



June 2026 Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

Fan the Flame Mass & Transfer Tour	Thursday 4 th June
Tom McBrearty Cup	Friday 12 th June
Graduation (Sixth Class)	Thursday 18 th June
Summer Holidays	Tuesday 23 rd June (12 noon)

Staffing 2026/27

There is one fixed term vacancy in the school (for the whole year 2026/27) but this cannot be advertised and filled yet, due to Department of Education rules.

Based on the number of students on the school roll in September 2025, our number of mainstream teachers remains the same at seven. We were very close to the number for the appointment of an additional teacher but the Department of Education is very firm regarding the cut-off point. If teacher pupil ratios remain the same, we will be eligible for an additional teacher next year (2027/28) as our enrolment number will be greater than last year.

Class groups and teachers will be published soon. Parents should be aware that there is not a teacher for each class group and that there will be some composite classes (classes with two different year groups) and split class/classes in the coming year.

DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camp & Primary School Scheme

This year we will run a DEIS Literacy & Numeracy Summer Camp on two different weeks for two different groups of children.

- Week 1 (6th to 10th July) is for Infants and First Class.
- Week 2 (13th to 17th July) is for Second to Sixth Class.

This camp will focus on fun and games for the teaching of Literacy & Numeracy. The theme this year is Building Confidence and Connections. This promises to be a great camp. The course is free as it has been funded by Department of Education and children will receive lunch every day. DEIS camps are now fully booked.

In conjunction with the DEIS camp, we will also run a Primary School Scheme/Camp and the children involved will attend for two weeks. This camp replaces the home-based summer programme/July programme of recent years.

Please note all children will be taught together and play together regardless of which camp they are attending.

School Tours:

Infants & First Class	Wild Ireland	Tuesday 16 th June
Second, Third & Fourth	Belfast Zoo	Monday 15 th June
Fifth & Sixth	“The Jungle”	Wednesday 10 th June

Separate information will be issued to each class which will including the cost of the trips.

Safety in the School Grounds

Please make sure you enter and leave the school grounds safely. Children should enter the school grounds by the pedestrian gate nearest to car/home. **In the interests of safety, no-one should walk past the main vehicle entrance or through the car park.**

You are reminded that the school carpark is for staff cars and school buses only. The carpark has become very dangerous recently as many families are choosing to drive in. **You are kindly requested not to drive into the carpark. This includes late arrivals, early morning arrivals for Breakfast Club and**

collection from after-school clubs. A small number of families are permitted to drive in. Please speak to Mrs. Anne McLaughlin, Principal if you feel that your circumstances require driving into the grounds.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys in second class who received the sacrament of penance and made their First Holy Communion recently. It was a lovely celebration and a very special time for all families. We wish God's blessing on all the boys and girls. Thank you to Ms. Lynch Grant for preparing the children so well.

Fan the Flame Mass

Pupils who were confirmed this year attended mass in Celtic Park, Derry to celebrate with the other children in the Derry Diocese on Thursday 4th June. Children that were not confirmed attended also.

On the same day, the boys joined with the girls from Scoil Chroi Naofa for a trip to Brunswick MovieBowl for bowling and food.

Feis Domhnaigh 2026

We look forward to participating in Feis Domhnaigh. We wish all our pupils every success in the competitions. The choir will take part again this year and their competition is on Sunday 14th June. Dr. Helen Haughey has been working with the children on their song and we look forward to a good turnout for the choir competition. The feis will run from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th June.

Book Bill 2026/27

There will be no book bill for the coming year 2026/27 as we have received funding from the Department of Education to cover the cost of books and copy books.

Sponsored Spell

Sponsored Spell sheets have been sent out with all pupils from 1st to 6th class and should be returned by now. If your child's card has not been returned, please send it in as soon as possible. All cards, including blank cards must be returned. Funds raised will be used for sports day and general school funds/school tours. Thank you for your generous support.

New pupils

We are pleased to welcome 28 Junior Infants for the coming year. We also have two new Junior Infants in our Autism Class. The girls and boys visited the school recently and met their teacher and saw their new classroom. They were very excited to join us. The children will be invited back for a short visit before they begin the school year. We look forward to working with the children and their families in the coming years.

Autism Class/Butterfly Room

We are delighted to welcome two new pupils to our Butterfly Room. The class has now reached full capacity with six pupils.

Fundraising

We extend a sincere “Thank You” to our parents and school community for recent fundraising activities. Lee Farren and Kellie Tweed organised events locally and donated significant funds to our Autism Class. Your support is much appreciated.

Sixth Class Graduation

Sixth Class graduation has been organised for Thursday 18th June. Parents, family and friends are invited to join us. We wish the boys every happiness and success in Carndonagh Community School.

Sports Day

Sports day was a great success. We are very thankful to Carndonagh Community School for allowing us to use their pitch. For health and safety reasons, we were able to use only a small part of our own field.

It was lovely to see parents and friends enjoying the day. Thank you to everyone for the treats provided for the coffee morning. As always, everyone was very generous and your donations are much appreciated. The charity chosen by the parents this year was Bunrana/Inishowen Children’s Charity and the total amount collected was €265.

Gaelic Football

Our school team recently made it to the Cumann na mBunscoil County Final held in Letterkenny on the 3rd of June. We are very proud of the team for making it to the final and for this achievement. The boys have played very well in their recent matches and had the lead in the first half of the game. However,

we unfortunately lost out in the end to a strong team from St. Francis National School, Barnesmore.

Our team was made up of Daniil Yashchenko, Fineen Clifton, Harry Ward, Connor Canny, Matthew Kelly, Martin Monagle, Jack Bracken, Riley Farren, Jayden O'Donnell, Alfie McClean, Ruairí O'Brien Cooper, Nathan Rice, Edward Doherty, Darragh Doherty, and Rodijs Cirksis. There was an excellent display of skills and perseverance on the day. Well done to all the boys for their hard work and teamwork. Thanks to Ms. Lynch Grant and parents for their support.

John McLaughlin (Rustard) Skills Competition

Well done to Matthew Kelly for coming second in this highly competitive event. This was a wonderful achievement.

Tom McBrearty Cup

The boys are looking forward to competing in the Tom McBrearty Cup again this year. This will be held on Friday 12th June in Foden.

Summer Holidays

The school will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 23rd June. We wish all our boys and girls and their families a wonderful, happy summer.

The school will re-open for pupils on Thursday 27th August.

Anne McLaughlin, Principal.