PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2026

Dear Parents,

💐 Best Wishes

We extend our best wishes to Pat, caretaker, Monica McMahon and Ciara Wilson, SNA's, as they move on to pastures new. We thank them sincerely for their commitment, care and contribution to school life, and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

🎃 Halloween Dress-Up

We look forward to the children dressing up for Halloween on Friday, 23rd October. We kindly ask that costumes are kept simple and that parents do not feel under pressure to spend money. We wish to avoid any competitive element around dressing up and ensure that all children can enjoy the day.

At school, we will also mark:

- The Feast of All Saints' Day (1st November): remembering the saints who have passed away.
- The Feast of All Souls' Day (2nd November): remembering loved ones who have passed away.

📝 Enrolment

Applications for Enrolment for Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge, for September 2027 will open on Wednesday 21st October 2026 and cease on 11th November 2026.

You may apply via three ways:

- Complete an expression of interest form on the school website www.clarinbridgeschool.ie. and an application form will be sent to you directly.
- Contact the school office office 091 796 191 for an application form.
- Print off the application form from the school website and send it to the school office between 21st October and November and 11th November 2026.

A notice will also be placed in the parish newsletter and our October newsletter. Please pass this message on to any person you think may require it.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2026

👩‍🏫 Parent–Teacher Meetings

Parent–Teacher Meetings will take place for 1st - 6th Classes during the week of 16th–20th November. Please note that pupils will finish at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th November and Thursday, 19th November to facilitate these meetings.

A booking notice will be sent via Aladdin after the midterm break. SET teachers will contact parents individually where a meeting is required.

Our Board of Management and staff wish all our families a safe mid-term break and a Happy Halloween to all the children.

Kind Regards,
Lorraine Henry
Principal

NOTE TO PARENTS

OCTOBER 2026

NOTES TO PARENTS

- 📸 County Photos (All Classes): Wednesday, 11th November 2026.
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 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.

MIDTERM BREAK

- 🍂 Friday, 23rd October: School closes at 3:00pm for Midterm Break.
- 🍁 Monday, 2nd November: School reopens following the Midterm Break.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

📚 Curriculum Enactment Support – School Closure Dates

Oide, the Department of Education Support Service for Teachers, has finalised school closure dates to support the enactment of the redeveloped Primary School Curriculum. Our school has been notified of the following closure dates:

- 📅 Tuesday, 1st December 2026
- 📅 Friday, 29th January 2027
- 📅 Wednesday, 12th May 2027

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Concert Friday 11th December

- Junior, Senior Infants & 1st Class: 10:00am-10:45am in the school hall
- 2nd & 3rd Classes: 11:45pm-12:30pm in the school hall
- 4th, 5th & 6th Classes: 13:30pm-14:15pm in the school hall

SACRAMENTS

✝️ Confirmation; Wednesday, 14th April at 3:00pm

🕊️ First Holy Communion; Saturday, 22nd May at 11:00am.

We look forward to celebrating these very special occasions with our pupils and their families.

CLASSROOM NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

ACTIVE PE IN 1ST CLASS

Our 1st Classes have been enjoying PE lessons together on the Astro with teachers, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. McDermott and SNAs, Deirdre and Karen. The children have had great fun taking part in active games and movement activities while developing their coordination, teamwork and confidence. It is wonderful to see them encouraging one another, practising their skills and enjoying being active together outdoors.

HALLOWEEN FUN IN JUNIOR INFANTS

Junior Infants have been busy preparing for Halloween through lots of fun, hands-on learning experiences. The children have been enjoying seasonal art, songs, stories, play and activities inspired by the colours and changes of autumn.
They are having great fun exploring the Halloween theme together while developing their creativity, language, fine-motor and social skills.

CLASSROOM NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

2ND CLASS MATHS

2nd Class have been developing their maths talk skills by sharing their ideas, explaining how they worked out answers and listening carefully to different strategies from their classmates. Through discussion and problem-solving activities, the children are building confidence in using mathematical language and thinking aloud.

MUSIC NEWS

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for music at Scoil Mhuire!

🪕 Traditional Music Group

Our popular School Trad Group has resumed on Wednesday afternoons. We are looking forward to hearing our young musicians playing together again and continuing our strong tradition of Irish music within the school.

🎤 School Choir

Rehearsals for our School Choir will also resume shortly. The choir is always an important part of school celebrations and special occasions, and we look forward to another year of singing and performing together.

With lessons, our trad group and choir all getting underway, we are looking forward to another music-filled year at Scoil Mhuire, with plenty of opportunities for our pupils to learn, perform and share their talents.

SPORTS NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

GIRLS' MINI 7'S GAELIC FOOTBALL

Carnmore hosted the Girls 7-a-side football blitz and our 5th class girls represented Scoil Mhuire with great fighting spirit, determination and enthusiasm. For 9 of the 11 players this was their first time playing Gaelic football. They did us proud with their never say die attitude, hard work and competitive nature. Well done girls! Thanks to the parents who helped out with lifts to and from the competition. A big thank you also to Ms. Caulfield and SNA Karen for accompanying, supporting and encouraging the girls throughout the day.

GIRLS' MINI 7'S CAMOGIE

Well done to our Girls' Mini 7's Camogie Team, who represented Scoil Mhuire at the Mini 7's competition in Carrabane on Wednesday, 30th September. The girls had a great day of camogie. It was wonderful to see them representing our school with such enthusiasm. Thanks to Ms Kennedy and Ms Niland for supporting the girls throughout the day.

SPORTS NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

BOYS' MINI SEVENS GAELIC FOOTBALL & HURLING

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Well done to the boys from 5th and 6th Class who represented the school with great determination and enthusiasm in the Mini Sevens Football and Hurling Competitions on September 18th and 25th.

The football tournament saw nine schools battle it out in very challenging conditions. Our school team displayed wonderful commitment, skill and teamwork throughout the competition, battling their way to the final. In a very tight and exciting game, the boys were narrowly defeated by Kinvara.

The following week, seven schools came together for the Mini Sevens Hurling competition. Our boys once again played with great determination and skill, narrowly loosing to Ardrahan by just a point, before securing wins against Doorus and Northampton. There was some excellent performances and plenty of enjoyable and competitive games throughout the day.

Well done to all the boys and we look forward to seeing them back in action in the 13-a-side competitions later in the school year!

Thanks to Mr. Glavey and Mr. Conroy for accompanying, supporting and encouraging the boys.

SPORTS NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETICS SUCCESS

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Well done to the 24 pupils from 3rd to 6th Class who represented our schoool with great pride at this year's annual cross-country competition!

The event took place at the racecourse in Ballybrit over two days, Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th September, and continues to grow from strength to strength each year, with in excess of 2,500 children taking part.

All 24 pupils gave a fantastic account of themselves on the first day, showing great effort, enthusiasm and determination in what is a hugely competitive event.

Congratualtions to Aoibhinn Cormican, Billy O'Brien and Eoin Dempsey, who were individal medal winners on the first day- a fantastic achievement.

Following the first day, 15 of our pupils qualified to compete on the second day, where they represensted the school once again with great pride.

Both our Senior Girls' and Senior Boys' teams qualified along with three individual pupils from 3rd and 4th Class.

We are extremely proud of every pupil who took part across both days. Whether competing individually or as part of a team, all 24 pupils showed wonderful dedication and perseverance. Comhghairdeas agus maith sibh go léir!

A big thank you to Ms. Henry, Mr Glavey and SNA Karen for supporting and encouraging the team on the day.

SPORTS NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

4TH CLASS CYCLE RIGHT PROGRAMME

Our 4th Class pupils began their Cycle Right Programme on Wednesday, 30th September.

Cycle Right is designed to help children develop the skills, confidence and knowledge needed to cycle safely and responsibly. Through practical sessions, pupils learn important cycling skills including bike handling and control, observation, signalling and an awareness of how to stay safe while cycling.

It is a fantastic opportunity for the children to build their confidence on their bikes while developing important road safety and lifelong cycling skills.

We hope our 4th Class pupils really enjoy the programme over the coming weeks!

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2026

CALF & CUCKOO PROGRAMME

Karen van Dorp from the Calf and Cuckoo Programme visited our two 5th classes in October as part of a 3 day prgoramme based on learning about the Burren Habitat. The two 5th Classes engaged in lots of different hands on activities studying different types of rocks, experiments with erosion and learning about flora and fauna in the Burren. We are really looking forward to our next workshop and visit to the Burren.

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2026

AQUACULTURE REMOTE CLASSROOM VISITS

We were delighted to welcome the Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC) to Scoil Mhuire recently, giving 5th and 6th Class pupils a fantastic opportunity to learn more about aquaculture and Ireland's marine environment.

Through a range of interactive and hands-on activities, the children explored how fish and shellfish are farmed, learned about our oceans and discovered more about the importance of sustainability and caring for our marine environment.

The visit was a wonderful way to bring learning to life and sparked plenty of curiosity and interesting questions from our pupils.

A big thank you to the ARC team for providing such an enjoyable and informative experience for our children!

CREATIVE SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2026

BABORÓ FESTIVAL VISIT

As part of the Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, pupils in Senior Infants, 1st Class and 4th Class enjoyed a special visiting performance of The Dig in our school hall on Friday, 9th October.

The show gave the children a wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre in school, using performance, storytelling and imagination to bring the arts to life.

STUDENT COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2026

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF- MS. NILAND

This month the "Getting to know our staff" continues in our school newsletter. The Student Council voted to interview Ms. Niland. She is part of the SET Team in our school. They compiled the questions they wanted to ask Ms. Niland.
This month, the Student Council interviewers were Lily and Daithí (2nd class). Thanks to Ms. Caulfield and Ms. Burke for their help with the Student Council.

STUDENT COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2026

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF- MS. NILAND

Describe yourself in 3 words	Kind, sporty and determined.
What school did you go to?	Killeeneen N. S.
What did you want to be when you grow up? (What would you be if you weren't a teacher?)	I wanted to be a teacher. If I wasn't a teacher I would have studied architecture.
Do you have any pets?	No, I don't like animals much.
Do you have any siblings?	I have 2 brothers.
Who's the best hurler in your house?	I can't pick who's best.
What's the biggest difference between when you were in school and school now?	There's a lot more hands-on learning now.
Favourite thing about being a teacher?	The fun and energy kids bring every day.
Favourite subject to teach?	Maths
Favourite subject when you were in school?	Maths
Favourite thing to eat before a match?	Pasta and chicken
Favourite hobby?	Camogie
Favourite food?	Chicken Curry
Favourite childhood memory?	Playing camogie at my Nana and Grandad's house with my cousins.
Favourite colour?	White
Favourite day of the week?	Saturday
Camogie	
Congratulations to you on your nomination for the PWC All-Star's Awards.	
We know camogie keeps you busy, what is your training schedule? Is it hard to manage between teaching and camogie at the same time?	Each week we train 3 times on the pitch and twice in the gym. I do my school work before training or at the weekend.
How did it feel when you won the All-Ireland Camogie Final?	It was the best feeling ever. It's a moment I will treasure forever.
What's your favourite position to play?	Centre forward
Do you have any pre-match rituals/routines/superstitions?	I always pack my gear bag the night before and I prepare my food for before the game so it's ready to cook.
Do you ever set any personal goals before a match?	I try to make sure I work really hard for the full game. I aim to get a certain number of hooks and blocks per half.
Do you have to make many sacrifices when playing camogie for Galway? Are they worth it?	Yes, my social life has to go on pause for a while. It is definitely worth it as I get to play matches and train with my friends.
Do you have any role models?	Niamh Kilkenny. I have looked up to her since a very young age.
If you didn't do camogie, what other sports would you play? (or like to play?)	When I was younger, I played soccer, football and did athletics which I would have loved to have kept going if I could have.
What advice would you give your younger self?	Never give up! Follow your dreams- they can come true!
What life advice would you give the children in school?	Always give everything you do 100%.
If you could have one wish, what would you wish for?	To win a Senior A title with my club.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

OCTOBER 2026

GOLD FOR OUR BLUEFIN SWIMMERS

Congratulations to our pupils who swim with Bluefin Swim Team and competed in the Forest Feast Aquasprint Finals in Castlebar on Saturday, 26th September, coming home with a fantastic gold medal! It was an outstanding achievement and a wonderful reward for all the hard work, commitment and training the swimmers have put in. We are incredibly proud to see our pupils enjoying such success in the pool.

With our own Scoil Mhuire swimming team preparing for competitions later in the school year, we hope the success of these swimmers will inspire even more pupils to get involved and represent our school in the pool. Huge congratulations to all involved — the future of swimming is certainly bright!

Connacht Schools Swimming Competition

Looking ahead, the Connacht Minor Schools Swimming Competition will take place in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, on Saturday, 10th January 2027. Ms Dowling will coordinate the school entries for the competition over the coming weeks.

Scoil Mhuire has enjoyed great success at both regional and All-Ireland Competitions in recent years, and we look forward to seeing our swimmers represent the school once again.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

OCTOBER 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLARINBRIDGE U10 HURLERS!

Congratulations to the Clarinbridge boys under 10 hurlers who were crowned Shield Winners at the Niall Donoghue Memorial Tournament on Saturday 26th September. After three tough and competitive games, the team were delighted to come home with the shield. Well done to all the players on a fantastic day representing Clarinbridge - Up the Bridge!

A VERY SPECIAL 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Our school choir was delighted to take part in a very special 100th Birthday Celebration Mass for Pat Lynott in Clarinbridge Church on Tuesday, 22nd September.

It was a wonderful occasion for the local community to come together and mark such a remarkable milestone. We were very proud of our pupils, who helped to make the celebration even more special through their beautiful singing. A big thank you and well done to our school choir for representing Scoil Mhuire so wonderfully on this memorable occasion.

We wish Pat a very happy 100th birthday and every good wish from all of us here at Scoil Mhuire!