



Holy Family NS, Newsletter March 2023

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

The pupils in our school have worked very hard this term and I am very proud of their efforts. There has been loads of activity as you will see in our newsletter the staff work very hard to keep the learning fun and interesting for all. Next term promises to be action packed too, let's hope the weather improves to add to our enjoyment!

The sense of community grows stronger every day in our school, it is wonderful to work in partnership together for the benefit of all our pupils. It is extremely powerful for the children to see parents involved in our school community and I wish to sincerely thank every family for their interest and contribution to our school.

If any of you wish to speak to me, please feel free to approach me when I am on the yard in the morning/afternoon and we can make an arrangement or call the office if that is more convenient for you, I am keen to support you and your family in our school.

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.



Enrolment

Enrolment for September 2023 took place in February. Our Admission Notice was published on our website, Instagram and Facebook Pages. We had a fantastic response and are delighted so many families wish to have their children's primary education journey with us. We will be welcoming new pupils to our school for a visit next term to help with their transition to our school.

Board of Management

Our Board of Management work continuously behind the scenes to develop and govern our wonderful school. They are extremely supportive to the school community. The Agreed Reports form our Board of Management meetings can be viewed on our school website: www.holyfamilyballyshannon.ie. Thank you to our BOM for all their hard work.

Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have continued to be very busy and have worked together to continue to support our school. We enjoyed some delicious pancakes on pancake Tuesday, many thanks to Virginia, our chef and Lynda, Paulina and Denise. The Lá Glas, and Quiz in Owen Roe's fundraisers will contribute towards the purchase of treats for the

Easter hunts taking place in all classes this week and new interactive panels needed for our additional classes. Thank you to Emma and Owen Roe's for the fantastic quiz and Norita for making beautiful Easter treat bags. The Parents' Association are also making plans to have tea/coffee in the school P.E. Hall following the First Holy Communion Mass. The next fundraiser is the annual clothes collection. Please see details below. Many

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



Active Schools Programme

The Active School Staff Committee have been busy organising our Active School Week which is set to take place in June.

Swimming is taking place for 1st to 6th and our Rock Hub classes. We are delighted to be able to use the fantastic facilities in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

to develop water confidence and water safety skills.  This also ties in well with Aquatics (our focus strand for this year).

The Rock Hub classes will take part in Liquid Therapy next term which is a highly beneficial.

Junior and Senior infants are going to visit the RNLI in May to learn more about the importance of their role in our local community.

Aiden McGuinness will also come in after Easter to talk to all the children about water safety.



We will participate in the North Leitrim / South Donegal league involving Creevy NS, St Macartan's Bundoran and Kinlough NS. We will be hosting the finals in June.

Siopa na Scoile

The Siopa na Scoile will be back next term. 6th Class will run a small school shop each Friday for other classes to visit so pupils can purchase a treat if they wish. This is a great opportunity for our senior class to work on their business skills and they use their profits to book activities to enjoy in their last summer term at Holy Family NS. Details of the Siopa and how it will work will be sent to you early next term.



Online Applications

Remember to check your child's online application to see their homework. These online portfolios are also a great place for you to check progress by looking at all the stored completed activities.



Summer Programme

We are delighted to be running our summer programme again this year. It will run from 26th June- 7th July. This year's theme is: **Building Confidence and Connections**. There are two types of camp taking place this year. One is for children with complex needs and the other is a Deis, Literacy/Numeracy camp. Children who avail of the Deis camp will participate for one week 10am-2pm each day. This camp is fun based but will also have a focus on improving literacy and numeracy through games and activities. Places are limited so if you are interested in availing of a place for your child, please contact Mrs Lewis or Mrs McGinn.

Boxes

Boxes will stay in school during the Eater break but please check with your children to see if they need any items replenished such as glue/colours/pens/rubbers/pencils/copies etc.

Green Schools

Our fantastic Green School Committee has been hard at work over the last few months.

The committee ran a competition to select a Green School slogan. The entries were of a very high standard making it a very difficult decision indeed.

The slogan selected for our Green Code is 'Don't be selfish, save the shellfish'. Our winning slogan has been entered in the regional competition, so fingers crossed!

We carried out an experiment to see what materials are safe to flush in toilets. We discovered the only material to break down is toilet paper.

Mr Sweeny's class did some amazing projects on endangered animals, including the beautiful sea turtle.

As a follow on from our theme of Litter and Waste we are taking part in this year's 'Big Spring Clean'. The hi vis vests and litter pickers have arrived in school. All we need now is the sun to arrive after Easter!

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

Look for chocolate with the least amount of packaging.

Recycle as much as possible.

Rather than buying plastic Easter eggs for your hunt, use wooden or felt eggs instead.

Make reusable Easter baskets and decorations or find some second hand.

Have a lovely Easter break from the Green Schools Committee.



Cycle Right Programme

5th & 6th Class are participating in a cycle safety programme. Fergus and Gemma our trainers will work with the children over four, two-hour sessions. The course is aligned to **CYCLE RIGHT**, the National Standard for Cycle Safety Training in Ireland, and is delivered by qualified trainers from the national register. The emphasis of the course is on safety through control of the bike and awareness of surroundings. We are delighted to have the opportunity to train and get



ready for our Cycle Bus which will begin again next term!

Amber Flag

The Amber Flag School Committee recently organised a St. Brigid's Day Kindness Event.

Each class did an S.P.H.E. lesson on giving and receiving compliments. The children then wrote compliments about each other on a Post it note and put it up on a 'Spreading the Cloak of Kindness' Poster in the classroom.



Sacraments

First Penance took place on Tuesday 14th March.

Confirmation will take place on the 7th May in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Bundoran at 2:00.

First Holy Communion will take place on the 20th May in St Joseph's Church, Ballyshannon at 11:30.

School Lunches

Our lunches from Fresh Today continue to be popular with the pupils and it is great to see so many children drinking water. If you wish to change your child's lunch, please do so before the end of the day on a Thursday for changes to come into affect the following week. If anyone is missing log in details, please contact the office and we will provide them to you.

World Book Day: We enjoyed a wonderful World book day and classes participated in fun activities linked to stories and books. Every class also visited our library for a special story with Mrs Lewis. We also had a wonderful treat, Rianna's Coffee Cottage came to the school and provided milkshakes and hot chocolate and crisps for everyone. Many thanks to Sylvia and Colin for sponsoring this, we felt very

spoiled!!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ar scoil ó 6ú – 16ú Márta. Bhí neart imeachtaí ag tarlú ar fud fad na scoile chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh. Scríobh R5/6 leabhair agus léigh siad a gcuid leabhar le Naíonáin Bheaga/Mhóra. Bhí comórtas ealaíne ar siúl agus bhí ar pháistí ó ghach rang postaer a chrúthú bunaithe ar na seánfhocail. Maith sibh do na buaiteoirí ar fad! Bhí Tráth na gCeist ag R3/4/5/6 sa halla leis na ceistanna ar fad go hiomlán as Gaeilge – bhain na páistí an sult as agus comhghairdeas leis na buaiteoirí ar fad! Rinne gach rang sa scoil amhrán, dán nó damhsa ar an Lá Glas agus bhí na ‘party pieces’ curtha in airde ar mheáin shoisialta na scoile.

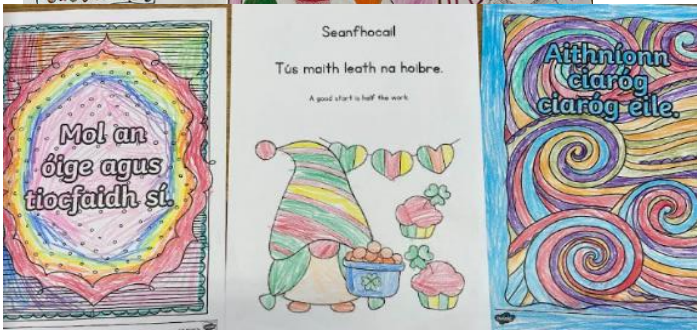
Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in school from 6th – 16th March and there were plenty of activities happening in the classes to mark the occasion. 5th/6th class wrote their own stories as Gaeilge and read them to children in Junior/Senior Infants. There was an art competition where every child from each class created a poster based on ‘Seánfhocail/old proverbs or sayings.’ Well done to all the winners!

Junior classes/1st class: Ada, Willow, Ruan, Caoimhe, Odhrán

Middle classes 2nd/3rd/4th: Chimobi, Eve, Ruth

Senior Classes 5th/6th: Sophia, Chimamanda, Conrad

3rd/4th/5th/6th all participated in a quiz where all questions were asked as Gaeilge – well done to all the winners also! Each class produced a ‘party piece’ in the form of song, poetry or dancing and these were put up on the school social media platforms. Maith



HSCL Home School Community Liaison, Mrs McGinn

Thank you so much for all the support you have given this term. It has been lovely to have so many parents/guardians and grandparents take part in school activities.

We began the term with some relaxing yoga. It was just what we needed to start the New Year. Many thanks to Catherine for facilitating the sessions for us.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who attended our mass for Grandparent's Day. The weather may not have been on our side but the mass was a special occasion for us all.

It was lovely to have so many parents/guardians, grandparents and family members join with second class as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you for coming back to the school afterwards to mark the special occasion with tea and biscuits.

Thank you to everyone who came to help make a St Brigid's cross. It was such an enjoyable afternoon and everyone went home with a least one cross....a great success!

The children from Fifth and Sixth class joined me for a chat about internet safety. I learned as much from them as they did from me. It was a lovely opportunity to talk together and discuss the importance of kindness online as in the real world.

Our book library for the junior classes is open every Thursday at 2' o clock. Parents/guardians can come with the children and pick a book. It is brilliant to see the same little faces every week and new faces are always welcome!

I would like to especially thank the parents who have contacted me for any reason or invited me into their homes. HSCL is a lovely role to have. I am here to listen to parents and help in any way I can.

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

Have a happy Easter,

Anita



News from the Classes!

Mrs Martin, Junior Infants

Another busy term in Junior Infants. Since Christmas we have visited the airport, worked on the farm and learned all about morning routines. We had lots of different celebrations from St. Bridget's Day to St. Patrick's Day and enjoyed lots of lovely treats from parents such as pancakes on Pancake Tuesday and hot chocolate to celebrate World Book Day. We even had an Easter hunt and found lovely treats hidden around our school.

We have been working very hard on our Maths this term learning all about the numbers 3, 4 and 5. Ms Sweeney has also been playing lots of lovely Maths games with us during Activity time and we are getting so good at counting. We love working together to fill our marble jar, we count the marbles every day and when we get to 30 we have a treat. This term we had a Teddy Bear's Picnic in our outdoor classroom, we made Rice Krispie buns and we got to take a little toy into school to play with.

We have also been busy planting and taking care of our strawberry plant, potatoes and lettuce. We learned all about the cycle of a seed and watched our lettuce grow from seed to plant. Happy Easter everyone and well done on another busy term in Junior Infants!



Ms Mullaney's, Senior Infants

Senior infants have had a very busy Easter Term. We really enjoyed working on the theme of The Circus during Aistear where we had Ticket Booths and Popcorn Stands and made words about the Circus using play dough.

We are currently learning all about spring in the 'Garden Centre' in our classroom where we have planted sunflower seeds for our Spring Project. We are taking turns to be the 'Gardener' to look after our 'seedlings' and watch them grow.

We really enjoyed getting Pancakes and Hot Chocolate this term and we are looking forward to having our Easter Egg Hunt this week.

We hope that everyone has a Happy Easter.



Mr McGroary's, 1st Class

We have had a busy term in first class with lots of fun activities in all subjects.

We have enjoyed doing gymnastics, hurling and basketball in PE over the last few months. Swimming lessons are now underway which has led to great excitement.

We really enjoyed dressing up for St Patrick's Day and performing songs in Irish, including our national anthem Amhrán na bhFiann as part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations

We have done a lot of thematic Art this term to celebrate St Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Mothers' Day and Easter.

In Maths we learned about pictograms and bar charts and surveyed our class on different topics before displaying these results in graph form. We also learned about money, fractions, 3D shapes and length. We enjoyed taking measurements of different lengths in the school environment.

In SESE we went for a nature walk to observe signs of spring in our environment. We learned all about the water cycle and the importance of conserving water. We learned that plants need sunlight, water and soil to grow and are currently carrying out experiments to demonstrate this. We also conducted experiments to determine the elasticity of a variety of balls and explored how sounds are made.

Other highlights of this term have been playing in the snow, getting hot chocolate and milkshakes from the Coffee Cottage, enjoying story time in the library for World Book Day and hunting for Easter eggs.



Mr Foley's 2nd & 3rd Class

Second and Third class have had a busy term in school. In SESE we have been learning all about lots of different types of jobs, how farming has progressed through the years and how the Vikings invaded Ireland. We have also completed lots of Science experiments which everyone enjoyed conducting.

In English we have been working really hard on our handwriting and we have been doing lovely creative writing pieces each week about our hobbies, prized possessions and many different story titles.

We have also been learning all about length and weight in Maths while 3rd class have been focusing very hard on multiplication and division with the help of Ms. Leonard.

Second class completed their First Confession in March. The way they all worked so hard to prepare and how they conducted themselves in the church was fantastic to see. As swimming gets underway before our Easter holidays, everyone is looking forward to resuming the lessons after the break.



Mr Sweeny's 3rd & 4th Class

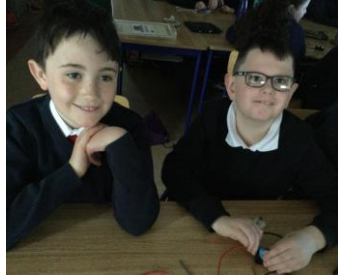
3rd and 4th Class have had a great start to 2023 and are progressing well in all subjects.

We have done some very practical maths work recently in measuring length and distance using a variety of tools.

Our Irish classes were boosted by Seachtain na Gaeilge where we enjoyed quizzes, art, songs and dance as Gaeilge.

In English we used picture books for digital storytelling projects working with iMovie. You can see our recordings on the school You-Tube Channel. We read the novel

Danny Champion of the World by Roald Dahl and have worked hard to improve on



our writing activities.

We celebrated St Brigid's Day by inviting families of pupils into the class to help with making St. Brigid's Crosses. Mrs Mc Ginn, our Home School Liaison Teacher, proved to be a champion St. Brigid Cross maker and along with some expert parents and grandparents we produced 3 and 4 legged crosses that were just beautiful. Thanks to all family members who joined us on the day.



In Science we have experimented with Light, Sound and Electricity. We have learned about the Solar System and one of our pupils even organised a talk over Zoom with a NASA scientist in the USA. Thanks to Rhiannon's dad Oliver for a wonderful lesson.

We learned about habitats and changes that are taking place in the world and completed projects on Animals in Danger of Extinction.



We are keeping very active in class, regularly running laps of the school or dancing along with Go-Noodle. We have played some Rounders and Basketball and really enjoyed learning the events for indoor athletics and competing in Tir Chonaill Athletic's event in AVS Donegal Town.

Music is still featuring strongly with Brian is keeping us busy on the Ukulele every Monday and we are still practising away at the tin whistle.



Scan this QR Code to see more about our class.

Ms Curran's 5th & 6th Class

5th/6th class have had another busy term full of class projects, fun and some work thrown in too! We have had a number of visits to mass as part of 6th class confirmation preparation. 6th class have also been reading at mass every Sunday in St. Joseph's and have been doing a great job.

We had a quiz team from 5th class enter the Credit Union Quiz in Ballyshannon and An Garda Síochána Quiz in Donegal Town who represented our class and the school very well.

We made some fantastic crosses to mark St. Brigid's day and Pancake Tuesday was a massive hit also! We completed group projects on The Great Irish Famine and presented them to the class and had great fun during Seachtain na Gaeilge where we participated in a Tráth na gCéist with 3/4th class, wrote stories and read them to Junior/Senior Infants and learned 'Mamma Mia' as Gaeilge and the 'An Dreoilín' dance.

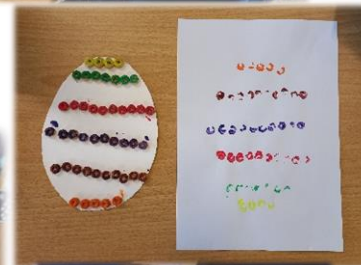
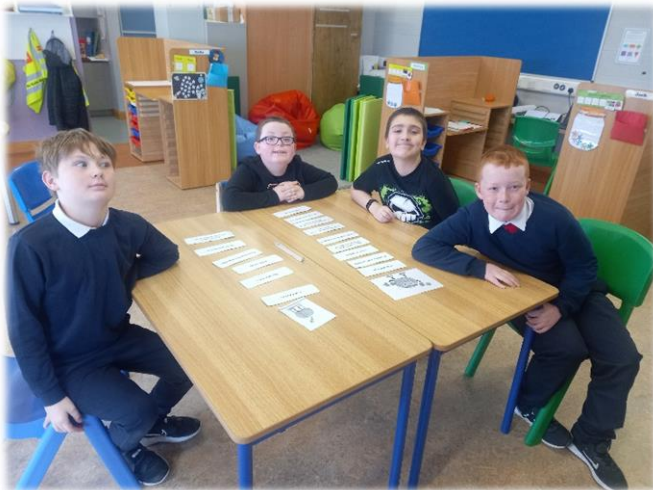
We've had a very active term also. 5th/6th have participated in Basketball lessons with Diego, started swimming lessons again and are currently participated in cycling road safety training every Thursday. Football training has commenced after school and we are very much looking forward to the school league in the summer term.

We are looking forward to a very busy Summer term! Maith sibh gach duine!



Ms Brennan's Rock Hub

The children in the Rock Hub have been busy. In the last term they have learnt all about space and inventions. The students worked together to create a solar system. We learnt about inventions that were discovered by mistake and that making mistakes can help us learn. We have been watching the movie 'Inside Out' and learning about different emotions. The students have been working really well at doing lots of exercise and fun activities to develop their gross motor skills. We have enjoyed going for walks, yoga, jumping on the trampoline and practising basketball skills. We are also loving our swimming lessons and are working hard at improving our swimming. Some of the younger students have been doing fantastic practice on their sounds, reading and using Numicon to figure out Math sums. The older students have been working well on building vocabulary, reading and writing explanation texts. In art, the students have been working on making prints and made Easter egg designs using Cheerios. We like baking in the Hub and made a yummy chocolate biscuit cake.



Ms McNally's Rock Hub

Spring is here and the boys and girls have been busy with their sensory and academic activities. They all love integrating with their mainstream too. We have seen some interesting things on our morning too. Not everyone liked the worm! Everyone loved watching digger moving sand. We all knew spring was here when we the daffodils bloom.



classes
walks
the
saw

Outside in the



Junior yard there is a whiteboard where the children like writing and drawing. The children love letters, books and stories. Mrs. Lewis read us a great story on World book day called Jack and the Flumflum Tree. It's by Julia Donaldson who is one of our favourite



authors.

Sometimes we have to search nearly to the bottom of the basket to find the book we want! When you find it, it's great!



Ms Maguire SET

This term, we have been very busy in S.E.T carrying out Literacy Lift Off with Mr Foley's class and Mr McCrory's class.

The children have been working very hard to improve their reading and writing and they have also tried hard to remember their capital letters and full stops.

Senior infants are blending little words and they have been enjoying using old biscuit tin lids and magnetic letters to do this.

Other groups have worked on sequencing and unscrambling activities in addition to games to improve visual and auditory memory skills.

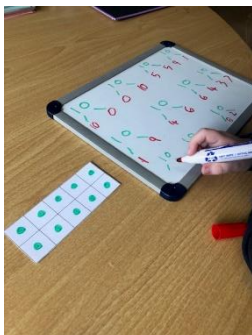


Ms Sweeney SET

Junior Infant in-class support: They have been working tirelessly on their maths skills, counting forwards and backwards within 10, identifying the number before and after within 10 and counting groups of items within 6. They have also enjoyed practising their mathematical skills through games from the Ready Set Go maths programme. Sweetie Jars and Animal Hunt were the firm favourites!

Both 1st and 2nd/3rd class have participated in Literacy Lift Off this term. During LLO the children have been exposed to various fiction and non-fiction texts. They have been working hard on their reading expression, fluency and comprehension while also focusing on their writing skills.

Children participating in the Maths Recovery programme have been working on addition, identifying various strategies to solve addition problems and working on number word sequences counting forwards and backwards in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10.



Take a look at the photos below demonstrating some of the activities that my literacy and numeracy

groups have been engaging with. I am very proud at the progress the children have made during this term and I wish them a very happy Easter holidays.



Dates for next term:

School re-opens on Monday 17th April 2023

School closed for Continual Professional Development Friday 21st April 2023.

May Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 1st May 2023.

June Bank Holiday: School closed Monday 5th June 2023.

Summer Holidays: School closes Friday 23rd June 2023 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!

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