



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy and enjoyable month here in Scoil Mhuire, and we hope that all families thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas shows. It was wonderful to celebrate the festive season together and to see our pupils shine on stage.

#### Parent Survey – Childcare Services (September 2027)

The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire are seeking to understand the needs, preferences, and expectations of families regarding possible before school, after school, and holiday childcare services from September 2027. We ask one parent/guardian per family (including incoming families) to complete the 5-minute survey. All responses are confidential and will help inform future planning. Survey deadline: Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 12 noon. Thank you for your continued support.

#### School Procedures During Severe Weather

In the event of severe or unpredictable weather conditions that include national weather alerts, the Principal, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management, will make decisions regarding school closures/delayed opening in line with the national weather and safety advisories. If a decision is made to close the school, parents will be notified via Aladdin as soon as possible. In some circumstances, an earlier collection time of 2:00pm may be advised as an alternative to full closure. Should this arise, an Aladdin notification will be issued to parents outlining collection arrangements. In times of urgent notification, The Parents Association may be contacted to also send the notice via class WhatsApp parent groups. We thank all parents for their continued co-operation and understanding during such events.

#### School Grounds Update

We are pleased to inform parents that the inner footpath adjacent to the school has been resurfaced following feedback from our Parent Safety Survey conducted in October. We would like to thank all parents who took the time to share their views, which directly contributed to this improvement for the safety of our school community.

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DECEMBER 2025

## Annual Resources – Second Instalment Reminder

A reminder to families who opted to pay the annual resources fee in two instalments that the second payment is due by Friday, 16th January. The original payment link was issued on 2/9/25. We kindly ask that all outstanding payments be made by this date. Thank you for your co-operation.

## In-School Management Team

The Board of Management is delighted to welcome Ms. Michelle Dowling to the In-School Management Team. Ms. Dowling joins Ms. Henry, Mr. Glavey, Mrs. Coolahan, Ms. Moran, and Ms. Rushe (with Ms. Caulfield fulfilling this role during Ms. Rushe's maternity leave). We wish Ms. Dowling every success in her new role and thank the team for their continued dedication to our school community.

## Parents' Association Fundraiser – Jersey Day

The Parents' Association will be hosting a Jersey Day fundraiser in the New Year. Further details will be shared with families in due course. We look forward to your support.

As we come to the end of a busy and enjoyable term, I would like to wish all our staff, pupils, and families a safe, happy, and restful Christmas break.

Sincere thanks to our Board of Management and all members of our Parents' Association Committee for their continued involvement in school life. This term has been both positive and productive, and we now look forward to the New Year as a time for fresh starts, renewed commitments, and exciting plans for the future.

Kind regards,  
Lorraine Henry  
Principal

## NOTES TO PARENTS

### DECEMBER 2025

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- ½ Day Closure: Fri 19<sup>th</sup> December: School closes at 12pm for the Christmas holidays.
- Return to school: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 School re-opens
- St. Brigid's day school closure: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb
- One week school closure Mid Term break: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Curriculum Planning school closure: Mon 2nd March
- St. Patrick's Day school closure: Tue 17<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter ½ Day closure: Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March

#### BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL CRIB



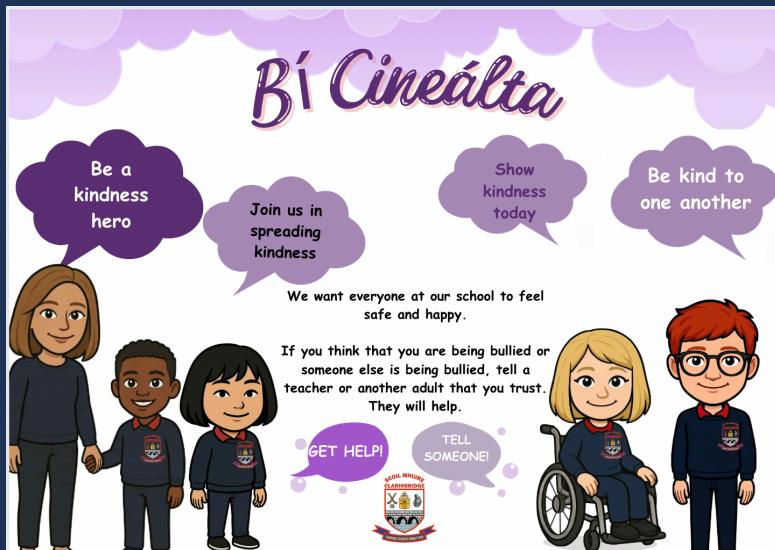
On Monday 8th December, Fr. Barry and our new pupils blessed the beautiful crib at the front of the school. This wonderful crib was kindly made by the Men's Shed, with the figurines generously sponsored by the Parents' Association in recent years. We thank both groups for their continued support of our school community. (Photographed above are : Noah Ferguson, Owen Freitas, Eva Lyons & Clara Venters)

This Sunday we will celebrate Bambinelli Sunday at 11:30am Mass. We are delighted to share that Eva Lyons from Junior Infants, who has a December birthday, will bring our Baby Jesus crib figure to Mass to be blessed by Fr. Barry. This is a lovely tradition in preparation for Christmas, reminding us of the true meaning of the season. All families are welcome to bring their own Baby Jesus figures from home to be blessed at mass by Fr. Barry.

# NOTES TO PARENTS

DECEMBER 2025

## BÍ CINEÁLTA POSTER



Following recent child protection training, we have updated our Child Safeguarding Statement and our Bí Cineálta Poster. We have also introduced a new Anti-Racism Initiative as part of our ongoing commitment to a safe, inclusive, and respectful school environment. Staff will also receive training in the Anti-Racism Initiative. Parents are invited to visit our school website to view all updated policies and statements.

## NEW HALLWAY ADDITIONS



A big thank you to our Parents' Association for their ongoing fundraising efforts. Thanks to this support, we have been able to upgrade the entrance to the school hall. We have framed our newly designed school jerseys sponsored by Matthew and Hilary Daniels, M&S Auto Clarinbridge and Eugene Dalton, Clarinbridge (Corrib Oil). We also display two hurleys donated by past pupils Aoibhe Carr and Gavin Lee, both who have represented Clarinbridge camogie & hurling at county level. We are very grateful to all who have contributed to brightening up our hall entrance.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

DECEMBER 2025

## JUNIOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Our Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class pupils delighted families with their Christmas concert in the school hall recently. The children sang beautifully and performed with great confidence, spreading lots of festive cheer. Well done to all the pupils and teachers for a wonderful performance.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

DECEMBER 2025

MIDDLE CLASSES CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE



Our 2nd and 3rd class pupils also performed a festive Christmas concert in the school hall. The children put on an excellent show and showcased their wonderful talents for parents, friends and family. Thank you to all staff involved for preparing the children so well.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

DECEMBER 2025

SENIOR CLASSES CAROL SERVICE



Our senior pupils took part in our second beautiful Carol Service in the church last Friday evening, which was conducted by Mrs. Coolahan. The service was a very special and reflective celebration of the Christmas season. Sincere thanks to Mrs. Coolahan, Ms. Burke, Ms. Kilgarriff, Mr. Lane and Mr. Conroy and to the children in 4th -6th classes who put in immense effort.

# O'DUFFY CUP VISIT

DECEMBER 2025

## O'DUFFY CUP VISIT



On Tuesday 25th November, we were delighted to welcome Ms. Niland, past pupil Aoibhe Carr and Galway Camogie Captain Carrie Dolan to our school, who proudly brought the O'Duffy Cup with them. All classes had the opportunity to see the cup up close and hear about Galway's fantastic All-Ireland success. The children were full of excitement and asked lots of great questions about the match, their training, and what it is like to play at such a high level. It was a wonderful experience for everyone and we hope it has inspired many of our pupils to get involved in camogie and sport in the future.

# NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

DECEMBER 2025

## PAIRED READING



Ms. Kilroy's 1st class, Ms. Kilgarriff's 4th class, Ms. Sylver's Senior Infants and Ms. Burke's 4th Class recently enjoyed paired reading together. The older pupils were wonderful role models, supporting the younger children as they shared stories.

## SENIOR INFANTS TRIP TO THE POST OFFICE



Senior Infants enjoyed some lovely festive outings recently, including a walk to the post box to post our letters to Santa, a visit to the class tree, and a trip to the church. The children had a wonderful time exploring their local area and getting into the Christmas spirit!

## 4TH CLASS PROJECTS



Ms. Burke's 4th class have been busy creating fantastic Celt projects, exploring life in Celtic times and showcasing their learning with great creativity. Both Ms. Burke and Ms. Kilgarriff's 4th classes also collaborated on Christmas Around the World projects, learning about different traditions and cultures. Well done to all involved!

# SPORTS NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 6TH CLASS HANDBALL TEAMS!



Well done to our 6th class boys and girls handball teams who went forward to the Galway Finals following their excellent display on Wednesday 26th November. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of you all! A special thank you to Mr. Conroy and Ms. Moran for accompanying and supporting the teams.



Congratulations to our 6th class girls' and boys' teams, and their wonderful supporters, who represented the school so proudly at the Senior Classes Galway Handball Finals in Knocknacarra on Wednesday, 10th December. A sincere thank you to Ms. Henry, Ms. Niland, and Mr. Conroy for accompanying and supporting the teams on the day. Well done to all involved on a fantastic achievement!

# SPORTS NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

TAEKWONDO



The children in 1st to 6th classes are enjoying Taekwondo lessons with parent Ronnie Roy, developing balance, coordination, and discipline. Sessions took place on Nov 28th, Dec 3rd, 9th & 12th of Dec. There is one session left next week (17<sup>th</sup> Dec). The total cost is €15 per child. We kindly ask parents to ensure prompt payment via the payment link. Thank you.

# MUSIC NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

## NURSING HOME VISITS



Both our 4th classes and a group of musicians from 5th class, accompanied by Mrs. Coolahan, Mr. Glavey, Ms. Caulfield, Ms. Burke, and Ms. Kilgarriff, visited Clarinbridge and Kilcolgan Nursing Homes on Wednesday, 10th December to sing Christmas carols for the residents. This is our third year visiting the homes and while it can be a little daunting for some children, we know it brings great joy to both the residents and staff.

### TRAD ENSEMBLE WORKSHOP



We are delighted to welcome Hilda Milner, Professor of Music at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, who will hold the first of our on-site Trad Ensemble workshops on Tuesday, 16th December in the school hall.

This workshop is for pupils in 3rd–6th classes who are members of our Traditional Music Group and will focus on melodic ensemble playing, in preparation for their performance at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, in April 2026.

# STEM NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

## SCIENCE STATIONS



As part of our Science Week celebrations, the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of exciting science stations in the hall. These stations were expertly facilitated by Ms. Rushe and some of the children from the senior classes. The activities encouraged curiosity, hands-on learning and lots of enthusiastic participation from all involved.

# STUDENT COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2025

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL



Since our last newsletter, there have been some changes on our student council. Following on from the recent presidential election, we have conducted the Scoil Mhuire student council election with our candidate's speeches and classes filling in their own ballot papers. The new student council are looking forward to their year ahead. Despite many illnesses and absences, the student council has been busy welcoming our visitors to our Christmas show as well as presenting the shows and carol service. They have also been busy giving information to their classes about colouring competitions and the blessing of the Baby Jesus in the church with Fr. Barry.

Pictured below with our school mascot Clover, are the newly elected council: Daithí O' Loan and Lily Clancy (absent from photo) (1<sup>st</sup> class), Zoe Forde and Joseph Walsh (2<sup>nd</sup> class), Emily O'Donohue and Adam Hatton (3<sup>rd</sup> class), Sienna Heffernan and Blake Cahill (4<sup>th</sup> class, Ms. Burke), Hannah Boland and Alex Burns (4<sup>th</sup> class, Ms. Kilgarriff), Aisling O'Reilly and Aidan Walsh (5<sup>th</sup> class), Ciara Boland, Ben Feeney and Elijah de hOra (6<sup>th</sup> class).

Thanks to Ms. Caulfield and Ms. Burke for their help with the student council.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

DECEMBER 2025



Student councillors from 1st class-Lily Clancy and Daithí O'Loan along with Blake Cahill (4th class) interviewed principal Ms. Henry to gather some of her Christmas memories and thoughts.

What is special for you about Christmas?	Christmas Eve mass and seeing the manger empty and waiting for the baby Jesus.
What is your favourite Christmas memory?	This is a tough one. Eating Christmas dinner at a small coffee table because there was no room for me at the table. I was 7 years old but loved sitting at the table by myself.
What is your favourite Christmas tradition?	Drinking a cup of coffee and watching my kids open their presents.
Favourite Christmas .....movie?	Father Christmas and The Snowman by Raymond Briggs. I used to show them to my class at Christmas when I was a class teacher.
.....song?	Fairytale in New York
.....food?	Fillet Steak, garlic potatoes and asparagus
.....Decoration?	I bought a Santa for the school office. It lights up.
.....Toy that you received at Christmas	A little cash register because I loved playing shop keeper.
If you had a wish this Christmas, what would it be?	That it would snow at Christmas
Anything else you'd like to add.....	I love Christmas but my favourite month is January because it's a fresh start.

# NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

DECEMBER 2025

## BROADWAY STARS



Huge congratulations to Presley Ward (3rd Class) and her cousin Jack Burke (1st Class), who performed leading roles in the Town Hall Theatre with Performing Arts School Galway in their fantastic show "Broadway and Beyond." We are very proud of their wonderful achievement!



## GYMNASICS & TRAMPOLINE SUCCESS



We are very proud of sisters Chloe and Millie Quinn who took part in Gymnastics Ireland competitions.

- At the JumpStart Trampoline competition in the National Sports Arena, Dublin on 23rd November, Chloe came 1st in the U10 category and Millie came 3rd in the U8 category.
- A week later, Chloe went on to achieve 1st place in the U10 GymStart Floor and Vault competition in the UL Sports Arena, Limerick.

Huge congratulations to Chloe and Millie on their fantastic achievements.



## GYMNASICS & ATHLETICS SUCCESS



Lily Clesham represented Renmore Gymnastics Club in an international competition in Portugal, placing 2nd in tumbling and receiving a Performance Gymnast award. Muireann Kelly represented Craughwell Athletics Club, Galway and Connacht, winning a silver medal at the All-Ireland Cross Country Championships. Well done to both girls- Scoil Mhuire is very proud!