



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy and enjoyable month in Scoil Mhuire as everyone settles into school life for the 2026/2027 academic year. It has been wonderful to see our classrooms filled with enthusiasm, curiosity and happy children who are eager to learn. A very special welcome goes to our new Junior Infant pupils and the new families who have joined our school community this year. Over the past number of weeks, friendships have been formed, routines have been established and children have embraced the many opportunities that school life has to offer.

September is always an important month for teachers as they spend time getting to know each child, not only as a learner but as an individual with unique strengths, interests and experiences. This understanding is developed through daily classroom observations, conversations with the children, information shared by parents and guardians, previous teachers, special education teachers, special needs assistants and, where appropriate, outside professionals and agencies. Teachers also draw upon documentation such as assessment information, pupil support plans and previous school records to build a comprehensive picture of each child.

This information is invaluable in supporting teachers' professional decision-making. Every day, teachers make thoughtful decisions about what children learn, how learning is organised and sequenced, the pace at which new learning is introduced and the experiences through which children develop knowledge, skills and understanding. Using the learning outcomes within the new Primary Curriculum Framework, teachers carefully design meaningful learning experiences that reflect the needs, interests and prior learning of the children in their class. While this process takes time, it lays strong foundations for the year ahead and ensures that learning is engaging, purposeful and appropriately challenging for every child.

Already this month we have seen classrooms where children's ideas, questions and opinions are welcomed and valued. We see positive relationships developing between children and staff, collaborative learning taking place across all class levels and children becoming increasingly confident and independent within their learning environments. These first few weeks are about much more than settling into routines- they are about creating classrooms where every child feels safe, respected, included and ready to learn. I would like to commend both our pupils and staff for the positive atmosphere that has been created throughout the school.



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SEPTEMBER 2026

Home-School Partnership

Thank you to all parents and guardians for your continued support during these first few weeks of the school year. The positive partnership between home and school is one of the greatest strengths of our school community. Your support with school routines, communication, homework and encouraging positive attitudes towards learning makes a significant difference to your child's educational experience. We look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year to ensure every child reaches their full potential.

Annual Resource Payment

The Board of Management would like to sincerely thank all families who have already completed the Annual Resource Payment. These contributions help us provide high-quality resources, learning materials and experiences for all pupils throughout the school year and also include your child's school insurance. If you have not yet completed your payment, we kindly ask that you do so over the coming weeks. Should you have any queries regarding the payment, please contact the school office.

The pupil insurance is a benefits policy and covers Medical and Dental expenses following an accident. Please note this insurance covers an accident that occurs inside and outside of the school grounds 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The insurance payment is included with the Annual Resources Payment link in June. The deadline for this payment was Friday Sept 11th on your Aladdin App. To reiterate, your child may have an accident outside of school time and this insurance policy will cover expenses incurred. If this happens, please contact the office for a standard claims application form from Allianz Insurance.

The Annual Resources payment (which includes the Pupil insurance) can be paid in one full payment of €80 (June 26-Sept 26) or two smaller payments of €40 each (June 26 & January 27). You will see these options when you click into the E-payments tab on your App.

The payment link is being extended until Friday 25th Sept. Please contact the school office after this date if you need the payment link to be extended on your App.



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Attendance and Punctuality

Establishing good attendance and punctuality habits from the beginning of the school year is extremely important. Arriving at school on time allows children to settle comfortably into their day and ensures they benefit from all learning opportunities. We greatly appreciate the efforts of families in supporting regular attendance and thank you for your continued cooperation.

Communication

As always, we encourage parents to check the Aladdin Connect app regularly for school updates, newsletters, permission requests and important notices. If your contact details have changed, please inform the school office so that our records remain accurate.

Oide School Closure Days:

Oide, the Dept of Education Support Service for Teachers have finalised with all schools the dates for their school closures to support the Curriculum Enactment support for the redeveloped Primary School Curriculum.

Our school has been notified of two of the planned closure dates which are: 01/12/2026 and 29/01/2027.

Two additional school closures are expected and will be communicated as soon as we are notified. We apologise for the inconvenience to parents however we are obliged to complete the mandatory training days. Further information on Oide's work or the Primary School Curriculum can be accessed at <https://oide.ie/primary-news-posts/primary-curriculum-framework-pcf-ple/>

Kind Regards,
Lorraine Henry
Principal



NOTE TO PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

GENTLE REMINDERS

-  Indoor shoes: All children should now have slippers or crocs in school. These will be worn during the day and changed when going outside to help protect our floors.
-  Rain jackets: Please ensure your child has a rain jacket each day. We encourage outdoor play where possible, including during light or misty weather.
-  Hot school meals: Please remember that changes to your child's hot school meal order require 36 hours advance notice. Please check the ordering system carefully before making any changes.
-  Safety in the car park: Please use the footpaths and safe crossing points when arriving at and leaving school. This helps to keep all of our children safe. We are completing our annual safety questionnaire with parents, staff and children and we note the high volume of responses in relation to parents parking on the foot paths, and the overall need of exercising caution, patience and awareness by all school users. Further feedback on the questionnaire and matters raised will follow to parents in the coming weeks.
-  Entering the school building: If your child is finding the transition difficult, particularly after a busy weekend, school break or long week, please continue to the main school door if you are delayed past normal arrival time. A member of staff can then be called to support you and your child. For the safety of all children, no adult should enter the school building without a prior arrangement. We understand it can be difficult when a child is feeling clingy however, parents should not walk children beyond the main hall entrance. Any adult entering the school must report to Reception and sign in and out in accordance with our child protection procedures.
-  Swimming – 2nd to 5th Class: As swimming begins early in September we do not expect payment before lessons begin. However, we would appreciate if payment could be completed before the final lesson on Friday, 23rd October. The payment link is now available on your Aladdin app should you wish to pay sooner.
- Last year, the cost was €63 per child for six swimming lessons and bus transport. This year swimming pool hire and swimming instructors fees have increased and our overall class number from 2nd to 5th classes who participate in swim lessons is lower this year while the bus cost has remained the same. We endeavour to keep fees consistent each year; however, these factors influence the final cost. As a result, the cost of swimming this year is €70 per child.



NOTE TO PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

NOTES TO PARENTS

-  Swimming (1st–5th Classes): Began on Friday 4th September and runs for six weeks until Friday 23rd October at Kilcornan. Payment link has been sent via Aladdin.
-  Mini Sevens Gaelic Football (Senior Boys): Friday, 18th September 2026.
-  Cross Country Championships: Tuesday, 22nd September 2026 in Ballybrit Racecourse.
-  Mini Sevens Hurling (Senior Boys): Friday, 25th September 2026.
-  Mini Sevens Gaelic Football (Senior Girls): Thursday, 24th September 2026 in Carnmore.
-  Mini Sevens Camogie (Senior Girls): Tuesday, 29th September 2026 in Kilconieron.
-  4th Class Cycle Training: Begins 30th September 2026. This is our yearly training delivered by An Taisce cycle training coaches. Children will bring in their own bikes and the lessons will occur every Wednesday for four weeks. Further details will be sent to parents early Sept from the class teachers.
-  The Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC) visit for 5th and 6th class: 8th & 9th October 2026. They will learn about aquaculture, Irish marine life and the importance of caring for our oceans.
-  Baboró Festival: We are looking forward to the Baboró Festival from 9th–18th October. We hope our pupils will enjoy live shows, workshops and possibly a performance in school. More information to follow!
-  County Photos (All Classes): Thursday, 22nd October 2026.
-  Friday, 23rd October: School closes at 3:00pm for Midterm Break.
-  Monday, 2nd November: School reopens following the Midterm Break.
-  Monday, 16th – Friday, 20th November: Parent-Teacher Meetings for 1st–6th Classes. Appointment slots will be shared via Aladdin closer to the time.
-  Wednesday, 18th & Thursday, 19th November: School closes at 2:00pm for all classes to facilitate Parent-Teacher Meetings.



NOTE TO PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

NOTES TO PARENTS



- 🎄 Friday, 11th December: Christmas Celebrations in the School Hall. Further details will follow.
- 🎹 After School Keyboard Lessons: Creative Keyboards have resumed classes in Scoil Mhuire and are now enrolling for keyboard classes for September 2026. Classes will run on Mondays from 2pm in our school hall. Further information will have been sent to parents.
- ♟️ After school Chess Club: Our chess tutor is Brendan Buckley and our After School Chess Class Times are Tuesdays 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm, 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm. Classes are held on Tuesdays starting September. Further details have been sent to 1st-6th class students in the coming weeks.

CALF AND CUCKOO PROGRAMME



The two 5th Classes are delighted to be taking part in this year's Burren Calf and Cuckoo Programme. Through two three-hour workshops in school, they will learn about the Burren landscape, including its seasonal changes, wildlife and traditions. In May or June, the pupils will enjoy a guided outing in the Burren with Burrenbo Trust staff where they will explore and study the landscape first-hand, making meaningful connections between classroom learning and the world around them.

CLASSROOM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME TO OUR NEW JUNIOR INFANTS



We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants to Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge on Thursday, 27th August. Starting school is a big milestone, and we are so proud of how confidently and enthusiastically they have embraced this new chapter.

SENIOR INFANTS DOT DAY



On September 15th, Senior Infants celebrated International Dot Day. They listened to the story *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and then created their very own dot-inspired masterpieces!

CLASSROOM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

1ST CLASS BUCKET FILLERS



First Class along with their teachers Ms. Kennedy and Ms. McDermott, have been enjoying the story Bucket Fillers. The children have been learning how small acts of kindness, caring words and helpful choices can help to “fill” one another’s buckets. They have been busy noticing and celebrating kind behaviour in the classroom, helping to create a happy and caring place for everyone.

CAPITAL LETTERS IN 3RD CLASS



3rd Class have settled back into school life wonderfully and are getting back into the swing of things! They really enjoyed creating their own colourful posters to remind them of all the important things that need capital letters. It was a fun and creative way to revise their grammar skills! They are looking forward to a fun year ahead!

CLASSROOM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

OUTDOOR PLAY IN 4TH CLASS



4th Class enjoyed some fresh air, fun and active playtime outdoors!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



We are really looking forward to getting started with the Student Council again this year! Our first meeting will take place soon and elections for the new Student Council will be held in November.

Until then, last year's members will continue to fly the flag and represent the pupils in our school. At our first meeting, we will complete our own school safety survey so that pupils' voices and opinions are heard too. We hope to gather lots of ideas and work together to help make our school an even happier and safer place for everyone. Look out for the return of our staff interview in next month's newsletter!

MUSIC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

MUSIC INSTRUMENT RENTAL SCHEME



Our Musical Instrument Rental Scheme will be relaunched in Scoil Mhuire again this year. Children in 2nd - 6th classes will have the opportunity to see a demonstration of the instruments which are available in our musical instrument rental scheme. The instrument rental scheme commenced in 2024/2025, thanks to the support of the Board of Management, the Parent's Association and the donation of instruments from parents and members of the community. Our sincere thanks for the support received from Music Network's Music Capital Scheme, funded by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. Music Network is funded by The Arts Council. This support has allowed us to significantly expand our bank of instruments available for rent.

This year we are delighted to welcome back traditional and classical music teachers Karina Cahill and Nicola Cahill who will be providing music lessons in Scoil Mhuire during the school day. These classes are available to all children from 2nd - 6th classes. The music teachers will take small group classes in the hall or in a spare classroom. These teachers will be garda vetted and are aware of our Child Safeguarding Statement.

*Students who rent an instrument are doing so in conjunction to signing up to one of these weekly music classes

The procedures that will be followed when operating the musical instrument rental scheme will be sent in early September.

TEACHER	INSTRUMENTS	CONTACT DETAILS	COST/PAYMENT
Karina Cahill	Fiddle, Banjo, Mandolin, Button Accordion, Piano Accordion, Flute	087-9073894 kcahill222@gmail.com	€7 per lesson <i>Payment must be made upfront on the first Thursday of each block of classes. Cash/cheque/Revolut are all accepted. Block dates will be issued in September.</i>
Nicola Cahill	Guitar, Concertina	087-9061042 cahill_nicola@hotmail.com	Lessons are non-refundable unless the music teacher is absent.

SPORTS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETICS



Mr. Glavey and Mr. Lane have been busy preparing our Cross Country Athletics Team throughout the month. The children have shown great enthusiasm and commitment during their training sessions. We wish all involved the very best of luck as they represent Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge at the Cross Country Athletics events in Ballybrit Racecourse on Tuesday 22nd September.

HURLING & CAMOGIE TRAINING



Children from 4th, 5th and 6th Class have been taking part in camogie and hurling training after school. The sessions provide a great opportunity for children to develop their skills, build confidence and enjoy being active with their friends.

It has been wonderful to see the children showing such enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship as they prepare for the season ahead. A sincere thank you to Mr. Glavey, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Niland for giving their time to support and coach the children.

OTHER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

COMHALTAS



Comhaltas Gaillimh Theas (South Galway Comhaltas) promotes Irish traditional music in the local area. We meet on a fortnightly basis to share and enjoy music, with our first gathering after the summer break taking place Sunday, September 6th.



COMHALTAS GAILLIMH THEAS

PROMOTING TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC AND CULTURE

- Play traditional Irish music as part of a group
- Learn new tunes in a supportive fun filled atmosphere
- Fortnightly tune swap and session at Kiltartan N.S. H91 C6E8
- All ages and instruments welcome
- Minimal charge - €5 per session
- Instrument rental scheme available with option to buy

STARTING 6TH SEPTEMBER
11AM - 1PM

KILTARTAN N.S. H91 C6E8

Contact: Nicola 087-9061042
Comhaltas Gaillimh Theas
gaillimhtheasce@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TONY!



Congratulations to Tony Shorten (6th class) who performed as part of the Cuimsiú sessions for President Catherine Connolly this summer on the occasion of the first anniversary of Resilience Healthcare in Lisbaun, Galway.