



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2025



Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of November we understand that households are busy arranging Christmas Festivities. We appreciate the efforts of parents and children in continuing classwork and homework. Next week begins our traditions and events associated with December and we have many lovely things planned but we can only contribute to these, if we get the core work of classrooms completed.

Advent begins on Sunday November 30th, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas. An advent wreath will be on display at our school entrance marking the passage of the four weeks preparation- The coloured candles will represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We look forward to the arrival of our Outdoor Crib created by the Mens Shed in Clarinbridge and thank our Parents Association of 23/25 for funding the beautiful crib figurines. A big thank you to them for looking after it for us over the past year; it's wonderful to have it back on display for the Christmas season. Thanks to input from The Tidy Towns committee for arranging the appropriate lighting for the crib. This week all classes will be decorating large wooden Christmas trees that the Tidy Towns Committee will install in the village. We hope all our school community enjoy the coming weeks filled with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love in our daily work and encounters.

### Staff Updates:

We send our very best wishes to Ms. Commons as she departs on her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing her news soon and wish her all the best during this exciting time!

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Niamh Niland to our SET team for the upcoming year. We look forward to working with her and wish her every success in her new role.

We are delighted to welcome past pupil Mary O'Dowd, who is completing her teaching practice with Ms. Sylver in Senior Infants. We wish her the very best during her placement and hope she enjoys her time back in our school.

Kind regards,  
Lorraine Henry  
Principal



## NOTES TO PARENT

NOVEMBER 2025

### PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS



A reminder that Parent-Teacher Meetings are taking place this week. Notifications have been sent to parents to book their appointment slots. Please note that the school will close at 2pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> to facilitate the meetings.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- School Closure: Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December: For Child Protection Training, as previously notified and listed on our school calendar. Classes will resume as normal on Tuesday.
- Christmas Concert/Carol Service: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December (See times below).
- ½ Day Closure: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December: School closes at 12pm for the Christmas holidays.
- Return to school: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 School re-opens.
- First Holy Communion: Saturday 23rd May at 11am.
- Confirmation: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 11am.

### COMMUNITY GARDA VISIT



Garda Alan Keane visited 6th Class recently to speak about the history of An Garda Síochána and his role as a Community Garda. The children learned about the duties of Gardaí and the different units and departments within the Garda service. It was a very informative and engaging session, many thanks to Garda Keane for taking the time to visit our school.



## NOTES TO PARENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT TIMES

Junior, Senior Infants & 1<sup>st</sup> Class: 10:30am-11:15am in the school hall

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes: 12:45pm-13:30pm in the school hall

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes: Candle Lit Carol Service at 6pm in the Church of the Annunciation.

### CAROL SERVICES

Preparations for our Carol Services will begin shortly. It is really important that all children spend some time practising their lines, scripts, words, and notes over the next few weeks to ensure they are well-prepared and confident for their performances.

We ask parents to please encourage their children to practise at home; perhaps during homework or family time; by singing, speaking, or playing their tunes for you. This will help them build confidence and enjoy performing on the day!

### PRIMARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Our school's music group are delighted to have been chosen as one of 9 schools (the only one from the west of Ireland) to participate in the Primary Ensemble Project 2026. The music group will receive several engaging and interactive workshops provided by specialist tutors from the Royal Irish Academy of Music. These tutors will work with the children to develop their aural and technical skills, and performance and improvisation techniques. After these workshops, the nine ensembles will come together at the National Concert Hall in Dublin to perform for their family and friends in April 2026.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

We know that Christmas Jumpers (or festive tops) have become a popular tradition for many families in recent years. Often, children only get to wear them once or twice!

To make the most of them, we invite all children to wear their Christmas jumper or festive top every Friday during December, starting Friday, December 5th.

Please note that there is no need to purchase new jumpers; children can also wear their regular round-neck school jumper and decorate it with something festive as an alternative.



## NOTES TO PARENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

### A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS

We look forward again to visiting our local Nursing homes this Christmas as the students from both 4<sup>th</sup> classes along with members of the school's music group sing and play tunes for the residents. This will be a lovely pastoral experience for the children and we know the sound of children's voices means a lot to the elders of our community. Additionally, our 3<sup>rd</sup> class children have again been invited to sing at SCCUL Sanctuary this year for their Candle Lighting Ceremony on December 12<sup>th</sup>. I compliment the children, teachers and parents who are all making great efforts to help their child learn the songs, poems and tunes for these carol services.

### TEAM HOPE SHOEBOXES



After a break for a few years, the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal restarted in November 2024. The boxes were the cause of much excitement as the piles grew day by day prior to collection day. Last year an amazing 182 boxes were filled and then delivered to Albania, Georgia, Ukraine, Berundi and Swaziland in Africa. This year, the parents, guardians, grandparents and children of Scoil Mhuire have yet again shown such huge generosity and kindness, to fill 173 boxes. An amazing achievement! Boxes were collected on the 10/11/25 and are sure to bring such joy, delight and excitement to children who are much less fortunate than we are. Ms. Caulfield, who co-ordinated and organised this very successful initiative, wants to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone for their time and kindness in filling the boxes and helping to spread the gift of giving and generosity running up to the Christmas season. We should be proud knowing that there are 173 children in the world that will have smiles on their faces when they open one of our special shoeboxes. Well done boys and girls, mummies and daddies- what a special gift you have given!





## NOTES TO PARENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

### HOT SCHOOL LUNCHES

Hot Meals Service began on Monday, 10th November, provided by Bradbury & Connolly – HotSchoolMeals.ie. Parents can log in to the Hot School Meals app (using existing login details) to order meals for the following week.

Lunch Boxes: Children have received a lunch box. After eating, they'll bring home any leftovers so parents can see what was eaten. The box should be returned to school the next day.

Small Break: Please continue to send a snack and drink for your child's morning break.

Optional Participation: Families may still choose to send a packed lunch if preferred.

Queries:  [cathal@hotschoolmeals.ie](mailto:cathal@hotschoolmeals.ie)  087 797 4524

### SWIMMING PAYMENT REMINDER

Children in 2nd–5th Class have completed their six swimming sessions. The payment link was sent to parents on 16th October, and a number of payments remain outstanding. We would appreciate if these could be completed by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Please note we cannot pay Kilcornan Swimming Pool or the bus company until all payments are received. If there are any difficulties with payment, please contact the school office in confidence. We were delighted with the success of our school swim team last year, and we're looking forward to building on that momentum. This year's Connacht Minor Schools Championships will take place in Leisureland, Galway, on Sunday 1st February 2026. More details will follow.

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION CLOTHES FOR CASH COLLECTION



A big thank you to everyone who supported the Parents' Association Clothes for Cash Collection. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will help raise valuable funds for our school. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

# SPORTS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

## CYCLING FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS



Our 4th Class pupils have completed their Cycle Right training programme. This important initiative teaches road safety, cycling skills, and bike awareness in a fun and practical way. Well done to all involved for taking part with such enthusiasm!

## 6TH CLASS HANDBALL COMPETITION



Well done to the boys and girls from 6th Class who took part in the handball competition in Ballinfoile on Tuesday, 11th November. They represented the school brilliantly and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. A big thank you to Mr. Conroy and Ms. Moran for coaching and accompanying the team.

## TAEKWONDO



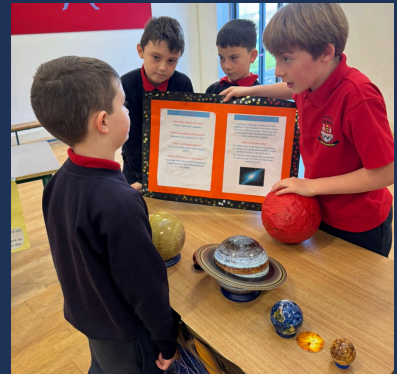
We're looking forward to our Taekwondo lessons beginning on the 28th November, with parent Ronnie Roy. Children will enjoy learning new skills in balance, coordination, and discipline through these fun sessions. Lessons will take place on Nov 28th, Dec 3rd, 9th, 12th, and 17th, each lasting 45 minutes, at a total cost of €15.



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

NOVEMBER 2025

STEM EXHIBITION



The children from all classes thoroughly enjoyed visiting the hall to explore the exciting exhibits created by 3rd, 5th Class and their teachers Ms. Rushe and Mr. Lane. The projects focused on Space, with the children engaging in research presentations, creative models, and impressive LEGO robotics displays. It was a fantastic opportunity for all to learn and be inspired by their classmates' hard work and creativity!

## SCIENCE WEEK QUIZ



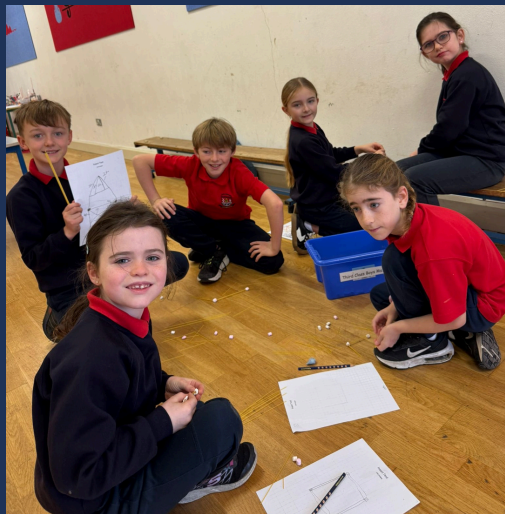
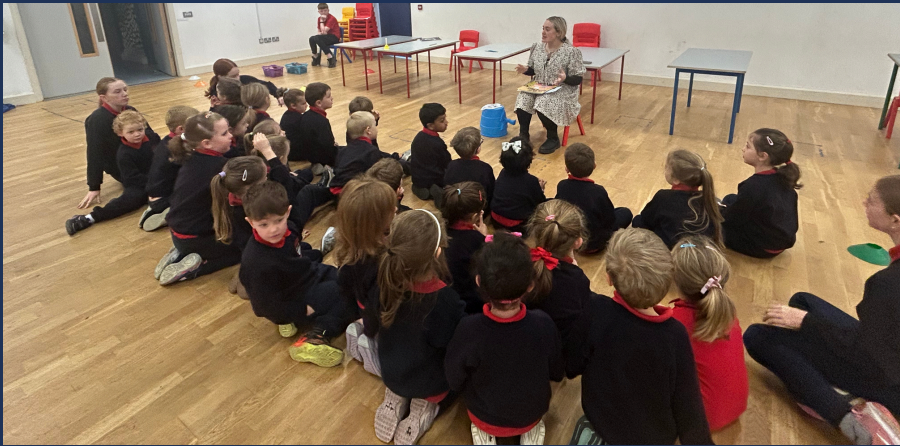
As part of Science Week, the children took part in a series of fun and engaging science quizzes held in the hall. A big thank you to Ms. Kennedy for hosting the quiz, everyone had a fantastic time learning through fun!



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

NOVEMBER 2025

## ENGINEERING WORKSHOP



The children really enjoyed taking part in an Engineering Workshop led by Ms. Rushe. The hall was filled with excitement as the children explored a range of hands-on engineering stations, building, designing, and problem-solving together. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking skills in a fun, interactive way.

## VISIT FROM SCIENTIFIC SUE



We are delighted to welcome Scientific Sue to our school on Wednesday, 19th November for a fun and educational science workshop in the hall titled “Chemistry and the Celts.” The children are really looking forward to this exciting event!



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

NOVEMBER 2025

## GALWAY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL



On November 9th, 3rd and 5th Class attended the Galway Science and Technology Festival in University of Galway with Ms. Rushe, Mr. Lane, and Ms. Dowling. The pupils proudly showcased their space-themed projects, impressing visitors with their creativity, teamwork, and knowledge of the solar system. It was an opportunity for the children to share their learning, explore interactive exhibits, and be inspired by the exciting world of science and technology!

## GRAPHIC DESIGN GUEST SPEAKERS



Our 5th and 6th Class pupils enjoyed a fantastic presentation from guest speakers Steph and Eoin Heffernan, who shared their insights and experiences in Graphic Design. The children learned about creativity, digital design, and how ideas come to life through technology. A big thank you to parents Steph and Eoin for inspiring our budding designers! Thanks to Ms. Moran for organising.



# SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

NOVEMBER 2025

## 4TH CLASS TRIP – GALWAY COMPUTER SCIENCE MUSEUM



On Friday, 14th November, 4th Class visited the Galway Computer Science Museum. The children explored the history and development of technology through a range of interactive exhibits.



# STUDENT COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2025

OUTGOING STUDENT COUNCIL



Last November saw the election of the current and outgoing student council. As the student council elections take place next week the outgoing members include: 6th class: Muireann Kelly, Fionn Carroll; 5<sup>th</sup>: Kate Lally, Cian Dempsey; 4<sup>th</sup>: Sebastian O'Connor, Isabelle Giles, Ellen Byrne, Adam Heffernan; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tom Gilmartin, Lucia Droney; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Millie Quinn, Eoin Dempsey;

The Student Council have been reflecting on their year and have shared their favourite memories as student councillors. They have enjoyed Meeting and Greeting Parents and Grandparents for Grandparent's Day and being part of the Welcoming committee for the Christmas Shows. They have enjoyed going on messages, helping with sports day, helping with the shoeboxes and revealing to the classes the shoe box numbers. Another favourite was selecting the name of the school mascot- Clover. They have enjoyed going to the student council meetings where they give and share ideas. It has given the student council great happiness and pride to see their thoughts and ideas coming to reality. Thanks to Ms. Henry for her help with this. Thanks also to Ms. Burke and Ms. Caulfield for their help with running the Student Council each year.

Next week Student Councillors will help run the elections for the new student council. We look forward to meeting those children very soon! Stay tuned!

# RESCUE 115 VISIT

NOVEMBER 2025

COASTGUARD HELICOPTER



There was great excitement at the school when the Rescue 115 Coastguard helicopter landed on the school grounds for a special visit on Tuesday 18th November. The children were thrilled to meet the crew, learn about their important work, and see the helicopter up close; an unforgettable experience for everyone! A special thank you to Colm Hillary and Seán Gilvear, Chloe's dad, for helping to make this wonderful visit possible.