



Principal's Address

Staffing for School Year 2025.2026

Junior Room – Múinteoir Marian Sheehan

Senior Room – Múinteoir Callum O'Donovan

Learning Support Team – Múinteoir Máire de Cógáin, Múinteoir Trish Collier and Múinteoir Louise Foley

Special Needs Assistant – Elaine McGreevy

Erasmus+ Intern – Lara Rygoll

Part-time secretary – Olivia O'Leary

Part-time cleaner – Christina Hallissey

Senior Room

The Senior Room have been settling into a new routine with their teacher **Múinteoir Callum**. We are delighted to have him with us here in Tahilla CNS this year. He is bringing his interest in drama and a dedicated work ethic to enhance the school experience for the children.

Junior Room

Múinteoir Marian's Junior Room has been bursting with creativity in recent weeks, producing a wonderful collection of artworks. As part of their lessons, the children learned about the artist Paul Klee, whose colourful, geometric style is full of fun and imagination. Inspired by his work, the pupils experimented with blocks and paint using the printing techniques to create their own playful pieces.

A Special Welcome!

We would like to give a very special welcome to **Arthur Nolan**. Arthur is a son of **Christena O'Sullivan** who attended Tahilla School herself as a child. Arthur joined the senior room and is in sixth class.

Lara Rygoll is joining us from Germany on an Erasmus+ Programme. Lara is a fully trained teacher and is completing her overseas internship at Tahilla CNS.

Jonas Scheibein was with us on Wednesdays for six weeks completing work experience as part of his SNA training. He is a past pupil and loved coming back and realising what a lovely school we have here at Tahilla CNS.

Term 1 – School News

Summer camp 2025

Tahilla CNS was delighted to welcome pupils back a few days early for two fun-filled weeks before the new school year began.

The first week kicked off with a creative stone art project. Children collected pebbles, twigs, and leaves to design unique pieces inspired by the special things in their lives, from family to pets.

On Tuesday, the group enjoyed a trip to Sneem, starting with a fun game of mini golf. We then strolled to the old playground and followed the river to *The Bridge Café*, where we enjoyed a delicious meal. Afterwards, we treated ourselves to ice cream in the sunshine before finishing the day with a fun game of tennis.

On Wednesday, we continued our much-loved music tradition by bringing in our instruments for a practice session. We also enjoyed making our own instruments and even recorded some original music of our own.

On Thursday, we welcomed the Animal Roadshow, an exciting opportunity for everyone to get up close with a variety of creatures. Children had the chance to hold a tortoise, bearded dragon, snake, owl, and even a bunny. We rounded off the day by picking blackberries and apples from our orchard and using them to make a delicious apple and blackberry crumble.

On Friday, we tried our hand at knitting and crocheting, learning new skills and creating some lovely pieces. We wrapped up the week with a well-deserved pizza party, enjoyed by all.

Throughout the second week we enjoyed many more arts and crafts activities. On the Tuesday we took a trip to Derrynane. The children were given a guided tour of Daniel O'Connell house which was really interesting and they learned a lot. We were so proud of all of our students for listening carefully and for asking some excellent questions. We then walked to the beach for some fun sea swimming and built a few sand castles. A special thanks to Anton Wauters for supporting us on this trip.

Every day we went for a 1km walk. The weather was absolutely fabulous. On our final day of camp we walked from the school, along the Kerry Way, to Parknasilla Woodlands Playground. The zip line was a big hit. Thank you very much to Parknasilla Hotel for allowing us the use of this wonderful facility. Naturally, the children were tired after walking almost 2 hours and Múinteoir Máire was waiting at the playground with a box of Calipo ice-pops!!! A welcome cool down on a hot day.

A special thanks to all staff involved: Ava Wiley, Elaine McGreevy, Molly Breen, Ciara O'Leary, Sinéad Connolly, Máire de Cógáin and especially Louise Foley who put together the programme of activities.



Bring Your Pets to School

The Tarasov family kindly brought in their unique pets to show their classmates. Alvina, Avenir, Vlad and David proudly introduced their bunny rabbit, two rats and a hamster. Some of the children were brave enough to hold the pets and give them a gentle rub. The hamster took a particular liking to Julia and ended up crawling up her coat sleeve which the other children found very funny.



Apples

The pupils of Tahilla CNS had a wonderful time gathering the many apples from the apple trees at the front of the school at the beginning of this term. Many of the children brought home apples to eat and bake with. Our wonderful SNA, Elaine, made apple juice infused with lemon for the children to enjoy. It was a big hit with everyone!!



Credit Union

On Wednesday the 1st of October Amanda O’Sullivan, from Killarney Credit Union, visited the school to present a very generous donation to the pupils of Tahilla CNS to go towards the cost of forest school from 2024. The children were delighted to receive a ruler and pencil as gifts.



Tie Day Friday

We celebrated Tie Day Friday again this year. On October 10th we showed our support by wearing colourful ties from home and some that were made in school. Families were also encouraged to make a donation in aid of the Kerry Mental Health Association. Thank you to everyone who wore a tie to school and donated to such a worthy cause. A total of €22 was raised on the day and most importantly we had a great day celebrating the importance of a healthy mind.



Lunch Outdoors

For the past number of Fridays, we have enjoyed taking our food outdoors for an al fresco style lunch. A big thank you to Auke Schots for creating stools for us to use from the trees that were cut down over the summer. The children have really enjoyed eating lunch outside together, as it gives both classrooms a lovely opportunity to mix and socialise together.



Sneem Fire Brigade

We had a very exciting day on Wednesday, 22nd October, when the Sneem Fire Brigade came to visit our school! The firefighters began their visit in the classroom, where they spoke with the children about fire safety and what to do in case of an emergency. Afterwards, everyone got the chance to explore the fire truck. The children loved sitting in the cab, trying on a firefighter's helmet, and seeing all the different tools and equipment used on the job. Everyone had a lot of fun, and a few of our students even said they'd like to join the fire brigade when they grow up!



German Potato Cakes

We had a wonderfully busy and tasty day on Wednesday, 22nd October! Rosa and Rufus's parents, Carolin and Tim, joined us to cook some delicious potato cakes with apple sauce on their BBQ. Everybody loved tasting the finished dish for lunch! It was such a fun and memorable experience, and we're so grateful to Carolin and Tim for sharing their time and cooking skills with us.



Senior Room News

Football Blitz

At the beginning of October, the senior room participated in a GAA football blitz in Kenmare with three other schools in the area. It was a great event that allowed the pupils to show off their skills and lots of fun was had out on the pitch. The pupils played excellently and demonstrated great teamwork and quick thinking during each of the games.



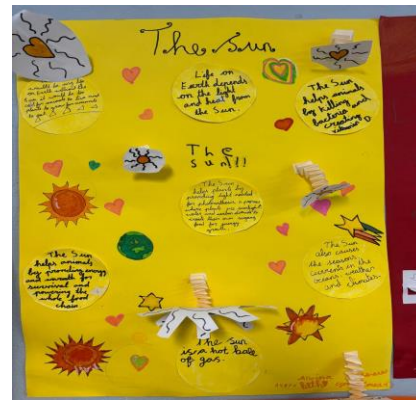
STEM Activities

To start off the year, the senior room participated in a range of team-building activities following their return to school after the long Summer holidays. The highlight of the day was the STEM challenge that they took part in, where they were tasked to create the tallest tower made out of pasta and marshmallows. The pupils had a brilliant time constructing their towers and working together as a team!



The Sun & Earth

One of the topics that we covered in the senior room this term was the Sun and the Earth. The pupils created posters filled with creative illustrations and information on the importance of the Sun and its effect on Earth. The pupils also looked at sunsets in one of their Art lessons, demonstrating the beautiful colours on display when the Sun sets!



Junior Room News

New Junior Infants

On the 27th of August, we welcomed our three new junior infants Jade, Dylan and Erik to Tahilla CNS. They have settled into our school community so well, and all of the other children have made them feel very welcome. We're looking forward to the year ahead, full of fun and learning.



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Maksym who turned 8 on the 11th of October. To celebrate we baked delicious chocolate chip cupcakes in school and sang him a big Happy Birthday.



Autumnal Learning

The children spent a lot of time learning about the environment around them during these few months. We studied the different types of trees in our local environment and how to identify them from their leaves in SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education). We went for a nature walk around the school grounds to collect some of these leaves and other natural resources to study and identify in the classroom. These items were put to good use when we created squirrels and the leaves made for ideal materials to create the squirrel's bushy tails.



Inspired by some famous artists.

During September and October, we took inspiration from some famous artists to inspire our art classes.

Paul Klee was a famous painter known for his unique printing style, often featuring shapes of houses and people. To imitate his technique, we used a number of building blocks from our classroom, dipping them into paint and printing onto paper. As you can see, the children created some wonderful paintings inspired by his work.



We created colourful, abstract landscapes inspired by the work of artist Etel Adnan. We learnt that a landscape painting is a painting of a place. Using three lines to divide our pages, just like Etel Adnan, we filled our landscapes with bright, bold blocks of colours.



Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese artist nicknamed the ‘princess of polka dots’ who loved to paint pumpkins. For a Halloween inspired art lesson, we created our own polka dot pumpkins, using our fingers to print dots on our painted designs.



Clay pumpkins - this term, the children had lots of fun creating their very own clay pumpkins! They began by rolling the clay into balls and gently flattening them to form the pumpkin shape. Using pencils, they added grooves around the sides and carefully shaped a little stem on top. Once the clay had dried, the children painted their pumpkins beautifully, ready to take home.



Baking with Jonas

We were very lucky in the junior room to get the opportunity to do some baking with Jonas, who joined us for six weeks SNA placement. The children made delicious blueberry muffins with him and enjoyed every bite.



Playful Learning

Since returning to school in September, we've taken a playful approach to learning, using materials from our environment to support our creativity and exploration.

We used lots of different materials from the classroom to make 2D shapes to design a house. The children were very engaged in this activity and found very creative ways of using the materials to form shapes and make their houses.



Building towers – During play time recently, the boys have been very busy trying to create the tallest tower possible using a variety of different building blocks and toys. They worked together to build with the big interlocking blocks, managing to create an impressive tower that stretched all the way from the floor to the ceiling.



Our highlights

Football training - Maksym

Making the clay pumpkins – Rufus & Nikita

Chocolate meditation – Erik & Dylan

Making cupcakes – David

Dressing up for Halloween – Nesuhi

Making the Frankenstein – Eoin & Patrikas

When Vlad and David brought in their pets – Norah

I like playing in the yard – Vlad

Everything – Yngvi & Jade