



Holy Family NS, Newsletter October 2020

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents & Children,

It has been a wonderful first half term. Despite all the challenges going on around the world, the children and staff of Holy Family National School have settled in wonderfully. It's fantastic to see all of the children smiling on arrival to school and participating in class and lessons so well. They are working hard and enjoying school life despite all the changes and new structures they have had to adapt to. We could learn a lot from the resilience they show every day!

I'd like to thank the school community for the wonderful warm welcome I have received since arriving at the school. It's a great school and I am enjoying getting to know you all. It is difficult to get to meet everyone in person but I'm sure over time this will develop. In the meantime, my door is '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.

Our Response to Covid-19

We have adopted and adapted guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills. They were sent to the school community in August and are still available on the school website.

We will continue to deliver government advice and follow procedure and restrictions accordingly. We ask that you reinforce these messages at home and continue to encourage the children to social distance, wash hands and sanitise. Thank you for your continued patience & support.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE



Cycling Initiative

A wonderful cycling initiative has taken place this term at the school. 6th class have embraced the joy of cycling safely. They had training on bike safety and handling from their teacher Mr. Sweeney and parents Sean & Andrea Rogers.

This was followed by a cycling trip with Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Lewis around Knather Woods. It was a beautiful sunny day and the group cycled over 13k! Many thanks to our escorts Lorraine McCurtin, Theresa Maguire and Sean & Andrea Rogers.

All of this has inspired many of our pupils to cycle to school, this is a wonderful healthy way to travel. Click the link to see more: [Cycling to School](#)

Remember to wear Helmets and High Vis Jackets for safety!!

Parents Association News

Our Parents Association have been very busy. They organized a fantastic Virtual 5k fundraiser and secured funding along with Councillor Michael McMahon for our new bicycle stands. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 5k fundraiser to support the school. The Parents' Association also purchased some footballs for the children to use on the yard. We plan on purchasing more yard equipment for the children and our generous Parents' Association have agreed to fund this. They are also providing treats for the children on Friday. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for their hard work and support!



A Visit from the McLoughlin Cup: We were very lucky to receive the McLoughlin Cup at school for a day. It was brought around the classes and the children were able to study it up close and have a photo with it. The following link will take you to some photos and video of our support for Aodh Ruadh: [Holy Family supports Aodh Ruadh in the Co Final](#)

Trick or Treat for Temple Street: We will be celebrating Halloween this Friday by dressing up and enjoying fun activities in aid of Temple Street. Please send donations in an envelope to your child's class teacher on Friday morning.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: The Shoe Box Appeal has gone online this year. For more information go to

<https://www.teamhope.ie/christmas-shoebox-appeal/>



Online Applications

The staff have worked hard to train in the use of Google Classroom (4th-6th) and Seesaw (Jun Infs-3rd). These online platforms are used for homework and will be used in the unexpected event of a further lockdown. I would like to thank the staff for enthusiastically engaging in all this extra work and all the parents and children who have engaged so well already.

Book Rental

Thank you to all who have paid book rental fees.

Outstanding fees are still being accepted via your child's class teacher. The fees include book rental, insurance, art & craft materials & photocopying. The cost is €35 for one child, €50 for two children, €60 for three or four children.

News from the Classes!

Mrs Lewis, Junior Infants

Well our Junior Infants have settled in beautifully. They are a great bunch and have managed the transition to school with ease. I'm so proud of them!

We have been working on topics such as Introduction to School, Staying Safe at School, Autumn, Friends and Halloween. We are working hard on the numbers 1,2 & 3 and the letters s, a, t & i. We have also begun learning Irish, Mé Féin, An Scoil agus Oiche Shamhna. We dance every day and enjoy regular yoga sessions too. Our cutting skills have really improved and we have also explored the school grounds during Maths trails and nature walks.

We really have been busy so I hope the children enjoy a well earned rest next week!



Autumn Tree

Ms McGinn, Senior Infants

Senior Infants have been amazing since they came back to school. They are so good at remembering our new safety rules and routines. We have decided to call ourselves 'Team Senior Infants' because the boys and girls are so good at taking care of each other and looking after their friends at school.

The children have worked very hard on their writing, reading and maths. They also have some lovely art to take home over and have some lovely poems and songs to sing. I am very proud of all the girls and boys in Senior Infants.



Autumn Animals

Mrs Collery, 1st & 2nd Class

We have been very busy this term in 1st and 2nd class from learning everything about one another to learning all about Autumn. We went on an exciting mini beast hunt in the playground and learned about pointillism in art, we created Autumn trees using this technique. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of a pumpkin and a bat. We had great fun on our Maths Trail around the school during Maths Week. Thanks to Mr. Sweeney's class for organizing it.

Ms Maguire's 2nd & 3rd Class

Second and third class have been very busy since we started back at school!

Halle (in second class) and Liam (in third class) both celebrated their birthdays in September.

We made lovely Halloween silhouettes in art and we are reading and writing a lot in English and Gaeilge

Our focus this term has been on wellbeing and we have a Wellbeing Area in our classroom.

The children are really enjoying taking part in meditation on a regular basis

We also took part in a maths trail in our pods for maths week which was devised by Mr. Sweeny's sixth class

We are all enjoying being back at school and we are looking forward to dressing up in our Halloween costumes on 23rd October.



Mr McGroary's 4th & 5th Class

Pencil Drawings

Fourth and fifth class have been working great since our return to school. We have recently been studying Forces in Science and explored the role of air resistance in propelling helicopters. We each designed our own gyrocopters and tested their flight capacity outside. In History we completed projects on The Celts while in Geography we studied the features of our local built environment and conducted an audit of the built environment in Ballyshannon. In Art we have completed a lot of work on pencil drawings and have many fabulous pieces on display in our classroom. To mark the occasion of Aodh Rua's appearance in the county final we played our own Gaelic match in Mundy's field a few weeks ago. Darragh and Alanna captained the winning team. We are all now up and running on Google Classrooms and are using this platform to complete and submit some homework each week.

Mr Sweeney's 6th Class

6th Class have been working hard since our return in September and we are coming to terms with our "new normal".

We have enjoyed some outdoor activities such as rounders and cycling and are continuing to strive for "a K a Day" most days in between lessons. We have dabbled in yoga and are learning about the importance of Resilience and Well Being.

We have focused on Narrative Writing since our return to school and all pupils intend to enter a short story in the Allingham Arts Competition.

Tá an-obair déanta sa Ghaelige agus cúpla amhrán deas ar eolas againn cheana féin.

We enjoyed compiling Maths trails for the junior classes and completed our own Maths Trail around Ballyshannon as part of Maths Week. Click the following link to see more: [Maths Trail around Ballyshannon](#)

In SESE we had a great Museum in the Classroom experience, to see more click here: [Museum in the Classroom](#)

We are currently working on Projects on African Countries using Google Slides. We will be using Google Classroom for homework every week from now on.

Ms Timoney

Well done to all those students who are working independently with the online activities of The Lexia Literacy programme.

Some students have already been awarded certificates for their efforts in progressing from one level to the next.



Sound Sorting

Ms McNally

We have been working hard with word jigsaws and sounding out in first class, team teaching in second class and creating some very imaginative sentences!



Silly Sentences

Dates for next term:

School reopens Monday 2nd November 2020

School closes for Christmas Holidays Tuesday 22nd December @ 12:30

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 midterm break and stay
safe everyone!