us/articles/208754866-How-do-families-and-students-download-an-archive-of-student-work->

We will set up new Seesaw and Google Classroom classes next year and your child will continue to engage with these online tools for homework and communication with their new class teacher.

Boxes

All children are once again asked to bring home their classroom book boxes on either Monday or Tuesday. The box has been placed on all book lists and will be in use again next year.

Sacraments:

We are delighted to be able to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with our 6th Class pupils on 21st August and Communion with our current 2nd class on the 25th September. We wish them every blessing with their preparation.

Active School Week:

Active School Week was a great success with activities all week including Yoga, Aerobic Dance, walking trips, drop everything and dance and culminating in a vibrant Sport for Fun Day! Thank you to Ms. Maguire who co-ordinated our activities and to all our coaches and volunteers Donna McGowan and her mother Bernie, Emer & Ivan O'Mahony, Brian Roper, Sylvester & Gráinne Maguire, Barbara Aluk and Clara Roberts.



Autism Project

We have an amazing pupil in 6th class who chose to share his project on Autism with us. This project contains great information to help us all understand and embrace Autism Awareness. Thank you and well done to Thomas White.



The Rock Hub

We continue to prepare for our new Autism Specialist Unit. Over the past number of weeks we have been learning about Autism and the Rock Hub in assembly. We are working hard to create an inclusive atmosphere for everyone in the school.

Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, next year the children in the school will participate in integration and reverse integration with the Rock Hub. This means children from the Rock Hub will visit mainstream classes to participate in lessons and children from the mainstream classes will visit the Rock Hub to participate in programmes or activities. This will promote an inclusive atmosphere in our school and benefit all pupils with their academic and holistic education. The positive response from our school community has been wonderful and it is of vital importance that parents and families continue to support and embrace this integration throughout the school.

News from the Classes!

Mrs Lewis, Junior Infants

We have had another fantastic term in Junior Infants, I can't believe how much everyone has grown and progressed over the year!, We have continued revising all of our letter sounds and digraphs and been busy working and playing with maths games and activities. In Aistear, we set up a Garden Centre and learned all about plant care, vegetable growing and flower craft. Our road safety walk took us in search of ice-cream. Our cinema trip to see Peter Rabbit 2 was a great success and we enjoyed all the activities during Active School Week. To be honest we are a bit tired now and well ready for a relaxing break!

I'm so proud of our wonderful Junior Infants who worked with enthusiasm all year despite the challenges they faced. Maith sibh!!



Ms McGinn, Senior Infants

What a busy last term it has been in Senior Infants! The children have worked so hard. They have managed to have lots of fun too.

I am so proud of all they have achieved this year. It is amazing how much they have grown and matured.

They have been a lovely bunch to teach and I have enjoyed working with them very much.

I know their highlights for the last term would be our fun for all day (especially the ice cream van!), our trip to the cinema, our chalk art and listening to all our June fairy tales.

Their interactive panel has also been a hit!

Thank you for all the wonderful support you have given this year. I wish you all a very happy and healthy and summer break.



Ms Mullaney, 1st & 2nd Class

The children in our classroom have worked really well this year. Two long running competitions have been held daily in our classroom from March until May (girls V boys). The girls in 1st and 2nd were the winners of the 'Sparkle Spelling Competition' and the boys in 1st and 2nd were the winners of the 'Tables Champion Competition'. Each child also took part in our daily 'Good Friends' initiative which proved to be very successful for us as it helped to promote friendship and inclusion in the yard. We recently went on a trip to the Mall Park where we had ball games and parachute

games as well as having fun in the playground.

Well done to all of the children in 1st & 2nd Class. Hope you all really enjoy the summer holidays.



Ms Maguire's 2nd & 3rd Class

Second and third class learned all about the life cycle of a dandelion in science. They also acted out the stages of the life cycle in drama. They made **papier-mâché** bumblebees in art and learned about capacity and 3-D shapes in maths.

Second and third class were very fortunate to have live zoom lessons with Annette McNelis this term. The lessons, called “Environment the Musical,” tied in elements of music, drama and geography to highlight the importance of caring for our world.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been starting off each day with some mindfulness and meditation to calm our minds and to give our bodies a rest.

Second and third class have worked so hard this year and I am really proud of them all!



Mr McGroary's 4th & 5th Class

We have had busy summer term in Fourth and Fifth Class and have undertaken lots of fun activities as well as the usual school work.

Earlier in the term we cleared and painted the garden bed in preparation for planting. When we were confident the threat of night time frost had passed, we sowed onions, carrots, leek, lettuce broccoli and cauliflower. The recent warmer weather has seen growth really take off but we do have a considerable bit of further weeding to do now! Hopefully when we return to school in September we will have a plentiful harvest.

As a reward for our hard work in class we went on a trip to the mall park a few weeks ago. We had a great time in the playground, playing with the sports equipment and playing cops and robbers across at the handball alley. Active Schools week was great fun and we walked a four kilometre route around town for our 'Walk on Wednesday'. Our Sport for Fun day was brilliant with the Zumba dancing and Tug o' War competition being particular highlights.

For our school tour we went for a surfing lesson to Rosstown. We had a great time in the water with many of us successfully maintaining a standing position while riding the waves. Afterwards played games on the beach with the surfing instructors and had a sandcastle building competition.



Mr Sweeney's 6th Class

6th Class bring the curtain down on their primary school days with a mixture of excitement and sadness as they prepare for secondary school. The class had a wonderful last term where they worked hard in class and enjoyed some super activities such as a class cycle to Bundoran, surfing lessons and a beach day in Rosstown, a Pyjama Day in the Hall and a Super Sports Day. See our Class webpage for some lovely photos of our activities. The class of 2021 are a great group of pupils and a credit to the school and their families and they will be really missed by the teachers and other pupils next year,



Ms McNally

It's been very busy for the Special Education Team this year. We continued work in the senior classes on Friends for Life, an excellent programme teaching resilience skills. We also used a team-teaching approach to deliver a differentiated spelling intervention throughout the school. Everyone worked hard and enjoyed learning new skills.



Please scroll down for next year's school calendar.



School Holiday Calendar 2021/2022

**Dates may change and are subject to change in response Department of Education Guidelines in relation to the response to Covid-19*

School re-opens after summer holiday on Monday 30th August 2021.

October 2020 Mid-Term Break: School closed Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2020 (inclusive). School re-opens Monday 1st November 2021.

Christmas Holidays: School closes Wednesday 22nd December 2021 at 12:30pm. School re-opens Thursday 6th January 2022.

February Mid-Term Break: School closed Thursday 24th & Friday 25th February 2021. School reopens Monday 28th February 2022.

St Patrick's Day: School closed Wednesday 17th & Friday 18th March 2022.

Easter Holidays: School closing Friday 8th April at 12:30pm. 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 Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 12:30pm.

Remember to check out our website & social media:

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

Instagram:

[Holy Family NS Ballyshannon](#)

Twitter:

[@HolyFamilyNS_](#)

and to like us on Facebook:

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

Have a lovely Summer and stay safe
everyone!