



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dates for your Diary

Friday 23 rd October:	Children dress up in Halloween costumes
Friday 23 rd October	Halloween Singing (Infants)
Friday 23 rd October:	School closes for Halloween Holidays (at 2:00 pm/3:00pm)
Monday 2 nd November:	School re-opens
Teacher Training (school closed)	Thursday 12 th November Friday 23 rd April 2027 Friday 4 th June 2027

Please note that there will be one further closure this school year, date to be confirmed.

Halloween Holidays

The school will close from Friday 23rd October (which is the last day of term) until Monday 2nd November for the Halloween holidays. **Children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes on Friday 23rd.** We look forward to seeing all the creative costumes. This day is always great fun for everyone. Many of the teachers and SNAs love to dress up too!

School Contribution

Thank you to all the families that have paid the contribution for diary, printing, photocopying, art, etc. If you have not yet paid this bill, please do so by Friday, 9th October. The cost is €10 per child for all classes up to fourth and €20 per child for fifth and sixth classes. This covers the cost of Primary Planet magazine for the senior classes.

Child Protection

Anne McLaughlin, Principal and Noel Doherty, Deputy Principal are Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP for Child Protection. Both teachers have attended training in Child Protection. The Child Protection guidelines will be updated by December this year. All staff including teachers, SNAs and ancillary staff attended Child Protection training in the school recently.

Safety entering and leaving the school

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

You are kindly requested **not** to drive into the school carpark. This also includes early morning arrivals for breakfast club and after-school clubs. (A small number of families are permitted to drive in. Please speak to Anne McLaughlin, Principal if you need to drive into the grounds.)

Further, you are reminded that cars should not park on the chevron or zig zag lines at the school entrance or at the pedestrian crossing. Parked cars at the crossing are blocking the view for other drivers making this busy road and crossing extremely dangerous. Parents/guardians are respectfully asked to be mindful the safety of pedestrians.

Morning Arrivals:

Children should arrive at the school between 9:10 and 9:20 am and are supervised at this time. The bell rings at 9:20 and children enter the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Before and after-school provision

Spraoi & Sport provide before and after-school care for pupils, on the school premises. Breakfast Club is available from 8:00 am. After-school provision is available from 2:00 pm. Any enquiries should be directed to Spraoi & Sport.

Homework Club

Homework Club has started again this year and is available for pupils from third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes from 3 to 4 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. This club is run by school staff. Food is provided. This is a great opportunity for children to have their homework completed in a quiet, supervised environment where support is available. Homework club proved very popular last year. This service is free of charge.

Confirmation & Communion Dates 2026

Confirmation has been arranged for Thursday 6th May at 3:00 pm First Holy Communion for Saturday 8th May 2027 at 1:00 pm. Both ceremonies will be in the Sacred Heart Church. Our newly installed Bishop, Bishop Michael Router will confirm the children while Fr. Con will celebrate First Holy Communion.

Report from Board of Management

The Board of Management met in September.

We have updated the Inclusion policy and Code of Behaviour.

Our flat roof was replaced last week and the board welcomes this work. Our flat roof was causing a lot of problems in recent years and we welcome funding from DE to complete this project.

SNA Appreciation Day

Thursday 24th September was national SNA Appreciation Day. We extend a sincere thank you to our team of nine SNAs who do wonderful work with our children every day. Their dedication and hard work are much appreciated. We had treats and cakes in the staffroom to acknowledge our appreciation.

Halloween Singing

Junior & Senior Infants will perform a Halloween Concert on Friday 23rd October (the day of the holidays). Parents, family and friends are invited to attend. This promises to be a fantastic event, not to be missed. The concert will start at 1:15pm.

Book Fair

The school bookfair is currently in the school and will continue until Thursday 8th October. Parents/guardians are invited into our fair in the GP room where

lots of books are on display and available to purchase. This is a good opportunity to buy books for your children and it raises funds for books for the school. The book fair will be open from 2:00pm to 2:30pm and 3:00pm to 3:30pm daily. Your support is greatly appreciated.

HSCL

Home Visits

As HSCL my role is to support you as parents/guardians as your child makes their way through primary school, including starting primary school and transitioning to secondary. My aim is to make these changes feel less overwhelming and more exciting, ensuring every family feels supported and ready for what's ahead. I offer home visits, which can be a helpful way to support children in a comfortable and familiar setting.

'Healthy Families'

'Healthy Families: At the Family Table' started last week on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to 12pm and will run for x6 weeks. Sheila Keyes and Samantha Taitt are facilitating. We are focusing on building self-esteem, anxiety in young people, self-harm awareness and support, food and body image issues, parenting through change. Julie Lynch will provide a yoga class in the last week of this.

Building a C.V. and employment skills workshop

We are hoping to start this next month. I will be in touch with more information at a later date.

Bounce exercise class

Parents have expressed an interest in this. I will be in touch when dates are confirmed.

Ideas for classes

Feel free to contact me if you would like any specific class or course run.

Sinéad McLaughlin 0862383847 @Carnhscl on Instagram carnhscl@gmail.com

Sport

Soccer: The 6-a-side league has commenced and the boys played Cockhill in their first game. Goalscorers in the matches were Kane O'Donnell, Conor Clifton, Jayden O'Donnell (2), Nathan Rice, Louis Ward, Arlo Coyne, Shayne Campbell (2), and Jaxon Taitt (2). This week's match is against Scoil Cholmcille, Newton.

Swimming: Fifth & sixth classes have completed week 5 of their six-week block of swimming lessons. The instructors are very happy with the boys' progress. Third & fourth classes will attend for the next six Mondays starting from Monday 19th October.

Cathal Doherty & John Gibbons are currently working with the junior & middle classes.

Athletics: Well done to all the children that represented us recently in the cross-country athletics event in Buncrana. Congratulations to Jayden O'Donnell who was placed tenth in the Under 13s race.

Senior Gaelic Football Team - The boys on our senior Gaelic football team have been participating in the Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn 2 competition. The boys enjoyed a successful first day out in September when they played against Scoil Naomh Fionán Whitecastle. They displayed great teamwork and skills to win the match. Next up they will play Cockhill. Thank you to the CCS TY students for refereeing.

3rd and 4th Class Regional Participation Blitz - On the 1st of October our 3rd and 4th class Gaelic footballers attended the regional participation blitz hosted in Carndonagh GAA. This blitz was organised by Donegal GAA Games and Coaching. This was one of five events throughout the county. It was a very successful and enjoyable day of fun football. It was a great opportunity to develop skills and make new friends from other schools. Well done everyone!

Anne McLaughlin, Principal.