



November 2025 Newsletter

Dates for Diary

Thursday 13th November

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Friday 19th December

Christmas holidays

Monday 5th January

School re-opens

Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent teacher meetings will be held in the school on Thursday 13th November from 3:15 to 5:45 pm. A separate letter has been issued and appointments have been arranged. We look forward to meeting with all parents/guardians. **Please note that the school day ends for the pupils from first to sixth class at 2:45 pm.**

Safety in school grounds & carpark

In the interests of safety, parents are asked not to drive into our school carpark. The carpark is for staff cars only. Children should always use the most convenient pedestrian entrance and exit to avoid walking through the carpark or across the vehicle entrance. This rule applies at all times, including Breakfast Club, After-school and Homework Club.

(Some families do have permission to drive in. Please speak to Mrs. McLaughlin, principal if you have any concerns.)

Christmas Holidays

The school will close on Friday 19th December (which is the last day of term), and re-open on Monday 5th January 2026.

Attendance

Congratulations to Fourth Class for their wonderful attendance record. This group had the best attendance at 96.4% up to Halloween. As a result, they have earned a small treat.

All children are encouraged to attend school every day as this helps to build confidence in their schoolwork, fosters good relationships with their friends and develops good habits for the future. (Of course, if a child is sick, he/she should remain at home).

Safe cycling

Fifth and Sixth class pupils are completing cycling training with Fergus and Gemma McDaid who are providers of the national standard for cycling training known as Cycle Right. The training is completed over a four-week period. If the training goes well, children might get the opportunity to cycle on the local roads.

This initiative is funded by Department of Transport (RSA) and Donegal County Council. The children are receiving excellent training and having outside fun at the same time. We are delighted to avail of this programme.

Concern Primary Debates

We have signed up for Concern Primary Debates again this year and look forward to a debate soon.

50/50 Draw

The Parents' Association are doing the weekly 50/50 draw again for the coming weeks. The draw will take place every Wednesday morning. All the children have received envelopes. Each entry costs E2, with 3 entries for E5. The prize money will be half of the total collected, with the other half going to fundraising. Your support is much appreciated.

Congratulations to this week's winner Ms. McIntyre. Recent winners were Fionn McGonigle, Senior Infants and Bridget McGonagle (Joey & James' Granny)

Department of Education and Youth Survey

All families have been sent information about this very important survey which is being carried out by the Department of Education and Youth. You are encouraged to complete the survey as your opinions on the future of our school are very important.

Board of Management

The Board of Management meets regularly throughout the year. We have developed a new Anti-bullying policy called Bi Cinealta (the Irish for Be Kind). Our code of discipline was updated. The board arranged for the replacement of our soffits and fascia over the Halloween holidays.

Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Nuala Lafferty, Acting Chairperson of the Board of Management on the death of her husband JJ Lafferty. Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam dilis. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nuala and the boys and the wider Lafferty family at this time.

World Teachers' Day

We celebrated World Teachers' Day in October. We appreciate the great work our team of 14 teachers do every day and their dedication to our children. We celebrated with cakes and treats provided by INTO (teachers' union) and also by the board of management.

Sporting Activities

Soccer: The seniors have been playing lots of inter-school games in recent weeks. We played away-matches against Tooban and Bridgend before the Halloween holidays securing two victories, one draw and one defeat. Goal scorers in these matches were: Rodijs (3), Finneen (3) and Jay McDaid. Goalscorers against Scoil Colmcille, Newton were Rodijs (2) and Jack Bracken in the A game and Daniel Kelly and Finneen Clifton for the B team.

In the C match against Newton, goalscorers were Lonán Hill and Adam Khadija. Two matches remain against Scoil Iosagain and Scoil Naomh Brid, Muff.

Swimming: Swimming lessons continue for third and fourth classes. The children have completed three out of six lessons.

Cathal Doherty is doing fundamental skills with Junior & Senior Infants.

John Gibbons continues to do small games and activities with first & second classes.

Conor O'Donnell is doing Gaelic Games with fifth & sixth classes.

Message from HSCL

As HSCL my role is to support you as parents/guardians as your child makes their way through primary school. Please feel free to contact me at any time if a problem arises e.g. School refusal or if you just want a chat. You are welcome to come into the school to my office, or, if you'd prefer, I'd be more than happy to come out to your home.

Home visits continue to be an integral part of my role, taking up approximately 30% of my time. Home Visits allow the parents an opportunity to have a chat about how they and their child are settling into school life. Many parents and children have been made aware of and have joined groups as a result of these Home Visits. I fully understand that Home Visits do not suit all of our parents but please feel free to contact me at any time on the HSCL number.

A 'Dyslexia Awareness' course will run in the Colgan Hall on Friday mornings from 9:30–11:30 am from Friday 7th November for 4 weeks and Monday evenings from Monday 10th from 7-9pm. We hope to run this again at a later stage in the year.

'Literacy with Computers' is running in the Colgan Hall on Wednesday mornings from 9.30-12.30pm.

The 'Walking Group' will move to a Monday morning at 9.45am. It's free, there's no commitment, a chance to socialise, exercise and a time for you.

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