



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the end of this year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a productive and eventful first term. It has been a term filled with many highs, showcasing the wonderful talents and dedication of our pupils and staff. However, it has also been a time of deep sadness as we mourned the passing of our 5th class pupil, Lily-Anna. Her loss has been difficult to comprehend for pupils, parents, and staff alike. Yet, in the face of such heartache, we have witnessed our school community come together in strength and solidarity, offering each other support and kindness. This unity is a testament to the compassionate and caring spirit of our school.

On a lighter note, the festive season has brought a flurry of activity and joy. Our school choir delivered a beautiful performance at the Island of Geese Christmas market, spreading cheer to all who attended. Additionally, our 6th class pupils joined the school choir in carol singing outside Penneys, an initiative that served as a fundraiser for their graduation hoodies. Their enthusiasm and commitment to this effort was truly inspiring, and we are so proud of their hard work.

As we head into the Christmas break, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone in our school community for their support and dedication throughout this term. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. May the holidays bring joy, rest, and quality time with loved ones.

Marie O'Leary



Upcoming Events

School reopens Monday 6th January 2025

School Closed for staff training on the new Maths Curriculum Friday 31st January 2025

Catholic Schools Week Week 20th - 24th January

School Open Day Saturday 15th February

Mid-term break Thursday 20th & Friday 21st February - school closed

SHANAKILL FRC

Parent & Toddler Group

THURSDAYS •
9.30AM - 11AM



In partnership with HSCL scheme and Tralee DEIS schools

Contact Ciara, HSCL 089 4678544
Deirdre, HSCL 087 3398365
Margaret, HSCL 0863839396

*Group will run in line with school term times. Starting 10th October 2024

ENROLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 NOW OPEN



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DECEMBER ASSEMBLY

Our assemblies are a wonderful way of bringing all our pupils and staff together to share our talents, good news stories and achievements with our peers. On the day of the Christmas holidays we gathered all pupils from Senior Infants - 6th class. Here are some of the great things we shared. Our assembly culminated with a whole-school sing-song of a melody of Christmas songs with Mr. Cremin on the guitar.

Our Coiste Gaelbhratach introduced themselves to our school community - Ember, Julia, Samuel, Ellie, Tiffany & Matthew have been working hard on leading the promotion of the Irish language throughout our school. They have successfully run competitions for *Manna na Scoile* and *Comórtas Doirse agus Fuinneoga na Nollag*.



gaelbhratach

Performances by:

- Rang a dó
- Bualadh Bos
- Naíonáin Shinsearachacha
- Sing with Me
- Rang a Cúig
- Somewhere Only we Know

Principal's Prize

The following are the recipients of the Principal's Prize:

Ethan (1st) for being a great worker and always trying his best. He is very friendly and always shows kindness to others.

Eva (1st) for being a great worker who always tries her best at everything. She is very polite and kind to others.

Sam (2nd) for being such a helpful and reliable student who consistently does his best. He can always be trusted to carry out classroom jobs. He also loves sharing his knowledge with the class by telling us interesting facts.

Serah (2nd) for trying her best in everything she does. She is a great listener and is always offering a helping hand. She has excellent manners and never fails to make people smile.

Luke (3rd) for working exceptionally hard each day. He always tries his best, has great listening skills and is always helpful and kind to others.

Natalia (4th) for being a wonderful, mannerly, kind and diligent student who goes above and beyond with everything that she does. We are very proud of her efforts and her positive attitude towards her schooling and her fantastic creative ability.

Jack (5th) who is an incredibly bright and kind-hearted student, consistently bringing positivity to the classroom. He shows great determination in his work and always puts in his best effort, no matter the task. His cheerful attitude and willingness to learn makes the classroom a better place for everyone.

Polina (5th) who is a top student with an excellent attitude. She always shows great consideration for fellow classmates. She is always making an extra effort and is an example to all.

Éabha (6th) for being so enthusiastic about everything and loves to help others. She is always smiling and shows great commitment to our school through her involvement in the choir and on the Green School's Committee. She always gives 100% and is so friendly both in class and out in the yard.

Ivan (6th) who is an excellent student and always works well on every assignment. He is friendly and helpful and gets on well with everyone. Ivan has a wonderful attitude.



DECEMBER ASSEMBLY

Lily-Anna Sebestova

This was our first assembly since the passing of Lily-Anna. We had her candle lighting throughout while her friends recalled memories of their time with her:

Paula: Lily was a wonderful, kind and caring classmate. Whenever Lily came to school it was sunny outside and she brightened everyone's day with her sass, humour and determination.

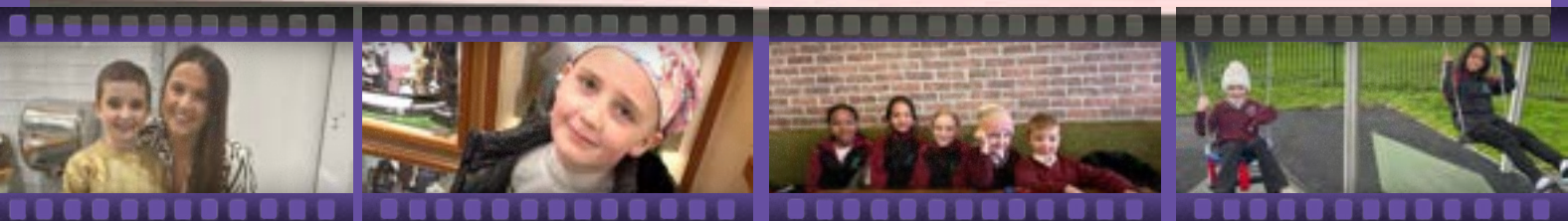
Ellie Mai O'C: I remember one time when Lily and I were walking home from school. Lily saw a trolley and said "You push me in that now!". So I started to push and I tripped over my shoe lace and the trolley flipped over with Lily inside. I was so worried that I hurt Lily but she jumped up and shouted "we need to do that again!".

Ellie Mai F: I remember last Halloween when we were getting our holidays. Lily came in with a full face of make-up after waking up at 5:30am to do it. We were supposed to be doing a test but Lily plausmaused Mr. Griffin into taking us trick-or-treating around the school. We visited all the classrooms and got loads of sweets, it was the best day ever!

Grace: Lily was passionate about make-up and loved using me as her model. I remember one day when Lily did my make-up, we laughed the whole time and she did a great job!

Lena: I remember when we went with Deirdre, Mrs. O'Regan, Ms. Culloty, Eli and, most importantly, Lily for breakfast in North South. We missed a test and got to eat loads of pancakes with Nutella instead.

Jory: I remember when I brought bubblegum into school and Lily wanted some. So she told me that her doctor told her she needed bubblegum so she wouldn't get sick so I gave her some!



DECEMBER ASSEMBLY



Our 10 to 9 in the line raffle winners are delighted with their certificates and gift vouchers!



Our attendance raffle winners are delighted with their prizes!



We finished with a whole-school sing-song of Christmas cheer!

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Junior Infants



Junior Infants First Nativity retold the miracle of the first Christmas. The boys and girls have worked really hard over the past few weeks and were super excited to perform their play

Senior Infants



The ABC Nativity uses every letter of the alphabet to tell the biblical story of the birth of Jesus. It shows the true meaning of Christmas in a happy and exciting way. Each alphabet letter has something to bring.

1st Class



It's Christmas Eve and poor old Rudolph has a cold, leaving Santa with no-one to guide his sleigh - that is, until Ralph the reindeer comes along! Will he be able to save the day?

2nd Class



"The Very Hopeless Camel"
After lots of adventures and some wrong turns along the way, 'The Very Hopeless Camel' eventually meets Baby Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem - and he becomes the happiest, most hopeful camel ever!

3rd Class



3rd class performed Selfish Santa. Santa loses his Christmas cheer and needs all our help to get it back.

4th Class



4th class sang a variety of Christmas songs to get everyone into the festive spirit! One of the songs was as Gaelge and they also performed a Christmas song on their tin whistles!

5th Class



5th class celebrated the most wonderful time of the year with joy, music, and a bit of magic.

6th Class



6th class wrote a play "Everybody wants to rule Christmas". It is about all the toys, Christmas decorations and Christmas food - they can't agree on which one is the best Christmas item! Thankfully, in the end they see sense and realise the true meaning of Christmas is, of course, the birth of Jesus.



Bon Secours Funding

A huge thank you to our friends in the Bon Secours Hospital who donated €2,000 to our school through the *Community Initiatives Programme*. We are delighted to receive this funding which is going towards an exit door in Ms. Culloty's autism class - this will lead directly out to their playground.

Also, a big thank you to Tom Chalke of Chalk Plant Hire & Groundswork who did such a great job on our new playground. Tom was so taken by our fabulous pupils that he donated a tractor for the children. They are delighted and regularly speak about Tom!



Split the Bucket

Congratulations to Iryna who won €435 in our Split the Bucket raffle on the day of our Christmas concerts. This is our 2nd year doing this raffle and it has been an astounding success each year. Thank you all for your continuing support.



Sports Capital Grant

We were delighted to receive nearly €170,000 in the Sports Capital Grant. This money will go towards an astro-turf pitch on our school grounds which will be a huge addition to our school. We will need to fundraise for the remainder of the cost and we hope to get started on this in the new year.

Ukulele

All pupils from 1st class to 6th class are now learning to play the Ukulele. What a fantastic experience this is for our pupils! The instrument is very reasonably priced and might be a nice Christmas gift so the pupils can practise at home. This initiative is being delivered by *Music Generation* and is made even more special by the fact that a past pupil of ours, Ben, teaches our pupils once a week.



Tiny Tidy Towns Competition

Our school has been named Munster regional winners of the SuperValu Tiny Tidy Towns Competition. On Friday 1st November Mrs. Kelly, Mr. O'Sullivan and two pupils, Jack and Luke, travelled to the Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin as regional winners of the SuperValu Tiny Tidy Towns competition. We are delighted that our hard work has been recognised. Mr. O'Sullivan and his team of pupils and staff here in Holy Family have worked so hard over the past year to ensure our school grounds and well kept and maintained to a very high standard. We would like to thank Martha Farrell and her colleagues of Tralee Tidy Towns who have been instrumental in helping us along this journey. They have introduced us to Trees of the Land and ViClarity who worked together to help us with the planting of 1000 trees around our school grounds.



Active School Committee

Our Active School Committee continue their trojan work of motivating both pupils and staff when it comes to increasing fitness levels and the importance of physical activity. They came up with a novel idea of linking up with our Junior Infant and Senior Infant classes in the school hall this week where they played a number of Christmas games. Lots of physical activity while having fun, working on our oral language skills and going back to the basics of playing simple games together. We are so proud of the pupils on the committee - well done to all of you and thank you for all your hard work throughout the year.



**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

We are seeing increased cases of bullying through social media channels throughout school communities nationally. It is hard to believe this is happening at primary school level and can be so difficult for the children that become targets of this. Many of our pupils may have asked for various IT devices as Christmas presents. We would ask that you pay particular attention to the **Digital Age of Consent** in Ireland. The information below may be of benefit to you.

What is the age of digital consent in Ireland?

In Ireland, the age of digital consent has been set at **16**, meaning that for every child under that age, online service providers (e.g. a social media platform like Tik-Tok or SnapChat) that rely on consent as the legal basis for processing must obtain the consent of the child's parents in order to offer online services to them.

Is it really a big deal if I lie about my child's age so that they can sign up for a social media app or game that they really want?

YES. IT IS A BIG DEAL

Signup ages for online services are never advisory. If a social media platform has a signup age of **16**, this means that there are **identified risks** to using that service for children under that age. For their own safety, children shouldn't be allowed to use it. **If you help your child sneak onto these services, you may be exposing them to danger.** The risks from using an age-restricted online service are open-ended. Your child could continue to use that service every day for months or years. For all these reasons, you should **never** allow or help your child to make inappropriate use of an age-restricted online service. It doesn't matter how benign the service may seem or how close your child is to the permitted age. At the end of the day, these rules exist to keep your child safe.

School Open Day

On **Saturday 15th February** we will open our school to the public. We invite all members of the community to call in and look around our school. This will be a fun-filled activity day for our perspective pupils and all other visitors. We also hope to see many past pupils call in for a cuppa on the day! More details will follow nearer the time.

Reminders:

- **Our staff will be on yard supervision from 8:45am each morning. Please note your child should not be on the school yard before this time as they will be unsupervised and will not be covered by school insurance.**
- **Please make sure you sign your child out on the Aladdin App if they need to leave school early for an appointment.**
- **Breakfast Club allows pupils to be dropped to school from 8am where pupils are given their breakfast before school starts each morning. Our after-school facility runs from 1:40pm - 6:30pm daily and also runs for full days during the school holidays. Please contact Lizzie on (083) 3737114 for further details.**