

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We hope you are all enjoying the lovely weather. The final school term is in full swing and we are looking forward to lots of fun learning experiences this term!

Oide Closure

All the teachers attended a training day on 21st April for the new curriculum. The redeveloped Irish Primary School Curriculum will be officially introduced to schools next year and is built around five areas: Arts Education, Language, STEM, Social and Environmental Education, and Wellbeing. It promotes flexible time use, integrated learning, and the development of seven key competencies across all subjects, while linking early childhood education with later schooling.

The curriculum includes a central framework with specific subject areas, moves from integrated to more subject-based learning as pupils progress, and allows schools to continue offering patron-designed religious or ethical programmes. If you have any queries please contact your child's teacher.

Re-turn Campaign

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and members of our wider school community for your fantastic support during our recent Re-turn Week. Your generosity and participation made it a great success. All funds raised will go directly towards the development of our sports facilities on the astro, helping to enhance opportunities for all our students.

We are delighted to share that we will continue collecting bottles and cans, and the Re-turn bin will remain at the front gate until the end of the school year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Friendship Week

We celebrated Friendship Week last week. It gave the children an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate their friendships, and to make new friends. This plays a very important role in creating a positive school environment for all our students. There were various activities for each of the classes throughout the week.

Road Safety Authority Visit

The children enjoyed a visit from a road safety officer on 14th April. They learned all about road and car safety, including how to cross the road safely, the importance of wearing seatbelts, and how to stay alert as pedestrians and passengers. It was a very valuable learning experience.

Holy Communion

The children in 2nd class are busy preparing for their upcoming First Holy Communion. They really enjoyed their retreat last week in Ballintubber Abbey. Communion rehearsal is on Friday 8th May in Belclare church ahead of the sacrament at 11am on Saturday 9th May. The children from 3rd and 4th Class will sing in the choir for the mass so if your child is available, please bring them along to the communion mass.

Swimming

Apologies to all regarding the missed swim class last week. Swimming starts again on Tuesday 5th May for 1st/2nd/3rd and 4th classes and we have added in an extra session on Tuesday 9th June. To facilitate a football blitz for 1st and 2nd class on 12th May they will swap their session with 5/6th class. JI/SI & 5th/6th will also go together for 4 weeks. **Please see full list of sessions under dates for diary.** Time is very limited so please ensure your child does not bring shampoo/conditioner or sprays and wears their togs under their uniform!

The children in Junior and Senior Infants will need a parent/guardian/sibling from 5th/6th to help them dress after their lesson.

School Sports

5th – 6th Classes and Junior/Senior Infants will continue hurling training every Tuesday, while 3-6th class are enjoying weekly football sessions on the Astro. We are also currently competing in the Raftery Cup, Cumann na mBunscoil, Anthony Murphy Cup and Girls Raftery Cup. It certainly is a busy time of year for our sports teams

Forest School

Forest school returns for junior and senior infants and begins for 6th Class. Sessions begin on 18th May. The cost per child is €10.

Wellbeing

All the children enjoyed 'Fruity Friday'; a concept borne from our student council! We had a gorgeous array of fresh fruit that was gobbled up by each class! Well done everyone for trying new foods!

Well done to 3rd and 4th Class who are now over half way through their marathon! They are getting fitter and running faster every week!

3rd and 4th are enjoying taking part in the Incredible Edibles programme and are starting to see some growing progress. We now have radishes, lettuce, beans and turnips. The next step will be Roots to Recipes, where pupils have the opportunity to explore how food moves from being grown to being prepared and enjoyed. This is a great opportunity to link growing with food preparation, which also reinforcing key messages around nutrition, seasonality and sustainability.

Beny Buday had a fantastic day in Leinster House last Friday, attending Dáil na nÓg 2026, representing County Galway Comhairle with other delegates.

Dail na nÓg is an event that happens every 2 years when Comhairli from across Ireland meet to hold their own Dail. The topic they looked at was Education, which was narrowed down to a call for continuous assessments and how Irish is taught in schools. Well done, Beny, we are all so proud!

Music

Our school is extremely lucky to be included in the school programme for Music Generation. The children are developing their musical concepts through fun games, activities and instrumental music playing. They have improved so much this year thanks to our amazing music tutor Anita Malone! Anita will finish up for the year this month. Thank you for all your hard work, Anita!

On May 13th, our 3rd to 6th class students will be visiting Leisureland with Music Generation to take part in a special performance. On the day, the children will join other local schools to perform the Mandolele, providing them with a wonderful opportunity to showcase all their hard work and musical progress. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to a fantastic event.

School Tours

The annual school tour is one of the highlights of the last term and this year we are going on the following tours.

JI & SI and 1st & 2nd Class – Monday 8th June: Wildlands €45 per child.

3rd – 6th Class - Wednesday 11th June: Lets Go in Athlone: €45 per child.

We appreciate the cost of the annual school tours may cause financial pressure in some families so please pay whenever you can either in cash or online. If paying online, include TOUR & child's name in the reference on the bank transfer. It is always a special end of year experience enjoyed by all.

2026/2027

Muinteoir Clodagh will not return in September as she continues her work with Oide. We are delighted Ms Hanly will remain with us!

Student admissions for 26/27 close on 16th May. We currently have 11 new students enrolled for September. Miss Ruane will hold a new infant and parent morning on Thursday 28th May from 9-10am.

School Payments

Term 3 Music €10

Swimming €40 (includes 4 lessons and the bus)

Forest School €10 for Infants and 6th Class

School Tour fees as above

As always, payments can be paid in instalments or contact the principal if you need to discuss payment options.

Bank Account Details: IBAN: IE24 AIBK 93715045680338 BIC: AIBKIE2D

Dates for Your Diary

May Bank Holiday:	Monday 4th May
Holy Communion:	Saturday 9th May at 11am
June Bank Holiday:	Monday 1st & Tuesday 2 nd June
Standardised Testing:	Week beginning 18 th May
School Tour Infants/1st/2nd Class:	Monday 8 th June
School Tour 3rd – 6th Class:	Thursday 11 th June
Swimming Sessions:	Junior & Senior Infants: 26 th May, 9 th June, 16 th June, 23 rd June 1 st /2 nd Class: 5 th May, 19 th May, 9 th June, 23 rd June 3/4 th Class: 5 th May, 12 th May, 19 th May, 9 th June 5 th /6 th Class: 12 May, 26 th May, 9 th June, 16 th June
Graduation Mass:	Monday 22 nd June at 11:30am
Summer Holidays:	Wednesday 24th June at 12pm

As always, thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to lots of exciting activities in our summer term!

Le gach dea – ghuí,

Sinéad Cleary & Staff

