



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE



JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for having the children so well prepared for school upon opening. As we go through a time of Winter cough/colds, we acknowledge that absenteeism is fluctuating in the classrooms. We thank the parents for adhering to the general message of keeping children at home if unwell for any reason. Children who are absent and are feeling well enough to do school work may continue following the routined homework that they normally get. We continue the message that classroom teaching time starts at 9:20am and so we expect children to arrive before this time. School doors are locked each morning at 9:20am for the safety and protection of children. All staff are in classrooms at this point and so cannot be supervising the doors or watching children arriving late. We ask parents to please arrive before 9:20am to allow school routines to begin correctly each morning. We understand morning home routines may not go to plan sometimes and so your child may be late but if this is a regular occurrence it disrupts the child's routine and our staff's routine unnecessarily.

In all classrooms, we have embraced January with a renewed sense of energy. By its nature, January gives everyone the chance of a fresh start and time to reflect on changes that may need to be made. As a staff, we try to instil in the kids a sense of being organised, on time, having a good attitude, trying hard and making a conscious effort with learning. These next 8 weeks are very important as much of the curriculum will be taught this term. We will have two bank holidays and our week-long mid-term break, but this term is treated as vital by all the teachers in seeing children make good leaps in their learning. We would appreciate it if our parents could reinforce this message and the importance of the child making a committed effort to their classwork work and homework.

This week we celebrate Catholic school's week in classrooms and we look forward to having a school-wide Grandparents Day on Friday February 27th. In our school we try to deliver additional learning and social opportunities for the children. We have three after school teacher run camps being organised for this term-January to the end of March. We hope parents and children discuss these opportunities to see if their child would like to participate in any of them. We would like to welcome Parent/Dad Micheál Molloy as our Chairperson on our Parent Association Committee and we look forward to the PA fundraiser 'Jersey Day' this coming Friday, January 23rd. Further news will follow from the PA on upcoming events and opportunities for parents to get involved.



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE



JANUARY 2026

Last month, parents completed a childcare needs survey which was sent out on Dec 15th from the Board of Management. The results of the survey will be communicated to all parents via Aladdin, tomorrow January 22nd.

Many thanks to all our families for your continued support.

Kind Regards
Lorraine Henry
Principal

OUR SYMPATHIES

With great sadness we learned of the passing of local writer John Quinn, who died on 1st January 2026 in Clarinbridge, John was a broadcaster, author, and respected figure in Irish radio and literary circles. John visited our school a number of times over the years and loved gathering stories from the children. He was in the middle of a project with our senior children where they had interviewed older generations on the lives gone by. John enriched the cultural life of Galway and beyond and left a marked impression on all in Scoil Mhuire. May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Thursday 22nd January: Junior & Senior Infants visit to the Teddy Bear Hospital.
- Thursday 22nd January: 1st and 2nd Class Puppet making Workshop.
- Thursday 22nd January: Handball 4th Class.
- Friday 23rd January: Junior & Senior Infants Puppet making Workshop.
- Wednesday 28th January: Vision & Hearing Screening for Junior Infants.
- Monday 2nd February: Bank Holiday Monday- School Closed.
- Monday 16th- Friday 20th February: Midterm Break School Closed.
- Friday 27th February: Grandparents' Day will be celebrated in the school hall.

NOTES TO PARENTS

JANUARY 2026

ST BRIGIDS DAY



As part of our preparations for St. Brigid's Day, we are kindly requesting donations of rushes that have been topped and tailed. These will be used to make St. Brigid's crosses with the children. If you have any rushes available, we would greatly appreciate it if you could drop them off at the school within the next week.

GALWAY CARTOON FESTIVAL



We are delighted to share that Ciara Boland in 6th Class was selected as an artist in the Theme Exhibition for the 2025 Galway Cartoon Festival. She was the only child whose cartoon was chosen to feature in the exhibition. This is a wonderful achievement, and we are extremely proud of her creativity and talent. Well done, Ciara! Please email the office with any photos/info you'd like included in the Notable Achievements section.

COPE GALWAY DONATIONS



A huge thank you to our wonderful SNA team for organising and tidying our school resources. We also really appreciate their efforts in arranging the donation of jigsaws and toys to COPE Galway. Your hard work, care, and generosity are truly valued by our whole school community.

STEM POWER HOUR



STEM Power Hour resumed last Friday. The next two classes participating in this are the two 4th classes. Ms. Burke's 4th will work on various STEM activities up until midterm, and they will be followed by Ms. Kilgarriffs 4th class. Photos to follow next month. Stay tuned!

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

JANUARY 2026

FORMULA 1- TEAM RED BULL



On Wednesday, 17th December, we were delighted to welcome past pupil Daniel Ryan back to the school. Daniel delivered a fascinating presentation on Formula 1 to our 5th & 6th class students.

Daniel, now a Design Engineer with Team Red Bull, brought along race equipment worn by Max Verstappen, including a uniform, helmet and car components, giving students a unique insight into the world of elite motorsport. He spoke about the Formula 1 industry, how an F1 team operates, the design cycle he is involved in, and what it is like to work in a high-performance, highly competitive environment. A huge thank you to Daniel for taking the time to return to the school and for sharing his expertise and experience with our students.

CREATIVE SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2026

ARTIST VISIT



We were delighted to welcome Kate Kelly from Art Room 109 to our school on Friday 16th January as part of our Creative schools programme. She worked with children from Junior Infants to Second class, where they experienced process based visual arts workshops. The children had the opportunity to connect, explore, and develop a love for creativity through process-based art and sensory play.

PUPPET WORKSHOP



Junior Infants to Second Class will take part in an exciting Puppet Workshop on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January. The children will enjoy a fun, creative, and interactive experience as they explore storytelling through puppetry. We're really looking forward to it!

CREATIVE SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2026

DRUMADORE WORKSHOP



All classes took part in an energetic Drumadore Workshop on Wednesday 14th January. This lively, hands-on session gave children the opportunity to explore rhythm, movement, and music in a fun and engaging way. A fantastic experience for all involved!

STUDENT COUNCIL

JANUARY 2026

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Our student Council welcome everyone back to school and wish all the children, parents, guardians and families in our school a happy and healthy New Year. Since the New year has started we have had some meetings where we are brainstorming and discussing some fund raising ideas that we might do for the school. We will keep you posted!!

We continue with Round 2 of the “Getting to know our staff” feature in our school newsletter. This month, the interviewers were Joseph Walsh and Zoe Forde (2nd class) with the help of Ben Feeney (6th class). Thanks to Ms. Caulfield and Ms. Burke for their help with the Student Council.



STUDENT COUNCIL

JANUARY 2026

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Happy New Year Mr. Glavey, Have you any favourite thing to do for the New Year?	Thanks. I would like to undertake some outdoor adventures with family and friends, practice more tunes and visit a European city.
Describe yourself in 3 words:	Kind, adaptable and honest!
Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.	I represented Mayo in the All-Ireland Gymnastic Under 10 finals!
What was your favourite sport when you were growing up? What hobbies do you have now?	When I was growing up it was Gaelic Football. My hobbies now are running, hiking, listening to and playing music.
Mr. Glavey, you are from Mayo. What is your favourite thing about Mayo? Who's going to win the All-Ireland this year?	My favourite things about Mayo include its stunning natural beauty, its wonderful people and the enthralling and exciting journey we are on in the quest to capture Sam Maguire (it has been 75 years after all!)
What inspired you to become a teacher?	My mum was a secondary school teacher and later in life she trained to be a primary school teacher. She was very passionate and dedicated to the job and inspired me to follow in her footsteps.
How many siblings do you have?	I have an older sister in Perth, Australia. One younger brother in Oranmore and I have one older brother in Glasgow, Scotland.
Favourite holiday....	My favourite holiday was probably New Zealand, particularly exploring the spectacular landscapes and stunning scenery of the South Island.
Favourite dinner.....	Fillet steak, roast potatoes, steamed green beans and broccoli.
Favourite song.....	The town I loved so well by Luke Kelly
What do you do to relax?	I enjoy meeting up with friends, listening to music and sporting podcasts. I also like walking and jogging through forest trails and on coastal pathways.
What do you like in your job as deputy principal?	I love the variety the job offers and that every day is different. I particularly enjoy working closely with staff, pupils and the wider school community.
Do you have any New year's resolutions? Or is there anything you are looking forward to this year?	Try to be the best version of myself and to be continually grateful for all that I have in life!
Mr. Glavey, the best teachers never give us homework. Should we have no homework this week?	I would wholeheartedly agree that you should get a night off homework this week!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

JANUARY 2026

Baking Club

With Ms. Moran &
Ms. Dowling



Join us and turn your passion for baking and cooking into real skills from mastering the basics to creating beautifully decorated creations with confidence!

- Each week, the children will complete two recipes (one oven recipe and one cold/no-bake recipe) and will have the opportunity to learn new baking skills in a fun and safe environment.
- At the end of the 4 weeks, each child will receive a Baking Club Recipe Book with all of the recipes we made during the programme.

Thursday after school
3:00pm- 4:15pm
Room 1: Ms. Dowling's Classroom

Register Now

Ms. Moran & Ms. Dowling will provide further details on registration in the coming weeks.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

JANUARY 2026

Ms. Kennedy's

CURIOUS MINDS CLUB

Tuesday's 3-4

WELLBEING CLUB

supportive and engaging programme designed to help children develop emotional awareness, self-regulation skills, and positive wellbeing habits in a fun and nurturing environment.

Throughout the camp, children take part in a range of hands-on, sensory-based activities that support calm, focus, and confidence.

Activities include:

- creating glitter jars and other calming tools
- practicing simple regulation and relaxation techniques
- exploring healthy nutritious through games and creativity
- developing practical activities for regulation for use at home!

€50

1st and 2nd class

Please see back of leaflet for consent

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

JANUARY 2026

SCIENCE CLUB



3rd Class- March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Day: Wednesday Time: 3-4 pm

Experiments include: Bubble Snakes, Swirly Milk,
Wizards Brew, Optical Illusions, Foam Rockets Lava
Lamps, Slime and lots more

Cost: €50

Ms. Rushe



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2026

