HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER 2025

New Entrants:
We are delighted to report that our new Junior Infants have settled in very well!
We welcomed Alys & Sophie Adams, Lorcan Canavan, Róisín Curtin, Liam Clancy, Jimmy Hassett, Isabel Lucas, Fionn McGettigan, Tom Meaney, Nina O'Connor, Tess O'Donnell and Seán Vaughan.
We also welcome Tadhg and Saoirse Blake to 1st and 5th class, who joined us from Canada this year.
We will also be joined by Juliette and Anna Cuisinier in 2nd and 4th class respectively for a short period after mid-term break.
We are delighted to have them all and hope that they will be very happy in our school.

Welcome:
We would like to welcome Ms. Aoife Hassett to our staff. She will be working with Ms. Kelly in the SET position for the 2025/2026 school year.

SET Initiatives/ Team Teaching:

Since September, **Ms. Kelly** and **Ms. Hassett** have been teaming up with class teachers to support learning across the school.
All classes from **1st–6th** are taking part in the *Words Their Way* spelling programme and weekly **Maths Stations**, while **Junior and Senior Infants** enjoy **Phonological Awareness Literacy Stations** four mornings a week.
1st and 2nd classes are working on **Literacy and Reading Stations** daily, and **5th & 6th classes** recently completed a **6-week Guided Reading** block. **3rd & 4th classes** will begin theirs **after midterm**.
Meanwhile, **1st class** have been busy with the **'Fun Friends'** programme — a 10-week initiative that helps pupils build **confidence, resilience, and positive life skills** through fun, engaging activities.

Sacraments:

The sacraments will be celebrated on the following dates:

First Penance: Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm

First Communion: Saturday, April 25th at 11am

Office Hours:
Aoife is in the office on Monday from 9am to 1.30 pm, and Tuesday – Friday from 9am to 12:30pm.
The school phone is not monitored outside of these hours, and we would ask all parents to continue using Aladdin as usual so that we have a record of all communication.

Sport:
The North Clare National Schools Cross Country Championships:
Well done to the 38 pupils who took part in the qualifiers at Lees Road on the 30th of September.
We are delighted to have been part of the parish group that won the schools cup for North Clare.
Congratulations to all the children for taking part and for how well they represented our school on the day.

We wish Annabelle Foley, Maya McGettigan, Oisín McDonagh, Maisie Considine, Méabh Clohessy Nina Hassett, Seán Clancy, Nathan Griffin-McNulty, Daithí McDonagh, Danny Scales, Saoirse Blake, Molly Considine, Ellen Curtin, Robin O'Gorman and Lily Considine the very best of luck as they advance to the finals on November 18th 2025 in Lees Road.

Swimming Classes:

Children from 1st, 3rd and 4th class will be attending swimming classes at Lahinch Leisure Centre from November 5th for a 7 week period. 2nd, 5th and 6th class will attend from November 6th for the same period of time.

Football:

We entered the Cumann na mbunscol football competitions for both boys and girls.
The girls' blitz was held on the 13th of October in Corofin and the girls have qualified for the semi-finals, to be held in Ennistymon on November 4th 2025.
The boys' team played their blitz on the 14th of October in Miltown and they too have qualified for the semi-finals, date to be confirmed.
Well done to both teams on great performances so far!

Liscannor Ladies Football:

The whole school got behind the fantastic Intermediate team as they prepared to take on West Clare Gaels in the County Final on October 5th. The children enjoyed a great build up at school - making flags, signs and wearing the maroon and white on the Friday before the final.
The excitement reached peak level on Monday 6th of October when the winning ladies team arrived with the cup and some treats for all children.
The minor ladies then sealed the winning streak by overcoming the Banner Ladies on the 15th of October.
Well done to both of the Liscannor Ladies teams – especially our own Miss Falvey and our past pupils who gave us all such a fantastic display of football and exciting memories. Liosceannúir Abú!!

Ennistymon Library Book Festival:

Pupils from 3rd to 6th class took part in events at Ennistymon Library during the Children's Book Festival during the month of October as follows:

- Wednesday 8th October: 5th and 6th class attended a talk from author Brian Gallagher
- Wednesday 22nd October 3rd and 4th class attended a talk from author Wayne O'Connor.

The children really enjoyed this opportunity to meet with an author and gain some insight into the work they do in terms of life of an author, into the process of writing a novel and the art of storytelling.

Ballad of a Bandit:

Pupils from 3rd to 6th class were treated to a surprise performance from Miquel and Debbie of Branar Theatre Company on October 2nd. "Ballad of a Bandit" took place in the classrooms, and told the tale of Captain George McNamara, a highway man, who in the style of Robin Hood robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. Both staff and students found the show hugely entertaining and a new and exciting take on a well-known theme.

Maths Week:

Children took part in teacher led activities in the form of zoom quizzes and class activities for Maths Week, which ran from 11th – 19th October.

Infant Information Presentation:
On September 30th, Ms. Falvey gave an overview of the Junior Infant curriculum and tips on how parents can help children reach their full potential at school.
'Thank You' to all parents who attended on the night.

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal:
This is an important initiative which has been a tradition in our school for many years. A brochure was given to each child on October 14th. There are two options available for families who wish to participate, (a physical shoebox filled with items as outlined on the brochure) and an online donation option. Our deadline for all shoeboxes to be returned is 7th November 2025. Please read the leaflet carefully regarding appropriate/inappropriate items and include the €5 transportation fee.

Design-A-Card:
Children will be given an opportunity to design their own Christmas cards again this year, with samples being given out in November to allow parents to purchase these for the festive season if they so wish.

Ennistymon Community School Visit:
Staff from the Ennistymon Community School gave a presentation to 5th and 6th class pupils on the 24th of September on what to expect in terms of curricular choices and school facilities in the new school going forward. This was followed by an Open Night for prospective 1st year pupils.
On that night a competition was held, whereby each pupil was given a model car to assemble and decorate. We were delighted that Niall O' Loughlin was awarded 2nd place! A representative from the school will be presenting a prize to Niall in person after mid-term. Well done Niall!

Greenschools:
Liscannor N.S. are beginning the 2 year programme for our next green flag. Ms. Hassett will be acting as the Greenschools coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year.
Our school will be looking at Global Citizenship in relation to Energy. We will be reviewing our energy use in the school and looking for potential to reduce this even further. A green schools committee will be established in the coming weeks with a pupil representing every class in the school.
Our school garden is ready for a big overhaul as we move towards winter, led by members of our Parents' Association and in conjunction with the children.
We would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who helped to maintain our garden during the summer.

Student Council:
Our 2025-2026 Student Council has been chosen by their peers. Ballot papers were prepared and canvassing was in full swing!! The children really enjoyed the process of elections and voting. .The newly elected council will hold meetings at regular intervals throughout the school year.
Our 2026-2026 Student Council is as follows:

Junior Infants: Roisin Curtin
Senior Infants: Hannah Scales
1st Class: Elsie Greene
2nd Class: Lia Kubiak-Quaid
3rd Class: Veronica Danko
4th Class: Cathal Foley
5th Class: Katie M. Considine
Sophie McNulty
6th Class: Dara Cronin
Lily Considine

Halloween Celebrations:
A fun day was had by all with children going all out in Halloween costume on Thursday October 23rd. We enjoyed the Halloween parade as part of our Halloween school assembly where children had an opportunity to display their efforts.

Friendship Week
Friendship Week ran from 20th – 24th October this year. Certificates were awarded to children from each class for kindness, inclusion and efforts to be friendly and polite to staff and to their peers.

Bumbleance Visit:
Following our Bumbleance fundraiser last year which saw the school raise €354.00, the actual Bumbleance came to the school on 23rd October, to make our students aware of what the service provides and to highlight the importance of the Bumbleance in the lives of sick children all over the country.

Fire Drill:
A fire drill was held at the school on October 23rd.

Healthy Lunches:
The children are eating very healthy lunches and making a big effort to drink only water at school. Thank you to the parents for your co-operation with the Healthy Eating Policy.

Hot School Meals:
The Hot School Meals procurement process is still ongoing, and we hope to have an update on this after mid-term.

Uniform:
Well done to all pupils who are wearing a full school uniform. We ask parents to check your child's uniform over the Halloween break and to ensure your child also has appropriate outdoor "winter" clothing and footwear for break times, as well as indoor shoes where required.
Please remember to put name-tags on ALL items of clothing and footwear to prevent confusion and loss.

Stationery:
Please replenish your child's stationery items over mid-term break, as listed on the 2025/2026 stationery list (issued in June via Aladdin). Please label all items to prevent disagreements and loss.

Dates for your diary:
School Closed 24th October to facilitate the use of the premises as a Polling Station for the Presidential Election.
Mid-Term Break: Monday, 27th October to Friday, 31st October 2025. School reopens on Monday, 3rd November 2025.
Team Hope: Christmas shoebox appeal deadline is Friday, 7th November 2025.
Swimming Lessons: Swimming lessons will commence on Wednesday 5th/ Thursday 6th November (details outlined previously on Aladdin).

Thank you for all the interest and support you have shown to us during the last term.

Máire O'Connell
Principal

Just a little Snapshot……

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READ EVERY DAY

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Happy
Halloween