



Holy Family NS, Newsletter June 2023

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents/Guardians & Children,

The warm, friendly atmosphere for learning and fun continues here Holy Family National School and during our last term of the year I have observed friendship, perseverance and leadership skills among our fabulous pupils.

This term, we thoroughly enjoyed the good weather and took every opportunity to participate in activities outdoors. All classes represented the school so well and as usual I am extremely proud of them. The school continues to thrive and with the addition of another mainstream class in September we are actually running out of space!

Parents have been so giving of their time and skills and supported us in so many areas, thank you all for your time and expertise, it is very much appreciated.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the children, staff, parents and friends of our school for all the hard work and generosity of spirit. I would also like to thank the incredibly supportive Board of Management, Chairperson Canon 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 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 celebrated with a graduation ceremony and a special guard of honour from the rest of the school. We wish them every success as they continue their educational journey.



Farewell Margaret & Ruth

It has been a time of celebration and sadness as we said goodbye to our school secretary Margaret in a special assembly. Margaret retires after

over ten years at Holy Family NS, we wish her every happiness and lots of well-deserved relaxation.

Ruth has been working as a Special Needs Assistant with us for the past two years, she is leaving to start a new adventure and we wish Ruth every happiness in her future.

Thank you to Ruth and Margaret for all their hard work and dedication



to our school.

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. 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 met Mrs McGinn and Mrs Lewis. 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 paid for the yummy treat of ice-cream for everyone 😊 on Sport for All Day and graduation hoodies for 6th Class. 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! 🙌

Music Programme

We participated in the Donegal Primary Music Programme and the children in Mr. Sweeny and Ms. Curran's classes 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. They travelled to Letterkenny to perform with An Grianán to perform in a Ukulele concert and we are so proud of their amazing performance and exemplary behaviour. They represented us so well! We hope to have this programme at school again next year.

Cycle Right Programme & Cycle Bus

5th and 6th Class participated in the Cycle Right Programme with Fergus and Gemma, this taught them invaluable cycling skills which were evident in our Cycle Bus!

The Cycle Bus was back in action this term and it was wonderful to see so many parents and children participate. We were also delighted that Scoil Chaitriona and Gaelscoil Eirne could join us. A big thank you to our weekly Garda escorts from Ballyshannon Garda Station and to Mr. Sweeny, Mr. McGroary, Ms Sweeny and Mrs McGinn for continuing to attend and promote this great initiative.



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/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.

Staffing September 2023

With the addition of our seventh mainstream teacher, we will have seven mainstream classes, two Autism classes, three SET teachers and a team of seven SNAs in the school in September. Additional staff will be appointed during the summer and parents of relevant classes will be informed as soon as possible.

Stationary Lists

The school will purchase and provide **all workbooks, text books and copies** for pupils next September. A stationary list will be provided via email containing items such as pencil cases, colours, glue etc. these will be purchased by families. Costs for insurance, art materials and photocopying will also be included but a payment link won't be sent until September.

Payment Links

All payments to the school are now received via payment links. They can be sent via email or text message. When you receive a link, please click on it to view what the payment is for and further instructions on how to pay. Please contact the office if you have any difficulty using the payment links or need an extension for your payment. We will assist families in any way we can. Thank you to everyone who has paid for activities through this system this term.

Boxes

Only some classes will be using boxes for classroom storage next year. The box has been placed on some Stationary lists for September, if it doesn't appear on your child's list, they won't be using a box next year.

Sacraments:

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

Liquid Therapy

The children in the Rock Hub participated in Liquid Therapy Surfing again this year. They increased their skills in the water and are fully fledged surf dudes now! Thank you to Ms Brennan for organising this



and to the parents for participating in the App pilot programme.

A Visit from the Ambulance

Thank you to Cathal and Kealan who brought the ambulance to school, the children had a wonderful time exploring it and hearing all about how



the ambulance saves lives.

Active Schools:

Well done to all our participants in the School League and to the team captains who were successful in the School A & B league, Emily Roper and Lilly O'Shea.

We participated in the North Leitrim/South Donegal Cup again this year and although we weren't victorious our players showed great spirit, determination and positive attitudes on and off the field.

Active School Week was full of fun activities culminating in our Sport for All day and a visit from the Ice-Cream Van which was well deserved and enjoyed in the heat!

Many thanks to the Active School Committee for all their help during ASW (particularly Leon, Emily, Maia and Eira). Thank you very much to all the coaches for all the fun activities they provided: Catherine (yoga), Emer & Ivan (Skipathon), Barbara (Zumba), Brian (GAA Skills), Sylvester (Relay Games), Jon & Sylvester (Soccer), Ms Sweeney (Disco), Suzanne (Dance), Michael & Helen (Pickleball).

Videos of all the fun can be viewed on our social media pages.

Aquatics

All classes completed the Primary Aquatic Water Safety (PAWS) programme this term and our 1st to 6th 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.

We also had a water safety talk with Aiden McGuinness from Water Safety Donegal. He had loads of advice on how to stay safe around water.

Our Junior Infants visited the RNLI Station in Bundoran and learned all about saving lives at sea!

Green School Flag

Work has continued this week on our themes of 'Litter and Waste' and 'Water'.

Following on from our experiment on flushable materials the Green school committee distributed posters detailing their findings to all the classes. The Committee is happy to report a huge rise in awareness of flushables and a huge reduction in the amount of blue tissue in toilets. Well done everyone!

Our 'Big Spring Clean' was a great success. Mr Sweeny's class decided to focus on the area around the Mall park and managed to collect three large bags of rubbish. It wasn't all hard work however. There was time for a well earned picnic before a trip to the pool and back to school.

Thank you to everyone involved in our school Cycle Bus. It is great to see so many bikes every Wednesday morning!

The 'In My Shoes' campaign was a huge success and we hope to make it an annual event. Thank you for donating your runners and sports shoes to a very good cause. Over 70 pairs of shoes were collected for distribution to children in African townships.

As our theme this year is Water, we organised a coffee morning in aid of the RNLI and our Junior infant class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bundoran RNLI station to learn all about water safety and the important work of the RNLI volunteers. Many thanks to Jim and Fionn for your help.

We are so lucky to live in an area surrounded by water. We continue to develop our understanding of the importance of respecting and caring for our rivers, lakes and oceans.

Have a lovely summer holiday and remember to stay Water Wise.



Play Therapy

We have been so lucky to once again 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.



News from the Classes!

Please click on the following links to view the class sections on our website.

Ms Martin Junior Infants:

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/junior-infants.html>

Mullaney Senior Infants

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/senior-infants.html>

Ms McNally Junior Rock Hub

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/rock-hub-1.html>

Mr McGroary 1st Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/first-class.html>

Mr. Foley 2nd & 3rd Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/second-third-class.html>

Mr Sweeny 3rd & 4th Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/third-fourth-class.html>

Ms Brennan Rock Hub Senior Room

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/rock-hub->

[2.html](#)

Ms Curran 5th & 6th Class

<https://www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie/fifth-sixth-class.html>

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/>

*We look forward to welcoming you all
back to school on Thursday 31st*

August 2023.

*Have a lovely Summer and stay safe
everyone!*