

Welcome

Fáilte ar ais ar scoil gach duine!

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. It has been a busy start to the new year, but we are all well and truly back in the swing of things and it is a joy to have our school filled with happy voices once again.

A warm and special welcome to our new pupils — we're excited to have you join our school. A big welcome to:

Rosie Bryan, Dija Daugelaite, Beau Hersey, Ellie Kennedy, Gabriella Munene, Bonnie O'Brien and Iris Richmond to Junior Infants and Monty Hersey to 4th Class. Welcome back to Darwin Foulds in 3rd class and Dovydas Daugela in 1st class. We wish you many happy years at St. Multose N.S.



Nao Santa Maria is coming to Kinsale

We have an extra special treat planned for the children. On Thursday 17th

September, we are going to walk down to Kinsale pier and get a tour of the **Nao Santa Maria at 11am**. This is a replica of one of the ships sailed by Christopher Columbus in 1492 when he discovered the Americas, by mistake!

We will bring lunches and have a picnic in the park and then we will walk to the church for our Beginning of Year Service.

We would like to extend a welcome to all our parents to come to our **Beginning of Year Service on Thursday 17th September at 1pm in St Multose Church**. Children must be collected afterwards from the church. Regular school buses will collect children at 2pm. If children attend aftercare, Jayne will walk them back up to the school.

The new Bishop for our Diocese, Rev. Andrew Orr, will be instituted on the 30th of September. The senior children will be some of the first people to meet the new bishop at the **Diocesan Schools Service in Bandon** on Thursday 22nd October.

This Sunday there will be a **PET SERVICE** in St Multose Church at 5pm. Rev. Eugene said that everyone is welcome and so are their pets!

Fergal McCarthy, principal of **Kinsale Community School (KCS)** and Áine the deputy principal visited to invite the 6th class pupils to come to their open day on **22nd September either at 4.45pm or 6.30pm**.

We are delighted to welcome Carmel Wright to facilitate a series of **Climate Literacy Workshops** with the senior room throughout September and October.

MTU **Cyber Futures Project** will support us in providing online workshops this term to the senior classes about Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Extended Reality and Internet of Things.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all our parents and pupils every blessing for the coming year.

Carolyn Buttimer
Acting Principal

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 Monday, 7th 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.

Arriving to school

- Everyone comes 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 emailing the principal 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.

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 Language Curriculum



This year our focus will be on developing our language curriculum, particularly, Gaeilge.

Anecdotal evidence would suggest that the attitude towards Irish amongst our students has seen a marked improvement in the past year with the implementation of various language-based initiatives by our teachers. To build on this work, we would appreciate a supportive attitude towards Irish from parents, and we would ask that you would promote Irish with your child and support their Irish learning, as best you can.

As part of this development, we will enact **Grúpaí Leitheoireachta (Book Club in Irish)** – using **Sona ag Léamh**, a graded reading scheme. We will use this for Irish reading as homework. This new reading scheme has been a big investment for our school. Please take care of these books when they come home for **homework**.

If you don't speak Irish, there is an audio version online to help your child. Please enable them to access this. Information about how to access this will be on the reading sheet in their homework mesh folder, next week.

This May, we intend to introduce **Drumcondra Standardised Irish Testing** to benchmark the standard of Irish

across the school and accordingly we will aim to raise this standard.

Seánraí Scríbhneoireachta – We hope to incrementally introduce the same writing genres in both English and Irish, concurrently.

Modern Foreign Languages Grant

We have bought multiple sets of boardgames which can be used for all languages being taught in the school. These will also support Irish language learning.

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 and you should also receive it as an email. 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 between the 13th and 21st of October. These will be scheduled in due course.

School Office Hours & Phone Calls

Please note that our secretary's working hours are from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

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
- 12:30pm-2.30pm
- 2:40-3.15pm

As a teaching principal, stepping out of the classroom to answer calls between 12:30pm 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.

Ms Curtin's Room – Thursday

Ms Kingston's Room – Friday

Mrs Buttimer's Room – Tuesday
(Sometimes this must change to accommodate workshops and other activities)

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 the above, in helping to maintain a healthy school environment.

BiaÓg

Hot school lunches resume during school term time. Any issues, email our secretary Kate or email BiaÓg directly, depending on the issue.

Curious Minds After School Care

We're delighted that Curious Minds After School Care is now up and running. The club operates Monday to Friday during term time from 1:30pm to 5:30pm, offering a safe, fun, and engaging environment for children in the afternoons.

If you have not already done so and would like more information or wish to book a place for your child, please email: curiousmindsbookings@gmail.com

Curious Minds is run in conjunction with the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and this provides financial supports to parents for their childcare costs. A universal subsidy, which is not means tested and provides €2.14 per hour is available and further support is available, according to income. www.ncs.gov.ie

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**.

Polytunnel Parents

A heartfelt thank you to Sandra and Helga for taking such great care of our school garden over the summer. We truly appreciate all the hard work you've put into creating such a beautiful and welcoming space for our pupils.

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 ask.

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 keep them in good condition during the year.

School Charge

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 Mathletics and Dabbledoo/Licences for Dramas, 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, 17th October 3-5pm, our PA will host our Harvest Fair. All proceeds go towards the school. Please save the date!

Children are invited to also run a stall if they wish to sell their own products. 50% of their income will go towards the school and they can keep the rest!

The **AGM for the PA** will be on Tuesday 20th October 7pm in the school.

In November, your child will design a **Christmas card**. These will be printed. Packs will cost €10 and the funds will go towards the school. So please don't stock up before November!

Dates for your diary:

- **Swimming** begins for Mrs Buttimer's Class – Tuesday, 16th September. This will run for 6 weeks.
- **Beginning of Year Service** –Thursday 17th September @1-2pm at St. Multose Church – all welcome!
- **Parent Teacher Meetings** 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th October.
- **Harvest Fayre** – Saturday, 17th October, 3-5pm.
- **PA AGM** - Tuesday, 20th October
- **Diocesan Schools Service** in Bandon – Thursday 22th October.
- **Team Hope Shoebox Appeal** – Collection after Halloween Midterm break. Save your shoeboxes!
- **School Closure for Training:** 11/6/2027 (Only one day this year).