

School News...



Friendship Week – Celebrating Kindness and Connection

Last week, our school came together to celebrate Friendship Week, focusing on kindness, gratitude, and the joy of friendship. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and caring actions across every class!

We kicked off the week with a special assembly and paired up buddies, encouraging pupils to connect with someone new and support one another throughout the week. Children wrote notes sharing one thing they appreciate about a friend and handed them over. The classrooms buzzed with thoughtful words and happy smiles! Everyone also made Palentine/friendship cards to give to classmates, spreading messages of kindness and support across the school. Pupils carried out secret acts of kindness, showing that even small gestures can make a big difference in someone's day.

The week ended with a Superhero dress-up day, where children dressed as their favourite heroes and brought in €2 to support the Special Olympics, reinforcing the idea that we can all be heroes by helping others.

Our special Friendship Award was presented to Alice Grimes in assembly on Thursday. All staff were looking for a worthy recipient, and we were so impressed by Alice, who exemplifies kindness and friendship in everything she does. She consistently shows care and respect to her peers, making our school a happier and more welcoming place. Congratulations, Alice!

Maths Week Fun

This week, as part of *Maths Week*, the children enjoyed playing a variety of card games to practise their number skills — making totals and identifying the highest and lowest numbers. First Class also went on a *Maths Trail* around the school, spotting shapes, numbers, and patterns in the environment. They had a fantastic time learning through movement and discovery!

Heritage Schools with Sonia Caldwell, Ms Curtin's Class

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome Sonya Caldwell, who shared her wonderful knowledge of nature with the classes. The children brought in interesting leaves to create a colourful *nature table*, and Sonya taught us all kinds of fascinating facts — including how you can make soap from horse chestnuts! We even used dye made from oak leaves to paint some beautiful artwork.

Heritage Schools with Sonia Caldwell, Ms Hadden's Class

Over the past few weeks, 2nd and 3rd Class have been working with Sonia Caldwell, local West Cork artist on an exciting project exploring the theme of *river habitats*. The children have spent time observing pond life up close, watching tiny creatures swimming and learning about the delicate ecosystems that thrive in our local waterways. Inspired by what they've seen, they have been experimenting with natural dyes made from local plants and rocks to create beautiful artwork. As part of the project, the classes have also been making their own paper from pulp and using iPads to create stop-motion animations that bring their ideas to life. There's one more full workshop day to come, and we can't wait to see the final collaborative piece that will showcase all their hard work and creativity!

Skipping Around the World!

The whole school has been taking part in the *Skip Around the World* challenge, adding fun movement breaks into our days. It's wonderful to see the yard full of children skipping, laughing, and staying active together. Some pupils have even been inspired by the skipping videos and are busy practising some very creative pair-skipping routines — there's plenty of impressive teamwork and fancy footwork on display!

Team hope Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

On Monday, we will be sending home leaflets for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This wonderful initiative gives families the opportunity to help vulnerable children overseas by putting together a shoebox filled with small gifts and essential items. We encourage everyone to start preparing their shoeboxes and thinking about what special items

to include — the leaflet provides lots of helpful suggestions. Please note that completed shoeboxes are due back to school by Friday, 7th November. Thank you for your generosity and support in bringing joy to children around the world this Christmas.

Cork Pops Orchestra Trip

On Thursday, 6th November, Mrs. Buttimer's class will be travelling by bus to Cork to attend Evelyn Grant's Cork Pops Orchestra performance, "*Rhythm of Time*", at City Hall, Cork.

This promises to be a wonderful musical experience for the children, filled with rhythm, energy, and fun! You can find out more about the concert at corkpops.ie. More details to follow on Aladdin.

Dress up on Friday, 24th October

We'll be celebrating Halloween Dress-Up Day on Friday, 24th October! Children are invited to come to school in their favourite costumes — there's no specific theme, so let your creativity shine.

We're asking everyone to bring in a €2 donation for Pieta House, a very worthy cause supporting mental health and suicide prevention.

There will be plenty of Halloween fun and games throughout the day, including some traditional favourites like apple bobbing and fun classroom activities. It promises to be a great day of laughter and celebration!

Parent Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to all the parents who attended Parent-Teacher Meetings this week. These meetings are always invaluable, as they help strengthen the partnership between home and school — ensuring that parents and teachers are working together towards the same goal: supporting each child's learning and wellbeing.

If you haven't yet scheduled your meeting, please contact the school secretary to arrange a time by next week.

Thank You for Supporting Our Open Day

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out at our Open Day on Tuesday. It was wonderful to have the support of our 5th Class school ambassadors, along with other pupils and members of the Parents' Association, who helped ensure the evening ran smoothly.

We had a great turn-out. It was fantastic to welcome new faces and families into our school; giving them the opportunity to tour our classrooms and see the vibrant learning environment we are so proud of.

Junior Infant Enrolment Reminder

A reminder that the enrolment deadline for Junior Infants enrolling for 2026 – 2027 school year is Tuesday, 22nd October. If you know of any prospective families or anyone planning to enrol their child, please make sure to let them know so they don't miss the deadline.

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 all of the above in helping to maintain a healthy school environment.

Absences

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please record the reason for their absence using the Aladdin app. To be marked present for the day, a pupil must attend school for at least 2.5 hours. By law, the school is required to report any unexplained absences, frequent absences, or regular late arrivals to the Education Welfare Office, which may lead to further investigation.

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. We are currently setting up an Instagram page and our Facebook page will eventually be linked. Our staff will share regular updates here once it is set up. We are no longer posting on 'X' or Twitter.

After School Club

We're delighted to let you know that our After School operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm to 5:30pm.

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, facilitates 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**.

Adult Coats for Cork Penny Dinners

Reverend Eugene is kindly collecting warm coats throughout the month of October to donate to Cork Penny Dinners. If you have a good-quality coat that you no longer wear, please consider sending it into school during October. Your generous donation will help keep someone warm this winter. Thank you for your support!

Your Support Matters – Don't Miss the Harvest Fair!

A huge thank you to all the families who have returned their raffle tickets for the Harvest Fair — your support is greatly appreciated. We'd also like to thank everyone who took part in the pumpkin carving competition; the creativity and effort that went into each pumpkin have been fantastic to see!

The Harvest Fair is one of the most important events of the year for our school community. Every ticket you buy, every raffle entry, and every visitor to the fair directly supports your children — helping us provide enriching educational experiences, resources, and opportunities that make a real difference in their learning.

We cannot highlight enough how important it is for all families to show up and support this event. Your presence, participation, and generosity make a tangible impact on the quality of education we can provide. The more of us who come together, the more successful the fair will be — and the more it benefits every child in our school. Let's make this year's Harvest Fair the best yet. Come along, bring your family, enjoy the fun, and show your support. Our children deserve nothing less!

If you still need to return your raffle tickets, please hand them in at the Fair by 3pm tomorrow.



A note from the Parents' Association

Dear Parents,

As you know, our Harvest Fair is tomorrow.

This is our most significant fundraiser of the year and funds many things for our children: 6th class hoodies, Sports Day barbecue, school tour bus, etc...

The PA are appealing for any help you can provide:

- Set up in St. Multose Hall this evening from 6.30pm (17th October).
- Homemade baking and home preserves or produce - the following sell especially well:
 - Tea bracks, loaf cakes, apple tarts, jams, marmalades and chutneys. Please label ingredients.
 - We will need some biscuits and tray bakes for the cafe too.
- Shopping bags and boxes.
- Books and toys or teddies – clean and in good condition. We currently have none at all for these stalls!
- Any raffle prizes you can donate.

To conclude - all and any help is very gratefully received!

Many thanks,

Parents' Association

Maternity Leave Announcement

As many of you know, I will be starting my maternity leave on Friday, 24th October, and this will be my last newsletter until I return. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support at school over the past half term. During my absence, I am delighted to hand the principalship over to Mrs Carolyn Buttimer. She is an exceptional leader, and I have every confidence that under her guidance, our school will continue to thrive. I am also thrilled that Ms Jasmine Roberts will be returning after the mid-term break to take over my teaching duties. Ms Roberts previously taught our senior classes and brings a wealth of experience, including expertise in Special Education, and she is also a qualified drama teacher. She will teach Mrs Buttimer's class on Wednesdays, which will be Mrs Buttimer's administration day in the office. Thank you again for your continued support.

Kindest regards,

Jill

Dates for your diary:

- Harvest Fair – Saturday, 18th October from 3pm – 5pm in St Multose Hall
- Friday, 24th October – Dress up day and €2 for Pieta House
- Friday 24th October – School Closes for midterm break
- Monday, 3rd November – School Reopens
- Tuesday, 4th November - School Closure due to facilitate Inservice training day on Child Protection Procedures
- Thursday, 4th November – 4th, 5th and 6th Class trip to City Hall

Some photographs of the last while in school:

Our Superheros!











Why I like you:
you are funny
you are kind
you are smart
you are you!!!!









