



Holy Family NS, Newsletter March 2021

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

We have certainly had a very eventful term. I would like to say how wonderful it is to have everyone back at school. It's great to see smiling faces in the classrooms and great fun on our yards again.

Well done to all the parents and children for their fantastic engagement with remote learning. It was extremely challenging but the families and staff in our school showed resilience, hard work and determination. I am proud of our school community's response to a very difficult time.

My door is still 'virtually' open. Please make an appointment through the office if you need to and I will set up a phone call/meeting depending on restrictions.

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. As you are aware our response plan was updated in February, we have a Covid-19 section on our school website where you can access these documents and information at any time.

We will continue to deliver government advice and follow procedure and restrictions accordingly. 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



Enrolment

Enrolment for September 2021 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. Many thanks to Niall, Darragh & James McCready for displaying our enrolment signs around Ballyshannon. We will be providing new pupils with videos and information to help their transition to our school.

Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have continued to be very active and have worked together to continue to support our school. The Lá Glas fundraiser will contribute to the purchase of interactive panels for our classrooms. The Parents' Association also hope to hold a 5k fundraiser over the next few weeks, your participation would be much appreciated. Many

thanks to our Parents' Association for their hard work and support! 🙌🙌

Interactive Panels: I am delighted that we are upgrading our ICT infrastructure at school. During the Easter holidays four interactive panels will be fitted in mainstream classrooms and a further movable panel will be delivered for use. We hope that by September all classes will have panels installed for use. These panels are touch sensitive and designed for interactive classroom education, making digital learning tangible and fun!



Gaelgeoirí na Seachtaine:

Comhghairdeas chun na gaelgeoirí na seachtaine! Chuala mé a lán frasaí sa ranganna agus ar an clós freisin. Maith sibh!!



World Book Day: We enjoyed a wonderful World book day and classes participated in fun activities linked to stories and books such as quizzes, yoga, song, art, craft, storytelling and problem solving. Everyone received a World Book Day token.



Online Applications

I am delighted that our Seesaw and Google Classroom apps were so successful as engaging online platforms for remote learning. We will continue to use these platforms as communication and homework tools. Please continue to inform class teachers if you are having any type of access difficulties and we will support you with this.

Boxes

All children are once again asked to bring home their classroom book boxes on either Friday to have a good clear out, clean and replenish any items that have been used up for example white board markers/glue/missing colours etc.

Primary Debate

Our fantastic 6th class pupils are continuing to participate in their debate competition. Their next round is this morning against Kilmacrennan NS. We wish them the best of luck!

Sacraments:

As you are aware, we have been waiting for direction from Bishop's House based on government restrictions as to when we will be able to celebrate Communion and Confirmation. Unfortunately we have been advised not to make plans or arrangements yet. The teachers will continue to prepare the children for their sacraments at school but we cannot confirm dates at this time.

School Access:

We completely understand that for various reasons, children occasionally need to be collected or dropped outside normal school times. We will of course facilitate this. Thank you to everyone for their cooperation so far. When collecting your child early

or dropping them off a bit later at school, could parents and children please go directly to their classroom doors. The only exception to this is during school breaktimes when the children are on their yards, in this instance, please ring the office and your child will be brought out to you. Please do not access the school building unless this has been arranged in an exceptional circumstance.

Carambola Snacks will be delivered on Friday 26th March.

News from the Classes!

Mrs Lewis, Junior Infants

We have had another great term in Junior Infants, We enjoyed sending each other videos and messages on Seesaw. I loved being able to see everyone working at home and sharing my home with the class too! We have explored topics such as the Supermarket, Night and Day, Waterproof Materials, Spring and the Lifecycle of the Frog.

We continued with yoga at home and at school to keep our bodies strong and stretchy! We also learned gymnastics and ball handling skills in P.E.

The class have made great progress in literacy with our phonics, reading books and new word boxes.

In gaeilge they have learned the topics An Aimsir, Éadaí agus Lá le Padraíg.

We have discussed the Holy Family, Jesus as a boy, Lent, St Patrick's Day and Easter and have learned new prayers and hymns.

World Book Day was great fun, we read the story Stuck and solved the problem of how to get everything out of the tree. We had a story quiz and did yoga with the Twits! We are also working on the Stay Safe Programme and we have covered the topics feeling safe and unsafe and friendship and bullying. Our class were great at suggesting ways to be a good friend. Happy Easter everyone!!



Ms McGinn, Senior Infants

Senior Infants arrived back to school with a spring in their step! Their old friends, Foxy and Froggy, were waiting with Mrs Mc Ginn to welcome the children back. What a busy few weeks we have had since then!

The children have settled back amazingly well and are working hard on all their activities.

The children met a very hungry caterpillar, a brave ladybird and a not so ugly duckling on World Book Day. We made beautiful Mother's day cards and sang some lovely new songs.

We had lots of fun marching with St. Patrick, made friends with a leprechaun and celebrated our Lá Glas together.

This week is all about Easter. We have made some very chirpy chicks and examined some real nests to learn how they were made. We are reciting a lovely poem about the Easter Bunny and can't wait for you to hear it.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter Break.



Ms Mullaney, 1st & 2nd Class

The boys and girls in First and Second Class have settled in well following their break from school and they've helped me to settle in as well!

We've enjoyed making our own bookmarks for World Book Day which Alanna very kindly laminated for us.

We made some hearts for Mother's Day and made some super 'Shamrock People' for St. Patrick's Day.

This week we are learning all about Holy Week in the lead up to Easter. I hope that everyone really enjoys the holidays and that they don't eat too many Easter Eggs!



Ms Maguire's 2nd & 3rd Class

We are so happy to be back at school in rang a dó and rang a trí!

We had lots of fun making Lucky Leprechauns in art, designing our own book tokens for World Book Day and taking part in an obstacle course for P.E.

We are all looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday!

We were also delighted to welcome Ms. Mc Gee to our classroom for Teaching Practice.

Ms. Mc Gee has been teaching us all about Ethiopia and animal life cycles.



Mr McGroary's 4th & 5th Class

Fourth and fifth class have settled back into school extremely well after their lengthy absence

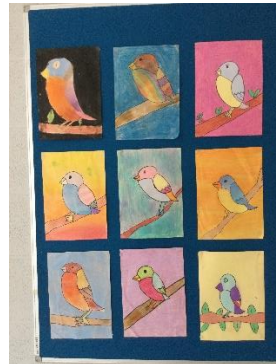
Last week, to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, we began to learn our national anthem 'Amhrán na bhFiann'. We hope to record a class performance of this in the coming days. We also held a 'Tráth na gCeist' in class on Friday which was won by 'The Purple Dinosaurs' team with a final score of 25 out of 30.

Our class will be commencing the 'Friends for Life' programme this week with Ms McNally and Ms Timoney. This programme helps children to develop effective strategies

to deal with worry, stress and change and teaches the skills required to reduce anxiety and promote resilience.

Last week in Art we created drawings using chalk pastels and will continue to use these materials in the coming weeks. In English, we designed our own book sleeves for a new edition of our favourite books!

In History we have been learning about 'Homes in the Past' and this week we will begin a mini-project on 'My Home'. Any photographs that you might have for inclusion would greatly enhance these projects.



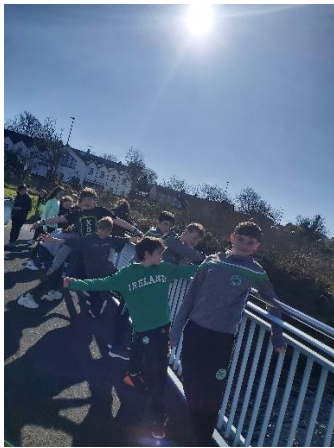
Mr Sweeney's 6th Class

6th class are delighted to get back to school. It is great to meet friends again face to face.

We have eased back into our school work and had an outdoors session every day of our first week back with Rounders, Football, Lacrosse and a walk down to the Footbridge to get back active again.

We also took the classroom outdoors for a Stay Safe Circle Time session and for our Tin Whistle Lessons.

Our Debate Team progressed into the next Round of the Concern Primary Debates, which will be held over Zoom on Thursday 25th March. Best of luck to our speakers Éabha, Cora and Dáithí and to Joey who will chair the competition.



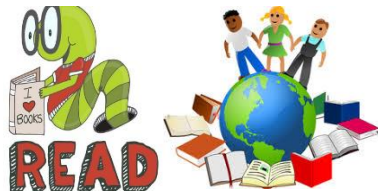
Ms Timoney

Seesaw and Google Classroom

Well done to all the children who tried their best with the class assignments during the 8 weeks of online learning.

World Book Day

On the 4th of March we celebrated World Book Day. We learned how to choose great books to read. We discovered that reading allows us to be transported from our own homes to other parts of the world and it helps improve our memory and concentration. We discussed our favourite authors, characters and books with our friends.



“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” Joseph Addison
While we all know that we *need* to *exercise* our body, it is important to remember that reading is an interesting way to help us *exercise* our mind.
Keep up the great work and continue to read.

Happy Easter Everyone.

Ms McNally

It's been great settling back into school after remote learning. We have been using our imagination and writing stories about “Mr. Cheese”.

We have also been very busy on the Special Education Team preparing our new differentiated spelling strategy that will be introduced to the senior classes next term. Wishing you all a very relaxed and happy Easter!



Dates for next term:

School re-opens on Monday 12th April 2021

May Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 3rd May 2021.

June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 7th June 2021.

Summer Holidays: School closes Tuesday 22nd June 2021 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!