



## Holy Family NS, Newsletter October 2022

### A Message from Mrs Lewis:

Dear Parents/Guardians & Children,

We are so delighted to be back at school, enjoying school life again with the freedom to engage in some of the activities we have had on hold for the past few years. We have been extremely busy and you will see below the work is ongoing with the usual element of fun we like to employ here. As ever we are still very safety conscious and will continue to use recommended measures to keep everyone as safe as possible.

The children continue to make us all very proud with their enthusiastic attitudes, inclusive approach and empathy. Holy Family NS has a great atmosphere of care and respect, this is due to the beliefs and attitudes of all who are part of this wonderful school. Thank you everyone.

There are so many groups who help our school community to thrive, Canon Munster, our chairperson and the Board of Management continue to oversee this and their time and effort is much appreciated.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Halloween break!!



### Creeslough Tragedy

Our school wish to extend sincere sympathy and condolences to the community of Creeslough following the tragic events that took place there. We had a special prayer service in Assembly for the Creeslough community. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this sad and difficult time.

### Our Response to Covid-19

All of our safety measures recommended by the Department of Education will remain in place after mid-term. Thank you all again for you continued patience & support.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE



## Parents Association News

Busy as ever! Our Parents' Association have already begun working hard on projects this year. They are organising the Christmas Card fundraiser and have agreed to fund the Christmas annuals for every pupil again this year. They are also making preparations for the AGM that will take place in November. Anyone who wishes to get involved is most welcome. The PA would like to thank outgoing Chairperson Angela Greenan for all her hard work.

If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to respond to our PA Survey:



<https://forms.gle/RSKePXhArixgM5bu7>

## Green Schools

Our Green School theme for this year is Water. This theme looks at developing awareness around water conservation and how to effectively monitor and manage the water we use in our school.

The theme also aims to raise awareness of the importance of clean water for the survival of all living creatures and habitats.

Our new Green School Committee for 2022/2023 will organise lots of activities for the coming term. Information and resources for all ages and classes is displayed on the notice board.



## Spooky Walk

Ms Curran's Class have been busy creating a scary, spooky walk for the children to enjoy on Friday. Thank you to them for their hard work and sense of fun for this spooktacular entertainment!

## Assembly

We are delighted to be back to enjoying live assemblies together with Mrs Lewis. All classes gather every week in the P.E hall to celebrate achievements, share news and even enjoy a little entertainment!

## Wainfest

First to Sixth Class enjoyed their trip to the Abbey Centre to see “A Dog’s Way Home” as part of the Wainfest celebrations.



## Liquid Therapy

Some of the children in Ms McNally and Ms Brennan’s Rock Hub enjoyed surf sessions with the instructors from Liquid Therapy in Rosknowlagh. The children thoroughly enjoyed this fantastic opportunity to top up their vitamin sea!!

**Trick or Treat for Sick Children:** We will celebrate 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 on **Tuesday 8th 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 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 Mr Sweeny & Ms Curran's Classes will be participating in our Ukulele music programme again this year. This is in conjunction with the Donegal Music Education Partnership and our tutor Brian O'Sullivan has already begun planning the sessions. Parents will be contacted shortly with arrangements.

## Parent-Teacher Meetings

Parent-Teacher meetings will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November. **All classes will finish at 1:45 on both days.** We can't wait to meet everyone face to face this year. There



will be tea and coffee available to parents in the Library with Mrs McGinn.




## 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. Children also have the opportunity to write their homework down during the day in the event that they don't have access to the apps after school.

## School Football Team


Thank you to Brian Roper who organized this wonderful event for us to participate in. The children showed excellent sportsmanship and we are very proud of them.




### DONEGAL GAA


## COACHING AND GAMES


Aodh Ruadh  
Club School Link blitz  
October 2022





We had 4 schools, Creevy NS, Rockfield NS, Scoil Chattriona NS and Holyfamily NS.  
All taking part in games, over 100 children enjoyed a fun and skills in a series of games.  
Big thanks to all schools, teachers and SBAs, who came and helped out.  
Also a big thank you to our Young Whistler's who referee the games.  
Future Aodh Ruadh & Donegal players in the making

  
Creevy NS

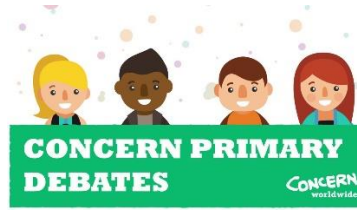
  
Rockfield NS

  
Scoil Chattriona NS

  
Holyfamily NS



Aodh Ruadh Club - Schools link blitz with 566 classes



## Primary Concern Debates

Children from Ms Curran's Class have been preparing to debate in the Concern Primary school's debating competition. They enjoyed their mock debate this week and we look forward to hearing their arguments in the competition.

## Fees

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

## News from the Classes!

### *Ms McGinn Home School Community Liaison Teacher (HSCL)*

Thank you so much to everyone for the amazing support you have given me in my first term as HSCL. I really appreciate the number of people who came to the coffee mornings and attended Seesaw introduction, reading workshops and our history walk around Ballyshannon.

The Halloween Costume exchange was a brilliant success (thank you Emer!) and the school Book Fair was another lovely chance to meet parents.

I am hoping to organise a Bedtime Reading Club for the children in the Junior rooms for November and maybe a few relaxing Christmas themed activities for parents in December.

The role of the HSCL is to support parents. If you would like to contact me or you have any suggestions you would like to make, please email

[mrsmcginn@holyfamillyballyshannon.ie](mailto:mrsmcginn@holyfamillyballyshannon.ie) or contact me by phone **083 0094276**,

Many Thanks,

Anita



### *Ms Martin, Junior Infants*

What a great first term we have had in Junior Infants. We have all settled well into Holy Family life. We have been very busy learning lots of rhymes and songs, reading different stories, making new friends, playing nicely together, learning our school rules and lots more.

We really enjoy going to the hall for PE and have been practising jumping, throwing and catching beanbags, learning how to clap out syllables especially in big words, getting to know our school and the people that work here, looking for 2d shapes and numbers outside and inside and playing Maths games with the big boys and girls.

We have also started Aistear in our classroom and one of our favourite areas is the sociodramatic areas. We dressed up as doctors, nurses and patients and roleplayed the doctors surgery. For Halloween, we have been dressing up as witches and wizards making potions to make people disappear, fly and even turn into frogs and spiders!

We can't wait to dress up this Friday for 'Trick or Treat for Temple Street' and I am looking forward to seeing all the boys and girls back after Halloween ready for another busy term!



### *Ms Mullaney, Senior Infants*

The children in Senior Infants have done some fantastic work this term. During our Science lessons, we have gone on Nature Walks and Senses Walks and we found out lots of new facts about our school grounds when we went on a Maths Trail during Maths Week. During 'Aistear', we have been doing some spooky activities, building haunted houses, and dressing up in the costumes from the 'Fancy Dress Shop'!

We have been busy exploring our new Outdoor Mud Kitchen and Chalkboard and we also really enjoyed our trip to the Abbey Centre.

We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a Happy Halloween!



### Ms McNally's Rock Hub

October was a busy month practising new skills like cutting, tracing and painting. We printed and stamped using pompoms and apples.



Two students from our class attended eight sessions of surfing with Liquid Therapy. It was a great success.

We have four new beanbags in our room.



They are very useful for just chilling with a book. We found some very engaging books at the book fair and enjoyed



going to the library to see them all.

We enjoyed sensory play too.

Can you see us having fun with ball pit balls and peanut balls, sorting them all into trays? After all fun that we found the new bean bags great to relax on for story time.



### Mr McGroary's 1<sup>st</sup> Class

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

In science lessons we have learned all 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 art we have been experimenting with colour mixing and have painted a number of pictures using the techniques learned.

We have enjoyed playing Maths games with Ms Leonard in 'Mata sa Rang. For Maths week we played card games and interactive games on the whiteboard, used Maths apps on our new iPads and built 3D creations using polydrons and magnetiles.

We have really enjoyed listening to the stories 'The Twits' and 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' being read aloud. For PE we have played a wide

variety of running games both outdoors and in the PE hall. We have also had great fun playing word games and making jigsaws in class.

We really enjoyed our trip to the Abbey Arts Centre a few weeks ago to watch 'A Dog's Way Home'. We have also had great fun each Tuesday playing educational games on our new set of school iPads



### Mr Foley's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

We have had a very busy first term in second and third class. The weeks have flown by and we cannot believe it is already nearly Halloween.

Our class have been working very hard on themes such as Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia, Autumn, Halloween and activities based on the history of our local areas, schools and homes.

We've created many wonderful art pieces based on many different topics, which we are excited to take home before the holidays.

Each week we have been using ICT, namely iPads and our Interactive Whiteboard. We have used these to research the meaning of words, participate in fun quizzes and learn more about our school.

For the past few weeks we have also been reading the novel "James and the Giant Peach" aloud together, which everyone has loved. We also had opportunities to read outdoors in the yard when the weather was nice.

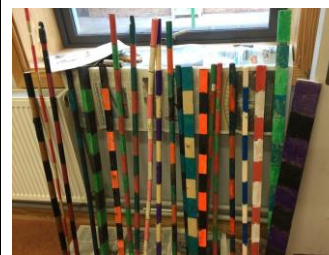
Our SWST spelling programme, which we conducted in class for 7 weeks, was a huge success as there have been great improvements in everyone's spelling abilities. We are all looking forward to the holidays and wish everyone a Happy Halloween!



### Mr Sweeney's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class

#### 3rd and 4th Class News

We have settled in well to school and are working hard in all subjects. We have done athletics and games in PE and 4th class have been involved in 2 interschool Gaelic Tournaments already. We have made good progress on the tin whistle and performed a medley of our tunes at the school assembly. In maths we made Counting Sticks from recycled wood and brush handles to help us with our tables. We enjoyed Roald Dahl Day and rehearsed and performed **Matilda** for other classes in the school. In History we learned about the Bronze Age and there has been excellent work done at home on Designing and Building Bronze Age Settlements. You can view slideshows of all the Crannóg Projects and our other learning activities by scanning the QR Code here.



### Ms Brennan's Rock Hub

The students in Rock Hub have settled back into school very well. They have been working hard on their reading and Math skills. We have been working on our fine motor and gross motor skills. In September the students worked on games and athletics and went running with Ms. Curran's class in Munday's field. The Rock Hub students were lucky to take part in weekly Liquid Therapy sessions at Rossknowlagh beach where they experience sand and water play. They also have the opportunity to learn how to surf! We all really enjoyed the sessions.

For SESE the class learned all about our community and did a community walk identifying different services and buildings. They made lovely cityscape artwork. The students also went on scavenger hunts and learnt all about the different types of trees in Ireland. They did leaf rubbings and used leaves to make prints. They learnt all about climate change and created posters. The students have also been enjoying baking and are great at following recipes and getting all the equipment and ingredients set up. During math week the boys had lots of fun finding and solving the 'Principal's Puzzles'. We are now getting excited for Halloween!



### Ms Curran's 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class

5/6th class have had a busy term with lots of things happening both inside and outside the classroom. They enjoyed their trip to the Abbey Arts

Centre to watch the film 'A Dog's Way Home' as part of the 'Wainfest' celebrations. They have also been working hard on their entries for the Allingham Arts Festival in both the art and creative writing competitions.

Maths Week was a busy one for 5/6th class. All children participated in a Maths Treasure hunt. They also created a Maths trail for the senior infants and had great fun helping and mentoring the senior infants as they completed the trail. Some children in the class also spent time with the Junior Infants playing Maths games.

The class have been following the 'Couch to 5K programme' in PE each week and hope to run a full 5k very soon. Many in the class have also been playing as part of the school football team and have shown great commitment and sportsmanship.

Our 6th class debate team have been extremely busy putting together their arguments for our 'Mock debate' that is taking place this week. This is a great opportunity to practise for their first heat in the Concern Primary debating competition that will take place on Thursday 10th November via Zoom.

The class have put together a Halloween Drama about a ghost school and are looking forward to performing it for the other classes this week. They are also planning a 'spooky walkway' in the senior corridor that will be there for all to enjoy on the last day before the Halloween Holidays.

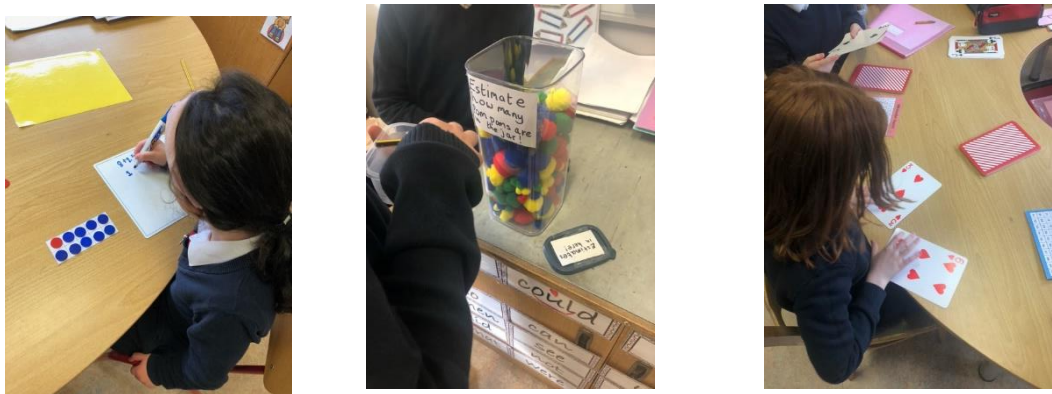


### Ms. Sweeney S.E.T

It has been a very busy half term and I am very proud of how hard all of my groups have been working! My literacy groups have been busy practising their phonological awareness skills (counting syllables & rhyming), learning to read and spell Dolch words using a variety of multisensory approaches and practising their blending/reading skills in lots of different contexts! Some of my groups have been partaking in the Handwriting Without Tears Programme! 3<sup>rd</sup> class have been using rubrics to assess their own reading accuracy, pace, expression and comprehension.



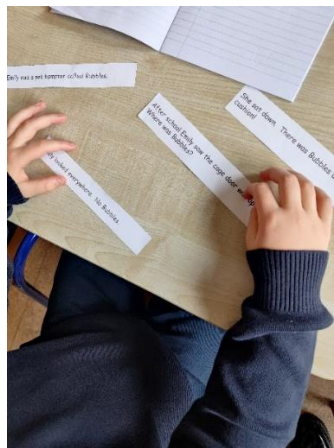
My maths groups had lots of fun during Maths week! They had to estimate how many Pom Poms were in the jar & we played lots of numeracy games using giant cards and dominoes!



### Ms Maguire S.E.T

All the children in S.E.T have worked very hard this term. They have enjoyed using a multi-sensory approach for learning their spellings. Their favourite multi-sensory spelling approaches include: spelling words using

magnetic letters on old biscuit tin lids, tracing words in flour and writing words on the whiteboard. We have also been working on dictation, sequencing sentences and stories, reading and comprehension strategies. We love to play *What's Up?*, *Go Fish* and *Hot Seat*.



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#### Dates for next term:

- School reopens Monday 7th November 2022
- School closed Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 November for Teacher Professional Development
- School closes for Christmas Holidays Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 @ 12:30

**Remember to check out our website:**

**[www.HolyFamilyBallyshannon.ie](http://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!

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