



Holy Family NS, Newsletter October 2021

A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents/Guardians & Children,

It has been a busy, eventful and exciting first half term of this academic year. We are thrilled to have welcomed new pupils and staff members to our school. Our new ASD unit, the Rock Hub has successfully opened and has been a wonderful addition to our school. Our school community is thriving and is full of activity and fun as usual.

I'd like to thank the staff for their dynamic teaching and all the opportunities they provide to the children under such difficult and restrictive circumstances. They are continuously problem solving to find ways to provide a diverse learning experience for the children while keeping them as safe as possible at school.

I would also like to thank parents, guardians and families for your continued support to the school, everyone has been vigilant and understanding during these continued difficult times, this is much appreciated.

I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy Halloween Break!!

Our Response to Covid-19

Under new public health advice relating to contact tracing, the school will not be contacting parents to inform them of Covid-19 cases in school if they occur. All of our safety measures will remain in place after mid-term. Despite the easing of restrictions, school guidelines have not changed in any other way. Thank you all again for your continued patience & support.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE



Athletics Trip

Children from 1st to 6th class travelled to Donegal Town to participate in the South West Donegal Schools Cross Country Event. We were so proud of their perseverance and sportsmanship, they represented the school so well!!

Parents Association News

Our Parents' Association have been very busy meeting and organising future events for our school. During the summer they held a very successful clothes collection. They provided beautiful decoration and wonderful treats for 3rd Class on their First Communion Day. They have also been working with Ms Mullaney on the best way to provide our children with school snacks.

Following a meeting with the principal they have held this year's Parents' Association AGM via Zoom and elected a new committee. We would like to thank outgoing

committee member Teresa Maguire for all her hard work and support to the school over many years. Teresa's energy and organizational skills were evident in all the hard work she did on behalf of our PA, she will be missed. We'd also like to say many thanks to all our Parents' Association for their hard work and support and wish our newly elected



committee the very best of luck!

Heritage in Schools

1st to 6th class are participating in Heritage in Schools with a virtual visit based on local history in 5th & 6th class. Following on from this John Ruddy will visit 1st to 4th class in November to explore history and heritage with them. We can't wait!



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Trick or Treat for Temple Street: We celebrated Halloween this Friday by dressing up and enjoying fun activities in aid of Temple Street. This was a very successful fundraiser last year and it's close to our hearts here in Holy Family NS.

Donations raised over €550, thank you to all who supported this very worthy cause.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: The Shoe Box Appeal is back! Ms McGinn will be co-ordinating the collection of Shoe Boxes this year. They will be collected early in November so if you are planning to participate, you might like to start gathering materials over the mid-term break. Every family received a leaflet at school this week. Shoe boxes can be brought in to your child's class teacher when they are ready.



Book Fair

It was wonderful to see our pupils enjoy visiting the Book Fair and become immersed in literary worlds. You're never lonely when you have a good book! Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair. As a result the school will receive vouchers worth €1284.17 to purchase even more books for our school.

The new books will be available for your children to enjoy in their classes.



Ukulele

We are delighted that 4th to 6th Class are participating in a Ukulele music programme. This is in conjunction with the Donegal Music Education Partnership and our tutor Brian O'Sullivan has already started the sessions with the children, it's lovely to hear live music in our halls!



Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-Teacher meetings will take place the week beginning 16th November. Currently we are planning to hold meetings via telephone or Zoom. This will depend on availability and accessibility for both teachers and parents/guardians. This may change as we are awaiting further guidelines from the department of education. Your child's class teacher will be in touch to arrange your meeting and it's format in November.



Online Applications

Our classes are continuing to use Seesaw and Google Classroom for homework. They are a wonderful learning tool and we thank parents and families for continuing to support the use of them.

Fees

Thank you to all who have paid book rental, art, photocopy and insurance fees.

News from the Classes!

Ms McGinn, Junior Infants

Junior Infants have had a fantastic first term. The girls and boys have settled in very well. They already feel quite at home!

The children have played, danced, cut, traced and glued their way through September. They have enjoyed learning lots of songs and nursery rhymes and have even met 'Whisky Frisky', our friendly squirrel, and helped the busy farmer on the farm.

The children have constructed beautiful autumn trees and used leaf printing to create a wonderful woodland.



Our Aistear theme for October is 'Farming'. The children have helped the farmer count his animals, created their own farm on our beautiful play mat, made a farm collage, and even helped the farmer with some animal yoga!

The boys and girls are looking forward to our Hallowe'en party for Temple Street. They have also made some scary ghosts and ghouls to bring home on the last day of term.

Thank you so much for your support as the children settled into their new school. I hope the children enjoy a well-deserved rest over the mid-term and I look forward to seeing them all again for our winter term.

Ms Mullaney, Senior Infants

The children in Senior Infants have done some fantastic work this term. During our Science lessons, we have been looking at the signs of autumn and we have also been

making a 'Friendship Tree'. Our 'Friendship Tree' reminds us that our friendships will grow and blossom throughout the year just as a tree does. It also helps us with one of our Class Rules which is to 'Be Kind to your Friends'.

We have also had great fun exploring the theme of Halloween through 'Aistear'. We have been building haunted houses, playing some spooky games and dressing up in our 'hired costumes' from the 'Fancy Dress Shop'! We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a Happy Halloween!



Ms McNally's Rock Hub

The children are really enjoying school and have settled into their new routine in the Rock Hub. They have worked hard on communication and language, fine motor skills and sequencing. Many of the have integrated well into other classes. The children really love books and thoroughly enjoyed visiting our Book Fair. They also learned a new poem Little Red Squirrel.



Mr McGroary's 1st & 2nd Class

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

In Art we have been experimenting with colour mixing and have painted a number of pictures using the techniques learned. We are looking forward to bringing home all our Art pieces this week to display at home!

We have been very busy in science learning about our senses. We carried out a number of experiments to test our senses of smell and touch. We learned about how submarines work and tested different objects to see if they float or sink in water. We also studied how light works and experimented with torches to establish whether certain objects were transparent, translucent or opaque. Also in Science we went for a nature walk to observe signs of autumn in our natural environment.

In Music we have been learning how clap our hands, stamp our feet and click our fingers to keep the rhythm of songs. We have learned to sing and keep the rhythm to 'The Yellow Submarine', 'My Grandfather's Clock' and 'Rock a Ruaille'.

We have also enjoyed listening to the stories 'The Twits' and 'The Giggler Treatment' being read aloud.



Ms Maguire's 2nd & 3rd Class

What a busy first term it has been in second and third class! We can hardly believe the Halloween holidays are almost upon us.

All the children have been working very hard on activities based around the themes of All About Me, Autumn and Halloween.

Dempsey had a really innovative idea of turning some of our class recyclables into a spooky haunted house!

Halle very kindly brought in an encyclopaedia with information about Ancient Egypt for us all to explore as we are starting to learn about the Ancient Egyptians in History.

The children have been thoroughly enjoying our daily movement breaks and especially love coloured eggs!

We also did some procedural writing this term. Second class wrote step by step instructions on how to make chocolate apples, and third class wrote all about how to carve a pumpkin.

We also guessed the number of pumpkin seeds in the jar in Maths, Listened and Responded to Monster Mash and Ghostbusters in Music, learned about Halloween safety in SPHE, investigated the effects of various household materials on pieces of pumpkin in Science and made some Ghoulish Ghosts in Art.

Thank you all for your support and cooperation throughout the first term.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Halloween.



Mr Sweeny's 4th Class

4th Class have got off to a great start to the school year. We came up with Our Classroom Charter at the start of the year and are working well towards all the aims and objectives we have on it. We are all very excited and grateful to have received a full set of Ukuleles and are enjoying the lessons so far. We have been active in school and had a lovely trip to the Cross Country Athletics in Donegal Town. We also had a

very interesting SESE walk around the town where we focused on the built environment of Ballyshannon. We have been using G-Mail and Google Classroom a lot in the first term and are enjoying using technology for schoolwork.



Ms Brennan's Rock Hub

The students in the Rock Hub have been doing amazing work. They have been working hard on oral language, reading and maths. In SESE, we have been learning about volcanoes, space and the human skeleton.

The students made their own planets with papier maché and did some rocket science outside. We have just started ukulele classes. We love doing weekly baking and are getting excited for Halloween.



Ms Curran's 5th & 6th Class

5th and 6th class have had a busy half-term. We have been learning about the historical monuments around Ballyshannon. We went for a walk around Ballyshannon to suss out the monuments and we also had a zoom call with archeologist Áine Brosnan who was able to tell us more about the different historical sites around the town. We started our Ukulele lessons with tutor and renowned musician Brian O Sullivan. We are looking forward to spending the next few months learning how to play a new instrument. We have been very busy writing stories and typing them up for the Allingham Writing Festival. We definitely have some future J.K Rowlings in the class! We have also introduced the 'Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine' award which means 'Irish speaker of the week' and everyone in the class is making a big effort to use their Irish everyday in school - Maith sibh! We have lots of Halloween activities planned for this week to end our first half term in 5th/6th class on a high!



Ms. Sweeney S.E.T

It has been a busy start to the year with my class groups, senior infants, Mr McGroary's 1st and 2nd class and Ms. Curran's 5th and 6th class. I have really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of the children through both team teaching and withdrawal!

Both my 1st and 2nd class groups have been busy working on their sounds, reading and dolch words since the beginning of term. They are all super hard workers and I am very proud of them!

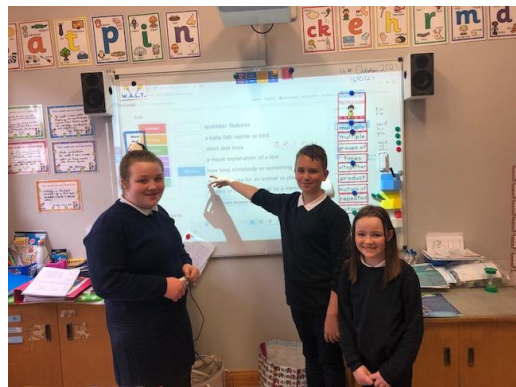
Here is some pupils from 1st class in action playing matching pairs online to practice their dolch words and second class spelling their dolch words using magnetic letters.



5th and 6th literacy groups have been reading lots of fiction and non-fiction material, while working on making predictions, identifying similarities and differences and extending our range of vocabulary.

Here is some of the 5th class pupils revising the vocabulary that they have been learning.

5th and 6th class numeracy groups have been working really hard on place value, averages and long multiplication since we returned in September. We have also been playing lots of fun games to practice our multiplication tables.



MS MARTIN'S SET

This term with Ms Martin, the boys and girls have been so busy practising their Maths and Reading. We have really enjoyed using Numicon and have learned that we can use it to explore lots of different Maths topics. We are using it to practise our multiplication and division facts in 4th class. In 3rd class we are using it to help us subtract but it's also great fun sorting and making pictures with it. It's been great getting to know all the boys and girls in Holy Family, keep up the great work!!





Dates for next term:

School reopens Monday 1st November 2021

School closes for Christmas Holidays Wednesday 22nd December 2021
@ 12:30

Remember to check out our website:

www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie

and to like us on Instagram & Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Elementary-School/Holy-Family-National-School-443493775761145/>

Have a lovely midterm break and stay
safe everyone!