



## Holy Family NS, Newsletter June 2022

### A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

Here we are again at the end of our school year and it has been a very busy one! Having completed our first full year in the building out of three, our pupils have had great enthusiasm and energy! Once again, the spirit and resilience shown by everyone in our school community was fantastic. The warm, friendly atmosphere for learning and fun continues here Holy Family National School.

This term, despite the weather, we have had a fantastic time both outdoors and indoors. School tours took place, we welcomed parents and families back into the building for the first time in a long time and it has been a happy term!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff, parents and friends of our school for all the hard work and support here in our school. 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, relaxing and safe Summer!  
Sarah-Jane.

### Slán 6<sup>th</sup> Class

We are also saying goodbye to our fantastic 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Last week our new Junior Infant class came to visit the school. They enjoyed meeting their new teacher Ms Martin and all their new friends. Meanwhile the parents had tea/coffee and Mrs Lewis spoke to them about

**getting ready to start school. 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 new iPad Suite, paid for our new climbing wall as well as the yummy treat of ice-cream

for everyone 😊 on Sport for All Day. They organized and funded the Communion party here in the school too. 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. The Parents' Association Committee have also consulted on new school policies and their input has been much appreciated. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for

their continued hard work and support! 🙌 A special thank you has to be expressed to our outgoing chairperson Angela Greenan who has been a fantastic support to the school with her can do attitude and positive approach to working in partnership with the school. Go raibh maith agat Angela!

## Music Programme

We participated in the Donegal Primary Music Programme and every child in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class had the opportunity to learn the ukulele, We were so lucky to have Brian O'Sullivan our tutor who worked with the classes throughout the year. Everyone enjoyed the end of year Ukulele concert and we hope to have this programme at school again next year.



### 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 were delighted to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with our 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils and First Penance and Communion with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. These were very special occasions celebrated with family in the church and in school.

### Active Schools:

Active School Week was a great success with activities all week including Yoga, Run Around Ireland, walking tours, drop everything and dance and culminating in a vibrant Sport for All Day! Thank you to Ms. Maguire and the Active School Team, who co-ordinated our activities and to all our coaches and volunteers.

Over 30 pupils from 4th to 6th class played in our school league this year with captains Darragh Mc Cready, Jack Gormley and Connor Grennan displaying great leadership and sportsmanship. It was just great to return this year to inter school games. We played in the Aodh Ruadh Seachtain na Gaeilge inter school tournament, The Coláiste Cholmcille primary school tournament, The North Leitrim South Donegal (NLSL) league and the Cumann na mBunscol blitzs. Well done to both the girls and boys teams and we hope to see you all continuing to play football with Aodh Ruadh and the school for years to come. Thank you Mr Sweeny for all the organization and Mr McGroary for all the training.

### Skipathon

Last Friday saw a magnificent Skipathon event where the whole school skipped to the Ukraine! We raised €188 to help support Ukrainians locally. A huge thank you to Emer and Ivan O'Mahoney, Ms Maguire and our Active Committee who organized the whole event. A short video of our Skipathon can be seen here:

<https://www.magisto.com/int/album/video/eH0kQVIBEkEINX8HDmEwCXh3?l=vsm&o=a&c=e>



## Swimming

All classes completed the Primary Aquatic Water Safety (PAWS) programme this term and our 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and Rock Hub pupils attended swimming lessons in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre. Everyone developed water confidence, safety and swimming skills ready for the summer holidays. A big thank you to the staff in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre who



provided fantastic lessons.

## Green School Flag

I am delighted to say our application for the Green Flag was successful. Thank you so much to all the children, staff and parents who helped out in so many ways. Special thanks to the Green School Committee and Áine for all the hard work and enthusiasm.



## Play Therapy

We have been so lucky to have access to the skills of Suzanne Byrne, play therapist this year. Suzanne has volunteered to work with some of the pupils in our school



with great success. We hope to welcome Suzanne back again next year.

## Ombudsman for Children Visit

The Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon visited our school, he met all classes and worked with Mr. McGroary's class. He was very impressed with our pupil voice and wrote to tell us how much he enjoyed his visit. We are very proud of the welcome our Holy Family pupils always give to visitors!

## iPad Suite

Our new iPad suite has arrived! 16 iPads in a charging trolley will be shared by classes in September. Every child will have access to this technology and we can't



wait to get started with these new ICT learning tools!!!

## Amber Flag

We are delighted to have received re accreditation for our Amber Flag! Our Amber Flag committee work very hard on reminding us to look after our mental health and well being and we are very grateful to them. These important skills will help us to take on any challenges that come our way. A big thank you to Ms Mullaney and the



Amber Flag Committee.

### Climbing Wall

We are literally climbing the walls here!! So delighted with the new addition of our Climbing Wall. Conall from Carraig Climbing who designed and built our wall also came to the school to provide a workshop on different ways to use it and games to play.

### Book Lists & Book Rental Scheme

We are delighted to be increasing our book rental scheme. Next September you will see in the junior classes the extensive range of reading materials that will be provided by the school. The Senior end of the school will receive English, history, geography, religion and science books provided as part of our book rental scheme. This is to try to reduce book list costs.

## News from the Classes!

### Ms McGinn Junior Infants

Junior Infants have had a very busy last term. Our active school week was great fun for everyone and our Sports for all day was a huge success. The ice cream van made a welcome visit and coach Declan was also there on the day to add to the fun.

Our school trip to the lifeboat station in Bundoran was a really fantastic day out. The children sang The Wheels on the Bus as we travelled along! The boys and girls had a wonderful tour of the RNLI station and learned so much about the important role the RNLI play in our community and the safety rules we need to follow when near water.

The cinema trip to see The Bad Guys was so much fun we are still talking about it a week later and singing along to the song. It was almost as entertaining as watching Mrs Mc Ginn try to make it across the climbing wall. Rumour has it she fell off three times!

It has been a pleasure to work with the Junior Infants this year and a joy to watch them grow and develop their talents and abilities. It is amazing how much they

achieve in a year. Thank you all so much for your support and I wish you all a very happy and healthy summer break.



### Ms Mullaney Senior Infants

Senior Infants have had a great year. The highlights for our class included performing our Christmas Play 'Born in a Barn', taking part in the Sport Ireland Athletics Programme and going on the School Easter Egg Hunt. We had great fun on our School Trip to Castle Adventure Farm where we were able to pet lots of animals and we also really enjoyed visiting the ice cream van during the Fun for All Day! We are looking forward to our summer holidays and we hope that everyone enjoys the well deserved break.





## Ms McNally Junior Rock Hub

This term we enjoyed going to swimming lessons. It was a wonderful chance to build up water confidence and learn water skills. Our teacher was Rosie and she led the children in their lessons.

Everybody can put their face under water now and even blow bubbles. We have been using floats and noodles to practise kicking and building confidence. WE can push a ball under water and make it POP back up! We had rings too and lifted them off the swimming pool floor with our toes. We also studied the LAND PAWS water safety programme.



We had some fun during the year playing with our friends in the yard. Look at this fantastic smile!



## Mr McGroary 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

We have had a very busy term again in first and second class.

Early in the term we participated in a workshop run by the Office of the Ombudsman for children. We learned all about children's rights and were delighted to welcome the

Ombudsman, Dr Niall Muldoon, to our classroom where he spoke about his work, answered questions and even signed autographs.

We really enjoyed our 'Sports for All' day a few weeks ago. We loved participating in all the different events such as Tug o' War, Zumba dancing and obstacle courses. A particular highlight was the indoor disco where we showed off all our wonderful dance moves.

We had a great day at Castle Adventure Farm on our school tour. We got a tour of the farm where we learned about all the different animals and got to pet a selection of animals. We went on the barrel train, drove the mini-diggers, played mini golf and had great fun in all the different play areas.

We continued with our work in the school garden throughout the term. We did a lot of preparatory work on weeding the garden bed and loosening the soil. We planted a variety of flower seeds about four weeks ago and we can already see these beginning to grow.

Second class celebrated the sacrament of communion just over a month ago. This was a very special occasion for the children and their families. The children had a fabulous day and their display of spirituality in the church was a real credit to their families and to the school.

We also really enjoyed participating in 'Wellness Week', 'Active Schools Week' and just this week enjoyed a demonstration on how to use our new climbing wall.





### Ms Maguire 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to commend second and third class on all their hard work. They have really matured throughout the year and have learned how to work together as a team.

Congratulations to the children in second class who made their First Holy Communion. I was very proud of you all!

We had a great time at Castle Adventure Open Farm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June for our school tour and we especially loved the tunnel slides, the diggers, and, of course, Mary Poppins the goat!

Thank you to all the parents in second and third class for all your support throughout the school year. Wishing you all a happy and safe summer!



### Mr Sweeny 4<sup>th</sup> Class

We had an excellent last term in 4<sup>th</sup> Class and I must say that this group were a very well behaved and hard working class and a credit to their families. We had lots of activities in the last few months. We had great participation from the class on the Cycle Bus as well as a few Town Walks, our Fit 4 Class Program, our Run around Ireland, Skíp to Ukraine, swimming lessons and indeed on our school football team. Many thanks to Anthony Begley who led our History walk around Ballyshannon, to our GAA coach Brian Roper and the staff of Ballyshannon Leisure Centre who were so helpful with our swimming lessons.

We really enjoyed our Ukulele lessons with Brian and we have some excellent tin-whistlers among our group.

In SESE with completed digital projects in Endangered Species and Legends from Ireland and elsewhere. We also enjoyed some science activities, particularly learning about electrical circuits.

We had a taster session with the schools new iPad suite and had a few fun Kahoot quizzes. We look forward to developing our iPad skills next year.

Videos and photos of some of these activities can be viewed on our class page on the school website.



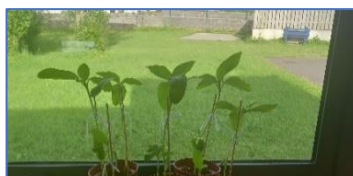
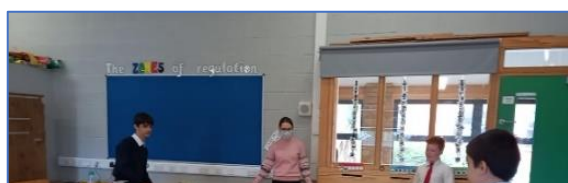
## Ms Brennan Rock Hub Senior Room

The students in the Senior Rock Hub have been busy this term and were delighted to welcome a new student Sasha to the school. During this term we have been working hard on developing our gross motor skills daily with different activities in class and by playing games outside. We had lots of fun on our school tour to Five Star Fun and got to visit Mullaghmore beach. In class, we learnt about sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine. We planted sunflower seeds, monitored their growth and noticed that they turn their leaves to follow the sun. The students also painted their own sunflowers.

In English, the students worked on the genre of storytelling. They listened to different stories, played storytelling games and practised creating characters and settings. The boys used story cards to help them create and write their own stories. They have also been doing project work on myths and legends with Mr Sweeny. The students did great work on their reading this term and finished their novels 'The Explorer' and 'Ice Man'.

In maths we have been learning about money, 3D shapes, time, length, perimeter and area. The students created their own 3D structures and worked together to measure the area and perimeter of the P.E hall. They also followed instructions to carry out measurements on a map to find treasure.

In music we have been playing rhythms and games with percussion instruments. The students have been great at learning solfa notes using bells and hand-signs. We also used a parachute to respond to music. The students had fun matching sounds to instruments on the interactive board.





## Ms Curran 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class have had an extremely busy summer term and are ready for a well earned rest! After Easter 6<sup>th</sup> class opened their 'Siopa na Scoile.' They spent time deciding what to sell as well as adding up totals and budgeting each week. The siopa was a great success and the children should be congratulated on their efforts and commitment to this great entrepreneurial opportunity.

5<sup>th</sup> class participated in a reading partnership programme with the younger classes. They have spent time reading to children in the infant classes and reading with reading groups in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. It was great to be able to introduce these initiatives again and 5<sup>th</sup> class really enjoyed their time with the younger pupils.

Swimming lessons also took place this term for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class. The children in the class have come on leaps and bounds since their first lesson and they all got a certificate for their participation and progress.

6<sup>th</sup> class received the sacrament of Confirmation on 8<sup>th</sup> May. They all did fantastically well and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

Our school tour this year was to Zip-it on Lough Key. All children had a brilliant time and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We have a few dare devils in our midst! The behaviour on the day was excellent and all children took great care and time when completing the zip lines. Maith sibh a pháistí!

6<sup>th</sup> class have enjoyed lots of fun activities to bring their primary school journey to an end. They enjoyed a school 'sleep in' where they spent the day in the hall with movies, board games and treats. They also enjoyed a trip to Bundoran where they went bowling and watched Sonic 2 in the cinema. They used the profit they made from the Siopa to fund their trip and this was a great lesson to understand and appreciate the value of money.

5/6<sup>th</sup> class also enjoyed a pizza party that celebrated their time together as a class and also their hard work throughout the year.

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the school year and that 6<sup>th</sup> class will now be moving on to bigger adventures. We wish them all the best in September as they take on secondary school. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh Rang 6!





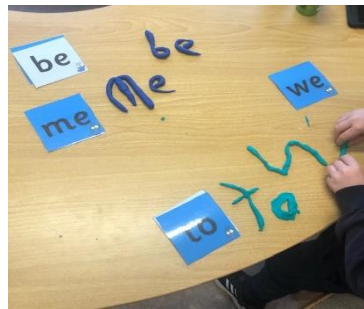
Ms. Sweeney S.E.T.

It has been such a busy but exciting summer term! In between sports day, school tours and swimming to name but a few we have done lots of work revising everything that we have learned this year! Have a look below at all of the different ways we have been revising our literacy and numeracy work in both the junior and senior end of the school.

I am so proud of the progress that all of the children have made due to all of their hard work this year. They are all so deserving of a fun filled summer break!

Enjoy your summer boys and girls and I look forward to seeing you all again in September. A special mention to 6<sup>th</sup> class who are moving on to Colaiste Cholmcille, Enjoy every minute of this new and exciting chapter in your life!





### Ms Martin SET

What a busy summer term it has been from school tours to Sports Day! Ms Martin's boys and girls have been very busy practising all they have learned through different games from Bingo, multiplication Jenga and some trips to the sensory room after all that hard work. We have also been using a new programme called Weaving Well-Being in which we focus on learning, identifying and using some of our 24 character strengths. We spotted our friends using their strengths too and added them to our well-being wall. Well done boys and girls on a fantastic school year!



**Remember to check out our website & social media:**

**[www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie](http://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/>**

We look forward to welcoming you all  
back to school on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>  
August 2022.

Have a lovely Summer and stay safe  
everyone!