



Cleveragh Junior Parkrun takes place on Sunday mornings at 9.30am. It is a free, timed, 2k run or walk for children aged from 4-14. Please see <https://www.parkrun.ie/cleveragh-juniors/> for further details.

HSCL - A word from Claire McNally!

- ◆ Many thanks to our fabulous Parents' Partnership for all their hard work and preparation for Hallowe'en festivities this week—assembling treat bags, decorating the Halla for the Fancy Dress Disco and supervision. Funds raised go directly back to the children—first up is 4th class swimming lessons and buses to the pool and back. Mile buíochas!
- ◆ We were delighted to have Shannan from **MAIA Purposeful Play** back for a workshop with all our Junior Infants and some parents in the Halla.
- ◆ Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership will run a **Sugradh Le Cheile** session for Senior Infants and their parents on Tuesday 4th November from 9.00—10.00 am
- ◆ **Breakfast and Homework Clubs** will continue until Christmas. Breakfast Club opens at 8.30am. Homework Club runs from 2.35-3.30 Monday to Wednesday and there is currently a waiting list.
- ◆ **Stay & Play** - watch this space! We hope to facilitate some sessions for Junior / Senior Infants after Hallowe'en.
- ◆ Many thanks to all the parents who helped out at the **Book Fair** and to Ms. Yolande Kilbane for organising it

Secondary School Enrolment: Enrolment for local secondary schools began recently. To ensure your child does not miss out on a place please complete and returned the relevant paperwork in good time. Our Lady of Mercy Primary does not enrol children into secondary school. The responsibility of enrolment rests entirely with parents.

SAVE THE DATE!! OUR PARENTS' PARTNERSHIP AGM will take place on Wednesday 5th November at 9am in HSCL Room. We are very grateful for the work that the PP do and are always looking for new members to help out. Why not get involved? Text Claire 085 158 3953. We are always looking for help as we approach the festive season—please contact Claire if you wish to get involved



Pumpkin Soup: Sincere thanks to Hari and Ms. Duignan for their time and expertise in helping to prepare pumpkin soup for every person in the school. That's over 500 cups of soup! This delicious soup was prepared with vegetables grown in our own polytunnel!.



HALLOWE'EN NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: OLIVIA FLANNERY



Dear Parents / Guardians,
Happy Hallowe'en to you all!



We have had a very busy return to school since late August, with our pupils enjoying success at the AthleticsFest in ATU, Sligo. We have had a busy two months full of excursions, mini sevens Gaelic, hurling and tag rugby. Children also enjoyed our Maths Week activities, a Baroque Music concert, our Book Fair, Messy Play, homemade pumpkin soup and of course our Hallowe'en Fancy Dress Disco!

5th and 6th class attended the Hallowe'en Safety Talk given by our Community Policing Garda Mark Connor, accompanied by Niamh Keenan from Yaps. Have that talk yourselves also to ensure your children remain safe over the Hallowe'en festivities.

As we prepare for the arrival of our new external ASD classrooms and soft play area, we no longer have the use of yard 6 while construction is ongoing. We have staggered our break times to ensure the best use of the remaining yard space for play. We expect that construction will be over by Easter.

We look forward to seeing you all in November at the Parent Teacher Meetings and wish you a relaxing Bank Holiday Weekend and a safe and happy Hallowe'en

Olivia Flannery, Principal.



Communion & Confirmation Dates

Communion: Saturday April 25th 2026 at 11.30am
Confirmation: Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 11am



Full Day School Closures:

Friday 21st November 2025 - Child Protection Procedures. -
Monday 26th January 2026 - Primary Curriculum Framework Day 1
Monday 27th April 2026 - Primary Curriculum Framework Day 2

Junior Infants have been so busy over the last two months settling into school - We are learning a lot in the classroom, role-playing in the home corner, playing outside with our friends everyday on the yard, enjoying the fabulous school playground. We enjoyed completing our Maths Trail last week for Maths Week and are super excited to dress up and have lots of fun at the Halloween Disco.



Music Generation: All 5th classes are now receiving tuition in Ukulele from Kevin. 3rd Class are receiving tin whistle instruction from Aisling, Guiliana is instructing Plaza 1 & 2 in the Con Tutti programme, while Junior Infants and 1st Class are receiving instruction in Discovering Music Programme from Fiachra and Roisin. We appreciate the assistance of Cranmore Regeneration in funding support for this wonderful initiative



Office Opening Hours

Please note the school office will be closed daily for lunch from 1.00-2.00pm

Senior Infants have so much news to tell! We had a great time discovering all about the theme of "The School Office". As part of this, we interviewed our SNA Mary, our secretary Sinéad and our caretaker Francis. They gave us an interesting insight into their work on a daily basis. During harvest time in our school polytunnel, we tasted grapes, cucumbers, tomatoes and even tried some yummy pumpkin soup which was brought to us by the Green School Committee. We also went on an Autumn scavenger hunt earlier in the season and last week we had a great time using our Maths eyes around our school during maths week. We continue to enjoy our scooters and other yard time activities along with the help of our senior buddy minders. Looking forward to another great half term when we return on November 3rd.

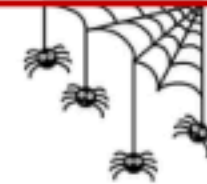
Supervision: Supervision of children on the school yard is not provided before 8.50am or after 2.30pm. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children left on the yard prior to 8.50am or after 2.30pm.

Baby Boom! Our staff are celebrating the arrival of 5 beautiful new babies. SNA Ross, Ms. Holland and Ms. O'Hara welcomed baby boys and Ms. Kelly and Ms. Cawley welcomed baby girls. Congratulations to all!

HALLOWEEN



Attendance- Well done to all the children who were in school every day in September. They received a certificate and a small treat for their achievement.



Dates to Remember:
Hallowe'en Break - school closed Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October. School reopens Monday 3rd Nov at 8.50am
Christmas Break - School closes Friday 19th December at 12 noon and reopens at 8.50am on Monday 5th January 2026
St. Brigid's Day - Monday 2nd Feb 2026 School Closed
2025 Spring Mid Term - School closed Thursday and Friday 19th & 20th Feb
Full calendar available on school website

Polling Closure School is closed on Friday 24th October for the Presidential Election.

Since returning to school, **5th Class** have had a very enjoyable start to the year. Music Generation is now in full swing, and the children are enthusiastically learning to play the ukulele with Kevin.

They also took part in a fantastic tag rugby blitz in Cleveragh recently showing great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Maths Week was a big highlight, with pupils completing a fun maths trail, taking part in an online quiz, and visiting ATU Sligo for an exciting Maths Magic show.

5th Class also enjoyed visiting the school book fair, where they had the chance to explore a wide range of books and share their reading recommendations with friends.

To round off a busy few weeks, our Community Gardaí visited our classes to share important tips on staying safe over Halloween.

It's been a wonderful start to the year for 5th Class, and after such a busy few weeks, everyone is looking forward to enjoying a well-deserved Halloween break.



The **second classes** have settled really well into school this term. Their teachers are delighted with how much they have learned, how well they have listened and how kind they are to each other. All the classes have worked very hard but also have had lots of fun. We enjoyed many different activities such as the Book Fair, Maths Week, pumpkin soup day, creative art lessons, had fun with a sensory box experiment and are now busy preparing for Halloween! Ms Middleton and Ms Foley's classes went on active, educational and fun nature walks to Doorly park. We are lucky to have such a great amenity so close to the school. Ms Sherry/ Ms Duignan's class learned about the science of leaves changing colour and have planned an enjoyable and worthwhile visit to Sligo library. Many children are preparing for their First Holy Communion and Fr Pat and Sr Madeleine have been in to visit the classes. We have also had to move to a new yard which is exciting and we are all enjoying the change. We are looking forward to the Halloween disco and also to the next term! Happy Halloween everyone 🎃.



School Book Fair 2025: Our School Book Fair was held this month and was a huge success. Thank you to all the boys and girls and of course their parents as for every euro spent the school gets a % to spend on books for our school. Investing in the future!



4th Class have had a busy and creative first half term! All three classes visited Sligo Abbey this month. After a fantastic tour of the Abbey, the children then participated in a free, fun-filled and incredibly creative Art workshop. They came back to school with a spooky selection of Halloween masks as well as hand crafted pumpkins, spiders and lots more. Thank you so much to all at Sligo Abbey!

Ms Noone's 4th class children enjoyed a workshop provided by the Blue Raincoat Theatre company. The workshop used the vast and varied aspects of theatre to offer an inclusive, dynamic way to engage all learners by meeting them at different ability levels and learning styles. Whether students were confident speakers, quiet thinkers, energetic doers, or reflective observers, the workshop provided a space where each child could contribute and have fun!

4th Class were also very active, many taking part in the Super Valu relays as well as the cross country event. All four classes also participated in a brilliant tag rugby blitz in September. We can't wait for the rest of the term especially as our swimming lessons begin after mid term break!

As part of **Communion and Confirmation** preparation, the pupils have had many lovely visits from Fr. Pat Fr. Steve, Fr. Conrad and Sr. Madeline. Pupils from 2nd-6th celebrated the Rosary in St. Anne's Church recently and as always they represented the school with pride.



3rd Class have had an eventful first half term! We were lucky enough to be chosen to receive music lessons each week with Aisling from Music Generation. We have been learning great tunes like 'The Wellerman', 'Happy Birthday' and 'The Adam's Family'. We also enjoyed a fabulous day at a rugby blitz back in September. Each class also had a wonderful maths week enjoying maths trails, online quizzes and fun challenges in class.



Plaza 1 welcomed four new students this year, congratulations to all our junior and senior infants for settling in so well! We had a busy term playing music with Music Generation every Friday, getting to know the school and all its different areas such as the sensory room and playground, and seeing Maia in the Halla for a session of messy play. We learned a lot about Autumn and everyone took part in our fun activities- most recently pumpkin carving! Plaza 1 had a fantastic start to the year. We are looking forward to another great term ahead.

In Plaza 2 we have had a wonderful time getting to know each other. We have been learning through themes based on picture books such as *The One and Only You*, *The Leaf Thief*, *Walter's Wonderful Web*, and *The Pumpkin Who Was Afraid of the Dark*.

Our days have been filled with sensory activities, language, and playful learning. Children have enjoyed literacy and numeracy activities linked to our stories and themes. They have loved learning new routines and are growing in confidence and independence every day!

Plaza 3 pupils have been doing a fantastic job adjusting back to school. Over the last couple of weeks we have enjoyed many fun activities while preparing for Halloween. We carved pumpkins this week and enjoyed scooping out the seeds. We look forward to another half term of learning and fun!!

Art, Craft & Photocopying Fees - €35



A gentle reminder to parents / guardians to please pay any outstanding Art, Craft & Photocopying fees due. The introduction of The Free Book Scheme has alleviated the considerable cost of providing books & stationery for every primary aged child. However, the grants to schools for arts & crafts remain unchanged and we really depend on this small contribution from parents.



The children hit the ground running, once again, this September and October. An enormous amount of sport has taken place which is fantastic for our pupils.

SuperValu Relays

40 pupils took part in this huge competition in the ATU in September and once again we were thrilled with our athletes who performed so well. We had a huge number of teams which did exceptionally well especially our junior boys and girls teams and of course our senior boys who came first and well done also to our senior girls and our super Shot Putt thrower. The children were amazing and their many days of training definitely paid off.



Cross Country

Once again many of our super fit athletes competed in the very tough Cross Country competition in Rathcormac. The runners performed well and we were delighted with Manal Bushara who qualified again this year for the Connacht Cross Country Competition. Well done.

Gaelic

Our Mini 7s Gaelic teams competed well in a tough competition. We also had one boy and one girl who took part in the **Place Kicking Competition**.

Our **Hurling** and **Camogie** teams have also been busy getting organised with Mr Ryan. They had their first competition a while ago.

Our 4th class children have been very lucky as they have been receiving coaching sessions with Gaelic coach Nathan for a number of weeks. This is a great opportunity and really helps the children work on their skills.

Tag Rugby

We have been very lucky to have had 2 Tag Rugby days in Cleveragh, already this year. All of our children from 3rd - 6th have been given the opportunity to try out this great sport and have loads of fun doing it.

We are hoping to have another Tag Rugby event later in the year.

Swimming

Once again our three Fourth classes will be starting their 7 week block of swimming lessons after Halloween.

We are delighted that our children will get the opportunity to become comfortable in the water and improve their swimming skills. This is such an important life skill and we are lucky to get this opportunity which is completely funded by our Parents' Partnership Disco Fundraiser!



1st Class News: Kevin from Music Generation has been visiting Ms. McNamara's and Ms. Rolston's **1st Classes** each week. The children have been exploring rhythm, composing, trying out different instruments, singing songs, and having so much fun! Kevin will begin working with Mr. Keenan's class after Christmas.

Maths Week All classes took part in an exciting Maths Zoom as part of Maths Week. The children tackled lots of challenging questions and had great fun along the way!

Halloween: All of 1st class have been busy creating Halloween Arts and Crafts. From pumpkins to ghosts and Frankensteins, their corridor is looking very spooky.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

We are thrilled to announce that this year's 6th Class musical will be Shrek! Get ready for an unforgettable show filled with laughter, music and magic as the children of 6th Class bring the world of Shrek and his friends to life on stage, here, in Our Lady of Mercy Primary School.



Auditions will be held after mid term, so start warming up those voices and practicing your best fairytale character impressions!

Stay tuned for more details, and get ready to make this our biggest show yet!

6th Class Sixth Class have enjoyed a fantastic and action-packed half term filled with learning, teamwork and fun! One of the highlights was the Tag Rugby Blitz, where pupils showed excellent sportsmanship and energy on the field. The class also visited ATU to attend an engaging maths presentation, which sparked great enthusiasm for problem solving and real world maths applications.



Sports continued to be a major focus, with exciting hurling and camogie matches that showcased skill, determination, and teamwork. In addition, some pupils proudly represented the school in the SuperValu Relays and Cross Country events, giving their very best and demonstrating great perseverance.

Overall, it has been a wonderful half term full of achievements and memorable moments. Sixth Class have worked hard, supported one another, and continued to shine both inside and outside the classroom. Well done to everyone on a brilliant start to the year!