

Welcome

Fáilte ar ais ar scoil gach duine!

Welcome back, everyone, to the first edition of our newsletter for the 2025/2026 academic year! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. A warm and special welcome to our new pupils — we're excited to have you join our community. We're pleased to welcome:

Ben and Elle Erasmus, Chaya Doherty, Antonina Palii and Nicholas Grimes to Junior Infants and Dumitru Prilipceanu to 2nd Class. We wish you many happy years at St. Multose N.S.

Some gentle reminders...

The school day begins at 8.50 a.m. Please ensure your children are in school on time every morning.

Please note that we will not be responsible for children arriving before 8:50 a.m.

- For the first week, Junior Infants will be collected at 12pm.
- From Thursday, 4th September, Junior Infants will be collected at 1:30pm.
- Senior Infants will be collected at 1:30pm.
- Pupils from 1st Class – 6th Class will be collected at 2:30pm.

Please ensure that you arrive on time to collect your children. If you are late, it can make your child very anxious.

Arriving to school

- This year everyone will come in through the front main gate and line up on their lines.
- We encourage a drop and go system for all.

Home-time

- The same routine as last year remains in place.
- Pupils from Junior Infants to 3rd Class will line up on their lines at the front gate.
- The teacher will dismiss each child as they see their parent.

Parking

There is reserved parking outside the school for our school buses. Please do not park in these spaces at any time. Parents can parallel park along the footpath at the front of the school or in the hall car park to the back of the school.

Permission to walk/cycle home

If your child is in 4th – 6th class and you feel your child is responsible enough to walk home, please complete the permission slip on Aladdin.

Early Collection

If you need to collect your child early from school for any reason, please notify us, where possible, at least a day in advance by ringing or emailing the school to let us know. You will need to sign your child out upon collection.

Absences

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please fill in the reason on your Aladdin app. The school is required by law to report unexplained absences, frequent absences or late arrivals to school to the Education Welfare Office, who will investigate the report.

Handle with care

If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend please email the school 'Handle with Care'. This will let us know that your child may need extra time, patience and help during the day.

Let's Make Every Day Count!

As we begin a new school year, we're setting a strong goal: **better attendance for every pupil**. Every day of school matters — not just for academic success, but for building confidence, friendships, and good habits for life.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable, but whenever possible, we encourage families to prioritise daily attendance and arrive on time. Even being just 10 minutes late each day can add up to lost learning time over the year.

Let's work together to make 2025–26 our best-attended year yet. Every day counts — and so does every pupil!

Encourage Daily Reading at Home

Reading every day is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning and development. Just 10–15 minutes a day can make a big difference in building vocabulary, boosting imagination, and developing strong comprehension skills.

Whether it's a bedtime story, a comic, a library book, or even reading recipes together — every bit counts!

Thank you for helping us foster a love of reading at home and at school.

Wellbeing and Kindness at the Heart of Our School

As part of our ongoing School Self Evaluation (SSE), we continue to place a strong focus on wellbeing and kindness throughout the school community.

This year, our Anti-Bullying Policy has been replaced with our new "Bí Cineálta" (Be Kind) Policy, reflecting our proactive approach to fostering a positive, inclusive, and respectful environment for all.

Our goal is to ensure that every child feels happy, safe, and secure while attending our school — both in their learning and in their relationships.

Thank you for supporting us in nurturing a school culture where kindness and wellbeing thrive.

New Primary Maths Curriculum – Now Fully Implemented

We're excited to share that the new Primary Maths Curriculum is now being fully implemented across all class levels from this school year onward.

This updated curriculum places a strong emphasis on problem-solving, mathematical thinking, and real-life application, helping children develop a deeper understanding of maths in everyday contexts. It also encourages hands-on learning, collaboration, and critical thinking, making maths more engaging and meaningful for all learners.

We look forward to working together to support your child's mathematical development under this new and modern approach. More information and resources for parents will be shared over the coming months to help you stay informed and involved.

Mobile Phones and other devices

It is school policy for pupils not to have a mobile phone or personal electronic devices at school; however, the school understands that in some cases a pupil may have a valid reason for needing a mobile phone. Therefore, all pupils who

need to have a mobile at school must fill in a permission slip stating the reasons why they need a phone at school. Please let us know if you would like us to send you the permission slip. The school does not take any responsibility for the safe keeping or care of pupils' phones. Phones must be switched off and stay in pupils' bags during school hours. Mobile phones cannot be taken on school excursions or camps. iPod touch, smart watch or any other form of handheld game or music player must not be brought into school. Parents will be contacted if these protocols are not followed.

Communication

News and upcoming events and all key information about school will be posted on our Aladdin app. Please check your Aladdin app regularly to keep up to date with school/class events. Information for the wider community will be shared on our school website.

Meetings

If you would like to meet your child's teacher, please schedule an appointment with the school secretary via email secretary@stmultosens.ie. Formal Parent – Teacher meetings will provisionally take place during the week of the 13th of October.

School Office Hours & Phone Calls

Please note that our secretary's working hours are from 9:30am to 12:00pm. To help us protect valuable teaching and learning time, we kindly ask that phone calls to the school be limited to the following times, unless it is an emergency:

- 8:30am – 8:50am
- 9:30am – 12:00pm
- After 2:30pm

As a teaching principal, stepping out of the classroom to answer calls between 12:00pm and 2:30pm can disrupt lessons. We appreciate your understanding and

support in helping us prioritise our pupils' learning.

Change of Address/ Emergency Numbers/ Email Addresses

If you have changed any of these or your standby contacts, we would ask that you change these on your Aladdin app. This information is necessary for the safety and care of your child during school hours.

Possessions

Please ensure all clothing and other possessions are clearly labelled with indelible ink. If there is no label, it will be donated to charity.

School Uniform

A sky-blue polo shirt and official school jumper/sweatshirt are compulsory for all children every day. The sky-blue polo shirt and school jumper can be ordered from the school office. Black footwear must be worn (runners permitted).

Navy school trousers, skirt, pinafore must be worn. These can be sourced from Dunnes Stores, Penneys, Marks and Spencer, Tesco or other retail outlets. Leggings and branded bottoms are not permitted. Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days.

PE Days

Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days. Your child's class teacher will send a message on Aladdin to let you know when your child's P.E day is.

Milk

We're pleased to offer the option of school milk again this year. A permission slip will be sent out shortly via Aladdin for those who wish to sign up.

School packed lunch

Children must bring a healthy lunch to school – no fizzy drinks, no sweets, no frubes, and no crisps allowed. We are a

Plastic Free and Healthy Eating School, so we expect re-usable lunch boxes and drink bottles. No plastic straws. Children should bring water to drink – no juice/smoothie cartons please. Milk is available to order daily through the school.

We would appreciate your cooperation with implementing all of the above in helping to maintain a healthy school environment.

Hot & Cold Lunches – Ongoing Update

We are currently working on securing hot or cold lunch options for our pupils through the Department of Education's school meals programme. Our aim is to provide nutritious, balanced, and sustainable meals that support students' health and learning. However, sourcing a supplier who can consistently meet the required standards has proven challenging. We are continuing our efforts to find a provider who can offer healthy, appealing, and environmentally responsible meals for all children.

We appreciate your patience and will keep you updated on any progress. Thank you for your continued support as we work toward a solution that benefits the whole school community.

School Bills

We use Aladdin office administration system for online payments of school bills. You will be sent a link to make payments for school uniform, milk etc. shortly.

After School Club

We're delighted to let you know that our After School Club is now up and running. The club operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm to 5:30pm, offering a safe, fun, and engaging environment for children in the afternoons.

If you would like more information or wish to book a place for your child, please

contact the After School facilitator Ms Jayne O'Leary on 087 4610007.

Breakfast Club

Ms Sue O'Riordan, one of our fantastic in-house SNAs, will be facilitating Breakfast Club every weekday morning from 8am. For more details and to reserve a spot, please get in touch by contacting her on: **087 8525798**.

Solar Panels

Some fantastic work took place over the summer break! We're delighted to share that new solar panels have been installed, thanks to funding received through the new schools grant. This sustainable upgrade will provide us with cleaner energy, reduce our electricity costs, and support our ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility.

Secretary Striking

Our school secretary, Katie, deserves special recognition for the incredible work she does each and every day. Her dedication, efficiency, and warm presence are truly at the heart of our school community. From keeping the office running seamlessly to supporting staff, students, and parents alike, Katie consistently goes above and beyond in her role.

As you may be aware, Katie took part in strike action last Thursday. The Board of Management and staff at St. Multose NS fully support the campaign by school secretaries and caretakers, who are seeking pension parity and equal leave entitlements in line with their colleagues in the staff room.

New Fence

You may have noticed the beautiful new fence now running along the side of the school, bordering Bandon Co-op. We extend our sincere thanks to our Board Member, David Peare, for collaborating with our neighbours to ensure the boundary is both safe and secure. A

special thank you to Bandon Co-op for generously funding the project and providing the fencing. We're sure you'll agree—it's a great improvement to the area!

Polytunnel Parents

A heartfelt thank you to Maeve and Joe Jackson, and Charlotte Roberts, for taking such great care of our school polytunnel over the summer. We truly appreciate all the hard work you've put into creating such a beautiful and welcoming space for our pupils. Your dedication has made a meaningful difference, and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

If you have any skills, hobbies, or interests you'd be happy to share with our pupils, we'd love to hear from you! Whether it's art, music, gardening, storytelling, or something entirely different, your involvement can make a real impact.

Please note that anyone wishing to volunteer will need to be Garda vetted. If you're interested or would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Schoolbooks

As you are aware, the cost of schoolbooks, workbooks and copies is now funded by the Department of Education. Pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd Class can write into their workbooks. However, pupils from 3rd Class to 6th Class are not permitted to write into their books. Textbooks have been provided on loan to children for the duration of the 2025/2026 school year and textbooks will be returned in June as they remain property of the school. I am asking you to remind your children to please take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year.

School Charge

As mentioned in last year's newsletter, an annual charge of €80 per pupil will be applied via the Aladdin platform for this school year. This contribution helps cover essential costs such as pupil insurance, school supplies, photocopying, art materials, and interactive licences/programmes including Athletics and Dabbledoo, along with other educational supports that directly enhance students' learning experiences. We greatly appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain a high-quality learning environment for all our pupils. If you would prefer to pay this charge in instalments, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Parents will be notified of any additional activities that may involve extra costs throughout the year—for example, swimming lessons, school trips, or guest speakers. In these cases, a payment link will be sent in advance to facilitate easy payment.

Parents' Association

Every parent is already a member of the Parents' Association. We encourage all parents to be active members. It is a great opportunity to get to know the school community and to get involved in the life of the school. With your support, our staff and pupils can have amazing events, school supplies, and school trip opportunities.

On Saturday, 18th October, our PA will host our Harvest Fair! All proceeds go towards the school. Please save the date!

A final word...

As a staff, we are so happy to be back at school. It is always such a pleasure to welcome the children through the school gates — their laughter, energy, and enthusiasm for learning are truly something to behold!

We are proud to be part of a community where pupils, teachers, and parents support one another, working together to build meaningful relationships that nurture both academic success and social-emotional growth.

I am genuinely excited about the school year ahead. Together, we will continue to support every child in reaching their full potential.

Warmest wishes,
Jill Horan
School Principal

Dates for your diary:

- Swimming begins for Mrs Buttimer's Class – Tuesday, 16th September.
- Beginning of Year Service –Thursday 18th September @11am at St. Multose Church – all welcome to attend.
- Celebrating International Day of Peace – Monday, 22nd September.
- Heritage Schools visit with Sonia Caldwell – 24th September.
- Diocesan Service in Bandon – Thursday 25th September.
- Heritage Schools visit with Anthony Galvin – Tuesday, 30th September.
- Friendship Week – 6th – 10th October.
- Parent Teacher Meetings Week – 13th – 17th October.
- Maths Week – 13th – 17th October.
- Harvest Fair – Saturday, 18th October.