



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



APRIL 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As the bright weather arrives, we ask parents to ensure children continue to wear their school uniform as normal. We are proud of our uniform and we understand that items may need to be washed mid-week or repaired due to rips. But if we lose the consistency, it diminishes the respect we have for it and the efforts that all parents make. If parents could please ensure that branded items/hoodies are not worn as part of our uniform and shorts remain as navy knee length loose shorts (no GAA / sports shorts, no logos or other colours). A reminder that the recommended school style shorts (K sport brand) are available from GM School Wear Centre Claregalway & The Schoolwear Centre (Galway/Tuam). Both shops are also online.

We have introduced indoor shoes/slippers this last week and we thank all families for the great support on this. Classrooms and corridors are much easier to maintain and clean because of this small change. We recommend well fitting slippers and non slip soles (no novelty style slippers or crocs with removable parts). All children should be able to put on shoes/slippers independently.

We are enjoying the daily routines of school life. There is lovely song singing with our preparation for our school visit to the National Concert Hall next Monday 27<sup>th</sup> for the Primary Ensemble performance and Confirmation practices/singing is well under way for our Confirmation Ceremony in the Church of the Annunciation, Clarinbridge this coming Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Trials are also underway for upcoming camogie, hurling and athletics competitions.

The month of May is quickly approaching and we look forward to celebrating Our Lady in each classroom. May is a lovely time to look forward to warmer temperatures and enjoy the flowers which have bloomed. As we create our May altars in our school, it might be a good time for families to join us and to create a small altar at home, to pay tribute to Mary who our school is named after.

We wish the community of Clarinbridge the very best in the ongoing Community Games competitions.

Please can parents ensure children are protected from the sun with the finer weather. We recommend wide brimmed hats, and extra water being sent to school with your child. Please can sunscreen be applied every morning for the remainder of the term. "Even on cool or cloudy days, UV rays from the sun can still reach our skin and cause damage without us realising it" (HSE). Please see Aladdin notice for separate sun smart guidelines.

Kind Regards

L.Henry

Principal

# NOTES FOR PARENTS

APRIL 2026

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### April

- Tuesday, 21st April – Clothes for Cash Drop
- Friday, 24th April – Confirmation
- Monday, 27th April – Primary Ensemble Performance in the National Concert Hall
- Monday 27th April – Wellbeing Week begins

### May

- Monday, 4th May – Bank Holiday
- Friday, 22nd May – School Closed due to Bye-Election- Provisional
- Saturday, 23rd May – First Holy Communion
- Tuesday, 26th May – School Closure (Primary Curriculum Staff Training 2)
- Wednesday, 27th May – Incoming Junior Infant Parent Open Evening- parents of new Junior Infants will be contacted directly.
- Friday, 29th May School Tour Payment Deadline

### June

- Monday, 1st June – Bank Holiday
- Wednesday, 3rd June – Incoming Junior Infant Open Morning – 10:00am–11:30am- parents of new Junior Infants will be contacted directly.
- Friday, 5th June – School Tour more information and payment links to follow

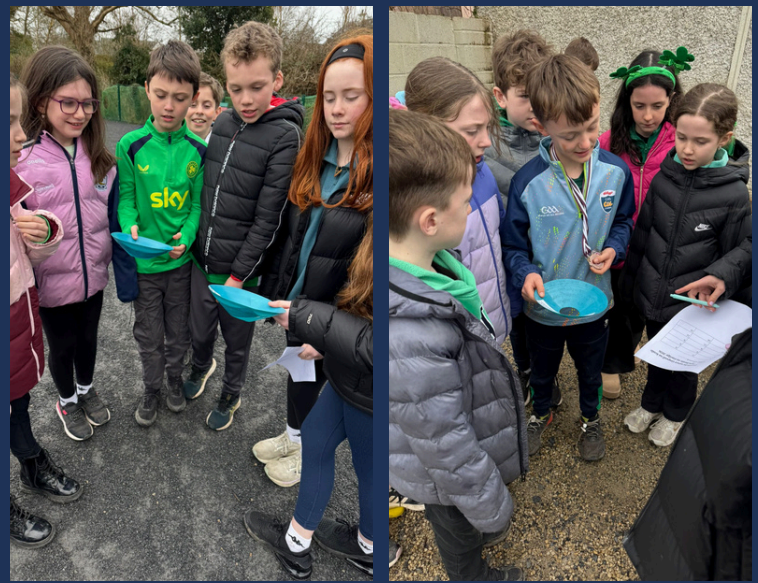
### August

- School will reopen for the 26/27 Academic year on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- The school calendar for 26/27 will be updated on Aladdin and sent home by hardcopy in late May.

# SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

APRIL 2026

## LÁ GLAS CELEBRATIONS



On Monday 16th March, we marked the end of our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations, organised by Mr. Glavey, with a whole-school “Lá Glas”. Children and staff came to school dressed in green, creating a wonderful sea of colour throughout the school.

There was a fantastic sense of fun and community on the day, as everyone embraced the opportunity to celebrate the Irish language and culture together. Throughout the week, children took part in a variety of activities to promote and encourage the use of Gaeilge, and Lá Glas was a lovely way to bring the celebrations to a close.

# SACRAMENTAL NEWS

APRIL 2026

FIRST CONFESSION



Congratulations and well done to all the children in 2nd Class who celebrated their First Confession on Monday, 23rd March in the school hall. This was a very special milestone in their faith journey, and the children should be extremely proud of how well they prepared for and participated in the ceremony.

A sincere thank you to their teachers, Mrs. Coolahan and Ms. Mogan, for all the work and care that went into preparing the children for this important occasion.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Fr. Barry and Fr. Derek for their guidance and support in making the ceremony such a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved.

# SACRAMENTAL NEWS

APRIL 2026

CONFIRMATION 



We wish our 6th Class and Mr. Conroy every blessing and good wish as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 24th April.

A sincere thank you to Mrs. Coolahan for her help and support in preparing the children for this very special occasion. We would also like to thank the 4th and 5th Class pupils who are taking part in the choir—their contribution will add greatly to the ceremony and make the day even more special.

# SPORTS NEWS

APRIL 2026

## OLYMPIC HANDBALL



Congratulations to Mr. Lane's fantastic 5th Class handball team who represented the school so proudly on Wednesday, 25th March in Ballinfoyle. The team participated with great enthusiasm, skill, and sportsmanship, and we are extremely proud of their efforts.

A sincere thank you to parents Lorraine Patterson, Catherine O'Mahony, Chris Cullen and Joan Lally for kindly providing transport, and to Ms. Mogan for her support and guidance on the day.

Our handball competitions for this school year have now come to an end. A big well done to all the children who took part and represented the school so enthusiastically. We look forward to getting involved again next year!

# SPORTS NEWS

APRIL 2026

## ALL IRELAND SWIMMING FINALS



We would like to extend a huge congratulations to Billy O'Brien, Holly Cullen, Rose Cullen, Harry Byrne and Ruairí Byrne who proudly represented our school in individual events at the recent All-Ireland Minor Schools Swimming Finals. Well done also to Eve D'Arcy, Rose Cullen, Holly Cullen and Lily Balfe who competed as part of the relay team.

The competition took place in the National Aquatic Centre, Dublin on the 29th of March, and all swimmers showed fantastic dedication, effort and sportsmanship throughout. We are incredibly proud of their achievements! Thanks to Ms. Dowling for coordinating our schools entry and attending the Dublin event.

# SPORTS NEWS

APRIL 2026

## JUNIOR CLASSES HURLING/CAMOGIE PROGRAMME



Sincere thanks to the parent volunteers from Clarinbridge GAA Club who joined us on Tuesday mornings to deliver a fantastic Fundamental Skills and Mini-Games programme. The children from Junior Infants to 2nd Class thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and benefited greatly from the fun, active learning experience. Your time, energy and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

## SENIOR CLASSES HURLING/CAMOGIE PROGRAMME



Thanks to Aisling, Clarinbridge GAA Club, Club Development Officer, who has been delivering hurling/camogie sessions and games to the children in 3rd to 6th Class. The children are thoroughly enjoying the sessions and are developing great skills and teamwork. They are also busy preparing for upcoming blitzes and competitions in the final term, and we wish them the very best of luck!

# STEM NEWS

APRIL 2026

## LEGO LEAGUE



We are delighted to share the fantastic work 3<sup>rd</sup> class have been doing as part of the LEGO League!

Over the past number of weeks, the children have been busy designing, building, and programming their very own LEGO robots. Working in teams, they are exploring real-world problems, developing creative solutions, and bringing their ideas to life using coding and engineering skills.

Throughout the process, the children are demonstrating excellent teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance. They are learning how to plan, test, and improve their designs—important skills that go far beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of all the children involved and the effort they are putting into this exciting STEM initiative. Well done to Ms. Rushe and 3<sup>rd</sup> class!

# STEM NEWS

APRIL 2026

## POWER HOUR



STEM Power Hour has been taking place in Ms.Kilgarriff's 4th class, with Ms. Caulfield. This week, the class participated in their second session using the K'NEX kits. Some children engaged with the instruction booklets to construct 2D models, extending their work into more complex 3D designs.

Each child presented their work to the class, outlining their planning process and building techniques, discussing challenges encountered, and explaining how their ideas evolved throughout the activity. Children reflected on the adjustments made and how these contributed to their final outcomes. Throughout the session, strong evidence of creativity, teamwork, innovative and critical thinking was observed.

Interestingly, the children found their designs and constructions carried a common theme- A children's theme park/playground.

# MUSIC NEWS

APRIL 2026

## PRIMARY ENSEMBLE



Our school music group were delighted to host Allen N.S. from Naas, Co. Kildare for our final rehearsal last week with Professor Fergus O'Carroll. The children worked on their collaborative performance piece- Baidín Fheilimí- under the baton of Fergus. He was most impressed with their musicality but also their listening skills and the focus they showed throughout the rehearsal. The children also got the opportunity to perform their own arrangement of "Sonny's Mazurka & Going to the Well (Slip Jig)", which they will be performing on the National Concert Hall stage next Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. We wish all the children involved the very best of luck in their performance. Thanks to Mrs. Coolahan for organising this year long initiative and Ms. Henry and Mr. Glavey who will attend on the day.

# NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

APRIL 2026

## SENIOR INFANTS STATIONS



Ms. Kennedy's and Ms. Sylver's Senior Infants are busy engaging in literacy stations with their teachers, taking part in a variety of fun and purposeful activities. Through these stations, the children are developing their reading, writing, and oral language skills, working on phonics, word building, and early comprehension. The small group setting allows for plenty of support and encouragement, while also promoting independence and confidence in their learning.

# STUDENT COUNCIL

APRIL 2026

## STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE



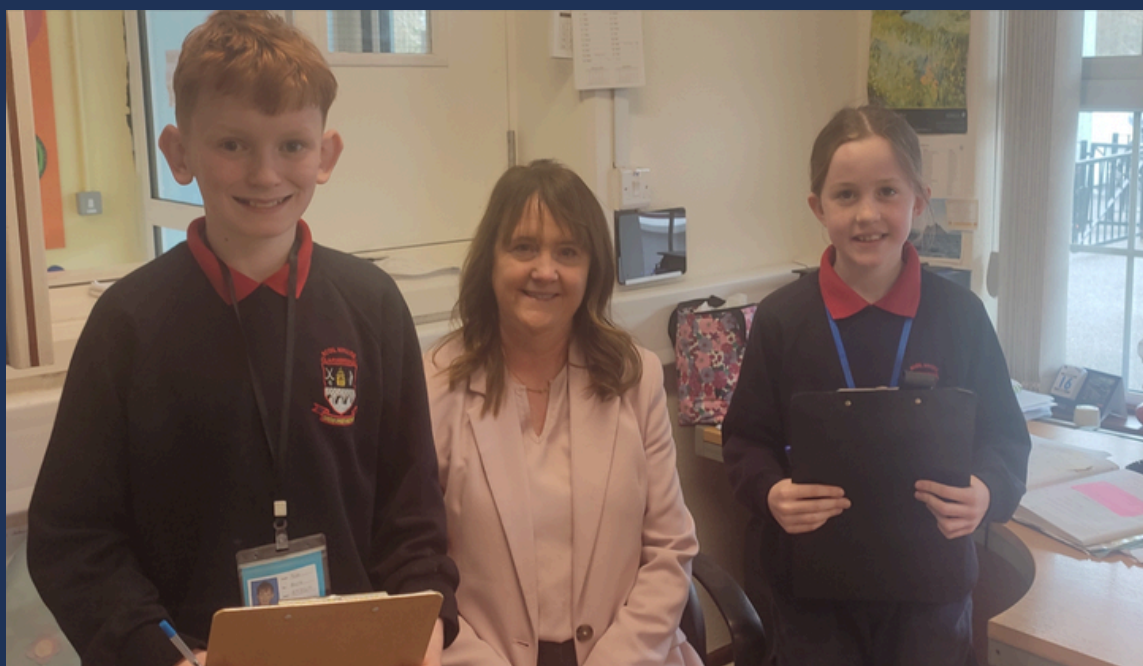
The student Council have enjoyed their Easter break and have been busy since going back to school. They have been sharing the news that the School Walking and Cycling bus is starting up again. They have also shared the news about wearing indoor shoes to help keep our school floors clean and tidy. The floors were cleaned over Easter and we want to keep them looking great.

Suggestion boxes have been filled up with lots of suggestions in every class. We have gathered the information from each class. At our next Student Council Meeting, we will prioritise these suggestions and choose the ideas we are going to work on. The student council have taken responsibility for watering the new flower baskets outside the school and hope to keep them looking well.

This month, our stars in the “Getting to know our staff” feature, are our interviewers - Hannah and Alex (4th class, Ms. Kilgarriff). They help us get to know Geraldine our fabulous School Secretary in the school office.

Thanks to Ms. Caulfield and Ms. Burke for their help with the Student Council.

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SCHOOL SECRETARY



# STUDENT COUNCIL

APRIL 2026

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF INTERVIEW

<b>Describe yourself in 3 words</b>	<b>Friendly, Happy, Helpful</b>
<b>Tell us something interesting about yourself?</b>	<b>I used to do Karate</b>
<b>Where are you from?</b>	<b>Cork</b>
<b>How long have you been secretary in our school?</b>	<b>I've been secretary in the school for 22 years.</b>
<b>What's your favourite thing about being a secretary?</b>	<b>I love meeting all the children.</b>
<b>What other jobs have you done before being in our school?</b>	<b>I used to work with Adidas!</b>
<b>What do you like to do in your free time?</b>	<b>Go walking!</b>
<b>Your favourite food</b>	<b>Garlic steak and chips.</b>
<b>Your favourite season</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Your favourite animal</b>	<b>Flamingo</b>
<b>Your favourite place</b>	<b>South of France</b>
<b>Your favourite song</b>	<b>"One day like this" by Elbow</b>
<b>Your favourite book</b>	<b>Lessons in Chemistry</b>
<b>Your favourite movie/show</b>	<b>The Greatest Showman</b>
<b>Your favourite sport</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<b>Your favourite dessert</b>	<b>Ice-cream</b>
<b>Your favourite drink</b>	<b>Coca Cola</b>
<b>Your favourite childhood memory</b>	<b>Going to the sweet shop with my Granny after mass on a Sunday.</b>
<b>A place you'd like to go to. Why?</b>	<b>The Fjords in Norway because I did a project on the fjords in school when I was younger.</b>
<b>What advice would you give the children in the school?</b>	<b>Follow your dreams!</b>

# NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2026

## CHESS



Well done to our school chess team who recently took part in the Galway Chess Competition. They represented the school with great focus and sportsmanship—congratulations to all involved!

## COMMUNITY GAMES SWIMMING



Well done to Chloe, Sam, Rose, George, Harry, Holly, Millie Luke, Ellen, Ava, Billy, Cillian and Ruairí who participated in the Clarinbridge Community Games Swimming Competition on Sunday, 15th March, held in Kilcornan Swimming Pool. We are very proud of your effort and participation- fantastic work!

# NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2026

## GOLD MEDAL SUCCESS FOR ISABELLE



We are delighted to share that Isabelle Giles attended the Gymstart Floor and Vault Competition on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena in Dublin. Isabelle delivered an outstanding performance and was awarded a gold medal. Congratulations to Isabelle on this fantastic achievement- well done!

## SPORTING SUCCESS – COLGA U13B GIRLS



Congratulations to the Colga U13B girls on winning the Division 3 Cup Final in Eamon Deacy Park on April 7th. A special well done to our 6th class girls who were part of the team! Photos show our 6th class girls and the team celebrating their win.

# ACTIVE SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL 2026

## Scoil Mhuire's Park and Stride



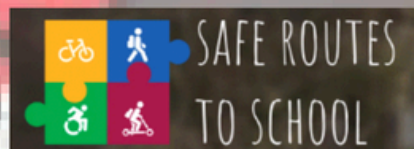
Where?  
Clarinbridge  
Green

Make the school run safer and healthier!  
Park and Stride means leaving the car a 10 minute walk from the school gate. Enjoy fresh air, skip traffic congestion and enjoy a morning chat with your child. This is the perfect opportunity to boost concentration in class. We will be running this initiative from 20<sup>th</sup> April until the end of Summer term

Who is involved?  
All school community

When?  
8.50  
2.00  
3.00  
Daily

How?  
Park and walk at your leisure.



# ACTIVE SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL 2026



## Scoil Mhuire's Cycle Bus

Where?  
Kilcolgan,  
Weir,  
Stradbally,  
Clarinbridge

When?  
8.45am

The Cycle Bus is a fun, safe, and supervised group ride, that lets kids make friends, get active, and start their day energized. Join the convoy for a greener, safer, and happier commute!

How?  
Contact  
Pat O Loan  
0862010020



# ACTIVE SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL 2026

## SCOIL MUIRE- CYCLE BUS



Our whole-school Active Travel initiative has been a great success, with many children taking part in the Park and Stride and Cycle Bus. These initiatives promote a healthier, more active start to the school day while also helping to reduce traffic around the school. The Cycle Bus, in particular, has proven very popular, offering a fun, safe, and supervised way for children to travel to school together, arriving energised and ready for the day ahead. Be sure to check out the photos to see everyone in action!

# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2026

## Parents Association of Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge



Clothes  
For  
Cash.ie

Please  
support our  
fundraiser

[www.clothesforcash.ie](http://www.clothesforcash.ie)

Please drop your bags to the canopy of the School Hall  
entrance from **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of April** until **9.30am**  
**Tuesday the 21st of April**

**We happily accept the  
following 'good quality' items:**

- Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Belts



**\*\*\*Please note: No bedding or soft  
toys allowed this year\*\*\***

**Please note we DO NOT accept:**

- Bedding, Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and Mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material
- Soft Toys



**Please support this Fund Raiser for Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge**

All donations are greatly appreciated from all members of the community