



Newsletter

Issue: 26th June 2026



Principal's Address

It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of another academic year here at Tahilla CNS. Once again a time of change is upon us. Múinteoir Callum finished out the year on June 26th and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours! Múinteoir Karen will be returning to the senior room in August. Múinteoir Marian will be staying on in the Junior Room for another year and Elaine will continue in her role as SNA. As Múinteoir Ellen Grogan and Catherine Gul are extending their leave.

Our sixth-class graduates Leo, Beth and Alvina will embark on their journey to secondary school. Leo and Beth will be attending Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine and Alvina will start a whole new adventure in Bandon. Her brothers Avenir, Vlad and David will also be leaving us as their family is moving to Bandon. Kyle is transferring to Sneem NS where we hope he will make many new friends and we wish him well with the move. Tahilla CNS certainly won't be the same without his sense of fun. It is always our hope that any student who spends time in our school has fond memories of the outdoors and has increased in confidence.

Enrolment for 2026/27

We are delighted to announce that we have a number of students joining us next year. Avrid, brother to Freja and Yngvi will be coming into our junior infants. Sam a neighbour of Nesuhi's is due to join senior infants once they move to Ireland. A German family, friends of Carolin and Tim Gallos, will also be starting at Tahilla CNS; Arlo into 2nd class, Taavi into 5th class and Marla into 6th class. We look forward to welcoming them and hope they settle in well.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back on Friday the 28th of August 2026!

School News

Billy Kelleher

We were very lucky to get a visit from MEP Billy Kelleher, as part of our learning about the European Union, through the Blue Star programme. Billy discussed his role in the European parliament with us and the role Ireland plays in the EU. The senior room showed off the wonderful projects they had completed on different European countries. All of the children engaged very well with him and asked some very interesting questions. A Special word of thanks to Múinteoir Marian for co-ordinating the Blue Star Programme and Billy Kelliher's visit.



Bike Week

The children played an active role in bike week this year. They took part in a number of activities including learning how to fix a puncture in groups with Múinteoir Callum, creating 3D bike artwork and taking part in an obstacle course with their own bikes to finish off the week.



The children were also lucky enough to get a bike week pack from the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership with a sports bottle and snood. Thanks to Múinteoir Callum for organising Bike Week 2026 in Tahilla CNS.



STEM with Chuck

We were delight to welcome Chuck Delpier back to Tahilla CNS on the 19th of May. This time he had some new experiments for the children to try while using their logical, mathematical and scientific skills, with the main focus of learning on kinetic energy, gravity and friction. There were seven different stations in total including a marble run, the pump drill, spinners, angular momentum using a spinning bicycle wheel, the arch bridge (which the children tested by sitting on it) and bottle flipping (which was one of the children's favourite stations). The children loved participating in these activities and learnt a lot from the day.



Busking in SuperValu

The children headed into SuperValu on Friday the 22nd of May. The junior room kicked off proceedings by singing a number of songs they have



learnt during the year. Then the boys and girls who have been learning tin whistle played a number of tunes.



The junior room then headed outside to the playground for a well-deserved break and to let the senior room take over.

We then walked up to the Kenmare library to have a look at some of the books available and took the local link back to school. We all had a fantastic day.



The senior room travelled to Kenmare by bus and wowed the crowds by playing their tunes and singing the songs they have learnt during the year.

Leo also played beautifully on his concertina, Valentyn and David Tarasov played guitar and sang and Múinteoir Máire played her uilleann pipes. All in all, it was a great display of the musical talent at Tahilla CNS



After finishing their part, they headed to the playground for a run around and before walking to the resource centre to eat some lunch and put their mathematical knowledge to the test by counting up all the money raised



We would like to thank everyone who helped out with this very successful day of busking with an amazing €785 being raised for the school. A special thank you to our wonderful Parent's Association members who set up a stall to sell some baked goods and get our sponsored run up and running.

Making the most of the Sunshine



At the end of May we had some lovely days of sunshine and we made the most of them by taking some lessons outside and eating our lunch outdoors.

As well as this we went on a number of walks both to the pier

and up the road on our mile walk which the children have stuck with on most Tuesdays and we can really see the benefit of this in their alertness in the classrooms.



Constructing at Yard Time



The children decided to get creative during the yard times over the last few weeks creating different shelters and huts with the materials around the outdoors. The boys created a two-story den to help shelter themselves from the sun.

While a number of children, from both the senior and junior room came together to make their own treehouse using some of the materials we have in the playground. They worked together as part of a team to construct their treehouse and were very satisfied with their results, which we have to say were pretty impressive.



Art with Stella

Stella very kindly put her artistic skills to good use over her few months with us. She completed a number of different art projects with both classrooms. She created some see through butterflies, dream jars, houses inspired by the movie 'Up' using the pointillism technique and scratch art to create different pictures.



Stella was a huge asset to our school, she finished up with us on the 29th of May and she will be greatly missed by the staff and children. We wish her all the best in her future career and we hope to see her again sometime.



Our School Tour to Killarney



What an amazing day we had in Killarney for our school, it was one of the best yet and we packed lots into it. We started the day by having a bite to eat in Muckcross Gardens.

We then made our way around Muckcross farm. We started in one of the old farm houses to watch the cow being milked before she was left out in the grass for the day with

her new baby calf. The children were fascinated by the process of the cow being milked and had lots of questions for the farmer.

We continued walking along the path and came across a number of different animals along the way, including; pigs and piglets, chickens, goats, horses and Irish wolfhounds.



Next, we visited another old farm house and had a walk around to observe all the items that were used in the past, such as a chamber pot, lamps, stoves, etc. The children were amazed at how many children would sleep in some of the rooms with only two beds to share. We got to sample some freshly made soda bread with delicious homemade butter. The children learned

about how butter was made long ago using a butter churn and cream. They each had an opportunity to turn the handle.



We moved on to the petting farm which was a favourite part of the tour for many of the children as they got to see some baby animals, such as; chicks, kittens, piglets, a calf and a baby donkey.



The last part of the tour was a trip to the old school house where the children learnt about what school was like in the past from a Múinteoir. He gave them some Irish phrases to learn, showed them a picture of the old school house and discussed lessons the children would have

done in the past. The children then treated some American tourists to a verse of Killeagh and Múinteoir Máire played a tune on the tin whistle, much to their delight.



We also spent some time in the beautifully designed playground on the grounds of Muckross Farm where the children had great fun playing some games and getting to try out some of the playground equipment.



Part 2 of our school tour took us to Hotel Killarney's Fun Zone, attached to the leisure centre. The children ran around having great fun with each other, playing different games and running through the mazes for a full two hours. It's no wonder the bus home was very quiet!





Art with Maria Hernandez

On Tuesday 9th June the children enjoyed another wonderful art lesson with Maria Hernandez, this time exploring the printing technique of gel plate printing. Using leaves and other natural materials collected from around the school grounds, they experimented with creating different patterns and designs. The children loved seeing how each print turned out differently and enjoyed using their creativity to produce unique pieces of artwork. It was a fantastic opportunity to combine art with nature, and the finished pieces make for a lovely keepsake.





Lego Robotics

We welcomed Maria back to our school on Thursday, 11th June, with her partner, to try something new, Lego robotics and coding. The children in the junior room worked in pairs to design and build the entrance to a fairground. Once their models were complete, they used coding skills to programme the entrance so that visitors could gain access using the correct coloured ticket.



The children thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of combining engineering, problem-solving and technology. They learned how coding can be used to control movement and make decisions, while also developing their teamwork and communication skills. It was great to see their excitement as their creations came to life and responded exactly as they had programmed them to.



Sponsored Run

On Thursday, 11th June, the pupils gathered at Kenmare Pier to take part in their sponsored run to raise money for the school. The aim was to run as many laps as possible in 1 hour and 15 minutes. The results were amazing! Nine of the pupils ran more than 20 laps, and the total number of laps completed was 422.



The children gave it their all despite the challenging weather conditions, showing great determination and perseverance throughout the event. Although one pupil was overheard saying that he was "too cute to run". We were incredibly proud of all the children for their

effort, enthusiasm and positive attitude, and everyone had a great day despite the rain and wind. A further €499 was raised through the individual sponsor cards sent home.



PAWS Water Safety Lessons at Templenoe Pier

The children took to the sea on Monday, 22nd of June, for their PAWS water safety lessons. They also learnt some very important messages, about the dangers of water and how best to stay safe, during two classroom lessons delivered by the PAWS instructors, Fionn and Ruairí. The children enjoyed using the Templenoe Community Centre as a base to change, eat and play games before and after their lessons. The weather was perfect for the lessons and the children really enjoyed their few days at Templenoe Pier.



Senior Room News

River Exploration

The pupils from the senior room went on a trip down to the local river with Jessica Mason, who has visited us previously as a part of the Kenmare River Mapping Project. Jessica guided the pupils through a number of activities related to the health and protection of the river. They all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get into the river with buckets and nets to collect some local wildlife and analyse it back at school. Jessica was happy to report that the river is healthy. They also completed a 3D river landscape art project with Múinteoir Callum.



Sporting Endeavours

The girls and boys from the senior room had a fantastic run of sporting opportunities this term. On Monday 27th April, four girls attended a camogie blitz in Rathmore with Muinteoir Máire and greatly enjoyed their time out on the pitch. This was a fun day and two girls from Shrone National School joined Tahilla CNS to field a team. On Thursday 30th April the girls also took part in a football blitz in Rathmore with the boys of the senior room tagging along as supporters. The girls had been training well this year in school with our football coach Emma, and it was brilliant to see them show off their abilities on the day. Three girls and three boys represented the school in the district football skills competition too.

The majority of the senior room and some of the junior room pupils, also participated in the Primary Schools Sports trials that were held in the pitch beside St. John's field on Friday 1st May. Many children were placed in their heat and progressed to the final, as their classmates cheered them on at the finish line. Freja placed in the long distance running. There was great excitement when Argun was announced joint 1st place for the Jumbo Javelin. He went on to represent Tahilla CNS in the county final at An Ríocht Sports Grounds in Castleisland. Many thanks to Múinteoir Máire for taking him to Castleisland to give him the opportunity to take part.





Trip to Bonane

This year as part of the Lé Chéile programme students from 5th and 6th class of Tahilla CNS, Chair N.S. and Lauragh N.S. were invited to Bonane National School for a visit. On Wednesday 10th June we took the TFI bus into Kenmare, where we met up with the 5th and 6th class students of Cahir school to share a bus to Bonane. On arrival in Principal Pamela Brown gave us a tour of the new extension and the children had an opportunity to get to know each other over a board game and a glass of water or cordial. It was so lovely to see another two-teacher school in the area and Bonane were very welcoming. The children spent a lot of time out the back playing games; football, basketball, swingball and so on. The Lé Chéile programme is an initiative to support the transition to secondary school, allowing children from smaller schools the opportunity to mix and get to know one another.

Graduation

On Friday 19th June family and friends of our three sixth-class graduates gathered for a lovely celebration. Beth who has been in the school for 9 years in total and 7 of those years as part of Tahilla CNS, Leo who joined us five years ago into 2nd Class and Alvina who joined us in December of 2024 into 5th class. All three are very musically talented and performed a piece each to the delight of all who were in attendance. They were presented with a certificate and a



lovely red hoodie with the signatures of all of us here in Tahilla CNS printed within the numbers 26 for 2026. We had some lovely poems and speeches from the graduates, their classmates, Callum their teacher, parents and staff. It was a special event and we hope the very best for all three as they journey on to secondary school.

A very special thank you to all staff involved in preparing the ceremony, including Múinteoir Callum for organising the hoodies and preparing the children's speeches, Múinteoir Marian for the fabulous slideshow, Cúntóir Elaine and Lily for the catering on the day, Múinteoir Ellen O'Sullivan for organising the amazing creative backdrops and some delicious sandwich mixes and goodies (15s). Múinteoir Aoife for teaching and mentoring the musical talents and helping out with the sound on the day. And, of course, Múinteoir Máire for all she does to ensure a great day is had by all.



Junior Room News

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Eoin who turned 8 on the 18th of April. We celebrated by making some cupcakes. Happy Birthday Eoin!!



Maths



The children continued to use playful and hands-on methods to learn about maths in their environment. This term we explored many different topics, but some of our favourites were capacity and area. The children used a variety of containers and measuring tools to estimate and

investigate how much water would fit into each one. They worked together in groups, with the older children helping the younger pupils to develop their understanding of capacity through practical activities and discussion.





While learning about area, the children used materials from around the classroom to create 3D replicas of their bedrooms at home. They carefully considered the materials that could be used to imitate the items in their rooms and demonstrated great creativity in their designs. Some of their finished models were particularly inventive.



Summer Art

Take a look at some of the wonderful artwork we created during the final term of school. The children developed a real interest in bees during one of our SESE lessons, so we decided to make our very own bees using rocks. Over the course of three weeks, we painted the rocks yellow, applying two coats of paint before allowing them to dry. We then covered the rocks with glue and wrapped black wool around them to create the bees' stripes before adding googly eyes. For the final step, we attached wings to complete our creations. The finished bees looked fantastic.



On our return from the Easter holidays, we were greeted by the beautiful sight of a cherry blossom tree in bloom at the front of the school. This inspired some of our artwork at the beginning of the term. Using blue card, branch templates and coloured crepe paper, the children created their own cherry blossom scenes.



Our final art project of the year was to create a beautiful bumblebee on a sunflower. The children used a template as a starting point and were given the choice of using either paint or

oil pastels. They really enjoyed having the opportunity to make their own creative decisions and experiment with different materials.

The children carefully selected their colours and worked hard to add detail to both the bumblebees and the sunflowers. The finished artwork was full of vibrant colours and showed the fantastic effort that the children put into their work. It was a lovely way to finish off our art lessons for the year.



Our Summer Bucket List

Once again, this year, the children in the junior room created a Summer Bucket List: a list of activities they would like to do before finishing up for the summer holidays.

This year's suggestions included:

- A pizza party, where the children created their own pizzas, added their favourite toppings and baked them in the school oven before enjoying their delicious creations while dancing to some music.



- Hot chocolates – perfect for the "summer" weather we experienced recently!
- A disco, bubble party, where the children enjoyed music, dancing, games and lots of bubbles.
- Extra time outside – The children got to make the most of the good weather with this suggestion.



- We baked chocolate muffins.



The Summer Bucket List is always a highlight of the final term and gives the children an opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work throughout the school year.

Slán go fóill

Staff

Máire de Cógáin
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