Mary Help of Christians G.N.S.

Nuacht na Scoile



MS. QUINN SIXTH CLASS

Samhradh 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the holidays next Tuesday. Hopefully the lovely weather we have enjoyed this week will continue into July and August.

It's been another great term here in Mary, Help of Christians and it's lovely to read all about it in our newsletter. A digital version of this newsletter is also available and includes more news items and drawings that we simply could not fit into the paper edition.
www.maryhelpofchristians.ie

Yours sincerely,

Renee Moran
Principal

Naíonáin Shóisearacha
We have all had a wonderful year in Junior Infants and we can't wait for our summer break! The last few weeks have been busy. We enjoyed our school tour to Clonfert Pet Farm - take a look at Seesaw to catch a glimpse of all the excitement from the day! We also loved "Song Tales sa Spéir". This showcase of music and drama got our imaginations flowing! It was wonderfully interactive and performed by some of Ireland's finest musicians!

We explored our yard when we ventured outside for our orienteering PE lessons. Finding clues and solving challenges was exciting! Coach Ciaran and Coach Cian helped us perfect our GAA and soccer skills too. We enjoyed learning many new skills such as dribbling and hopping the ball.

A huge thanks to 6th Class for hosting a tasty Bake Sale in the halla. The treats were delicious and the funds raised will help a worthy cause. Our knowledge of money came in handy on the day and we were able to buy our goodies with our 5 cent, 2 cent and 1 cent coins. Why not continue using these coins when shopping over the summer months!

Over the year, rang a sé have helped us enormously with our art and PE lessons. We want to take this opportunity to wish them well as they move on to pastures new in September.

Slán speisialta ó Naíonáin Bheaga - Bainigí sult as na laethanta saoire!

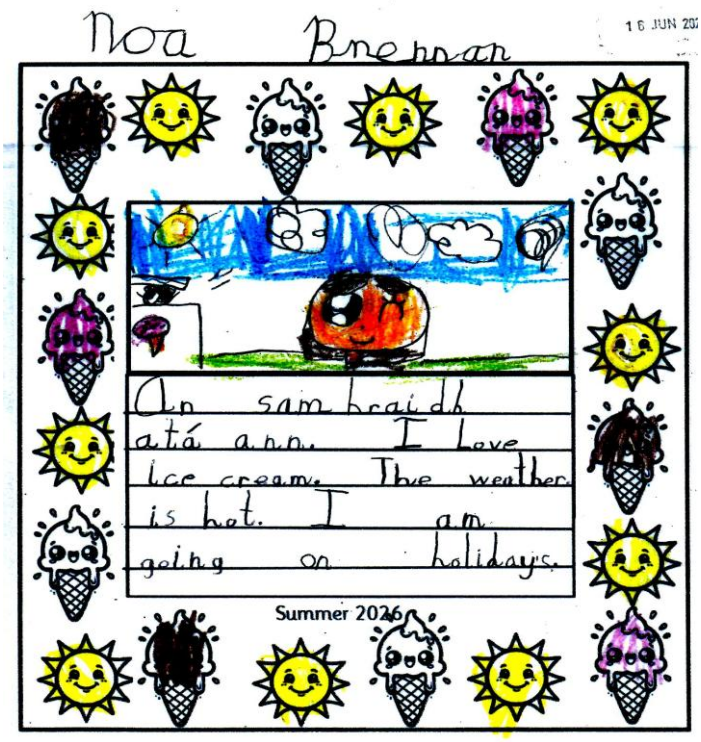
Naíonáin Shinsearacha
We have reached the end of Senior Infants and we can't believe that 1st Class is only around the corner! We have had an enjoyable year in room 2 and room 3. In Grow in Love, we have loved learning about the church and baptism. We took a trip to Our Lady Help of Christians across the road from our school. When we were there, we spotted the altar, the baptismal font, stained glass windows and we even saw the crucifix. We had to remember to be respectful as some people were there praying.

We also loved our Family Friday a few weeks ago. We sang "The Kindness Song" and "Caterpillars only Crawl". We added in actions and the hall was packed with our families. When our visitors visited our classrooms, we got to show them our projects. It really was a special day for us all.

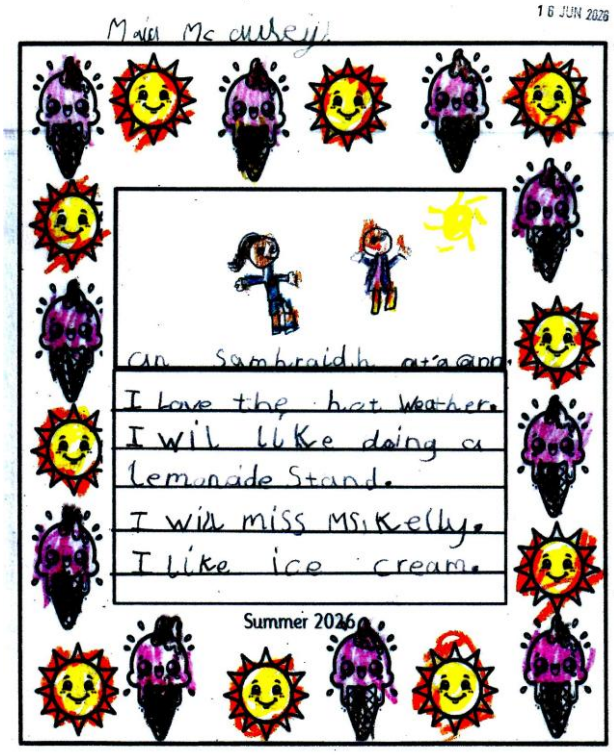
In maths, we have been learning about fractions and sharing fairly! Did you know that a half is two equal parts. Next time you are sharing a pizza at home why not talk about fractions too!

We have been working really hard at our writing before we travel up the stairs to our new classrooms in September! We have started looking at how to write our names in cursive script - it is tricky but we like joining up our letters together!

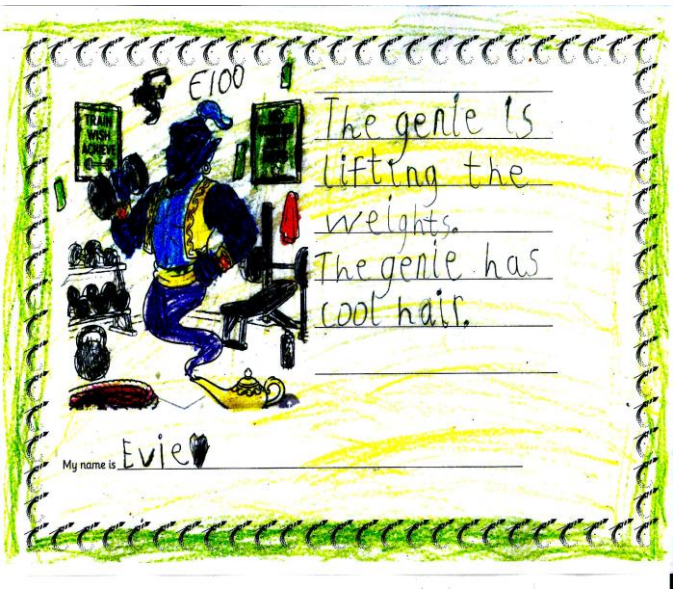
Here are some samples of our writing over the last few months:



Noa Brennan



Maia McAuley



Evie Finlayson Guinan



Sophie Donagh

Rang 1
It has been an enjoyable and active term for Rang 1. With the warm sunny weather, the girls in Room 7 and 8 have been learning all about the beach and the seaside. They created some lovely summer artwork. We enjoyed Family Friday and singing our song The girls worked very hard on their family projects. They enjoyed showing their parents around their classroom afterwards. The girls are making great progress in their swimming lessons in Aura De Paul Pool and look forward to eating their hot lunches afterwards! The school tour to Explorium was an exciting and fun-filled day out. We have been busy getting ready for the flower art competition. Room 8 was inspired by Ríona, in Sixth Class, and we are working on communication and language system projects such as Braille hieroglyphics, morse code and Ogham. We wish Ríona the best of luck representing Ireland. The ice-cream van arriving into school was a lovely treat. Thank you to the 6th Class girls who organised an action-packed Sports Day. We hope you all have a happy and safe summer break and thank you for all your continued support!

Rang 2
What a fantastic year we have had in 2nd Class. Some of the highlights of term three are mentioned below.

Straight after Easter holidays we enjoyed Active School Week. The very next week marked Family Friday. It was very special to have members of our families come and listen to us sing "Better Place" on the stage in the hall. Each girl worked on a small family project and we were able to showcase them when our family members visited our classrooms.

A soccer coach worked with both classes and it was fun to learn new skills and apply existing skills in a different sport.

May was a special month for many girls in 2nd class as we received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. We surprised our family members and friends with a rendition of "Circle of Friends". We are such beautiful singers that Fr Liam invited us to sing at a mass we attended in the parish church the following week.

June has been jam-packed with work as well as our school tour to Lullymore and Junior Sports Day.

We have learned so much this year and had so much fun with all our friends. We are looking forward to summer holidays and to starting in 3rd Class in September.

Rang 3
As our school year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate some of the fantastic learning experiences and achievements of 3rd Class.

One of the highlights of the year was our school tour to Rockfield House in Kells. The children had a fantastic day dressing up, go-karting, visiting animals and making a skipping rope out of hay! We hope they made fond memories with their classmates.

We also enjoyed participating in three drama workshops provided by The Ark Theatre Company at Cabra Library. Through storytelling, role-play, and performance activities, the children developed their creativity, imagination and confidence while having great fun!

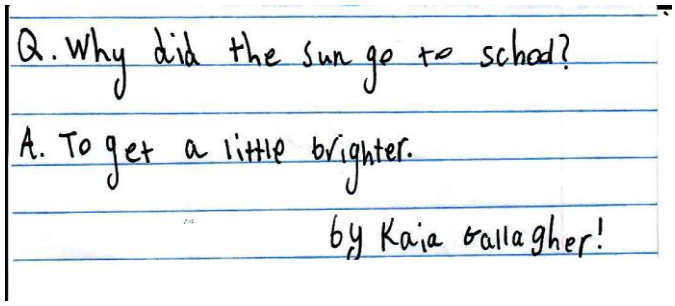
Both classes have really enjoyed hands-on science this year. The children designed and built their own magnetic racetracks, investigating the forces of magnetism through hands-on experimentation and teamwork. In mathematics, we explored 3D shapes by constructing them with marshmallows and toothpicks, helping us to understand faces, edges and vertices in a fun way.

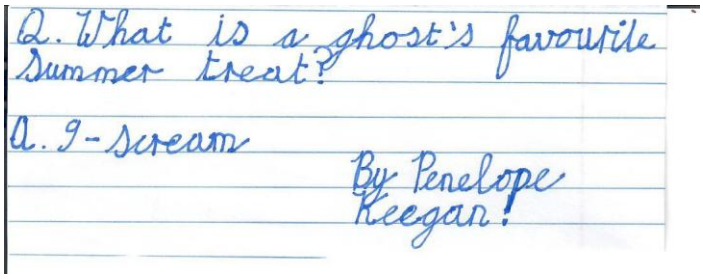
The children showed great creativity when making clay owls. After carefully shaping their owls, they painted them in bright colours and patterns, producing unique pieces of artwork that they were very proud of.

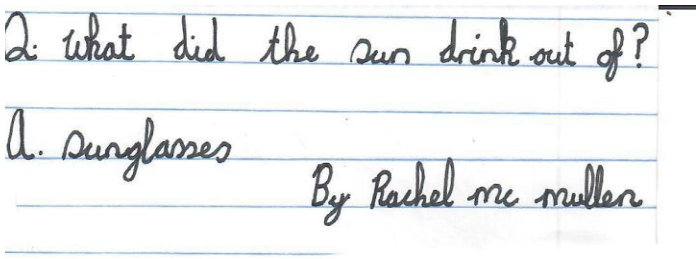
We also finished the year by reading *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. The children thoroughly enjoyed following Matilda's adventures and discussing the characters, events and themes throughout the novel.

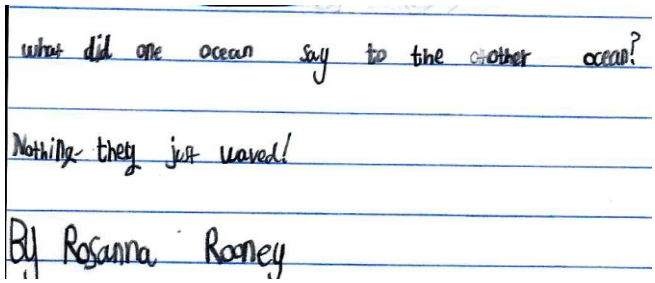
It has been a year filled with learning, creativity, friendship and fun. We are extremely proud of all that the children have achieved and the positive attitude they have shown throughout the year.

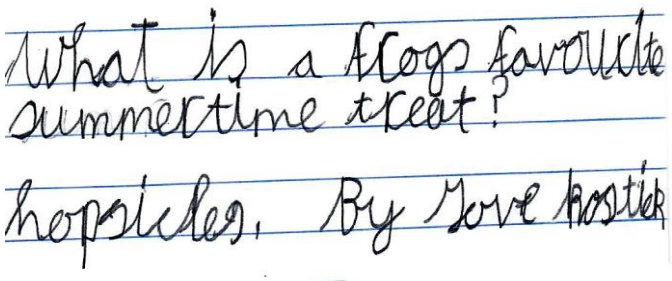
Thank you to all parents and guardians for your continued support and encouragement. We wish everyone a safe, happy, and relaxing summer break.
Happy Summer from Room 11 and 12!











Rang 4
We have had a great last term in 4th Class Prefab 7. We went to Clara Lara on our school tour and had a fantastic time! Some class favourites were the water slide, go-karts, row boats and the zip line. We have learned about the country, France. Did you know that the Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 for the World Fair! The girls used the iPads to research lots of different facts and created their own France projects in groups.

In maths, we created our own 3D Shapes out of marshmallows and matchsticks, participated in a potions masterclass learning about capacity and did 'Capture the Flag' using problem solving questions. We went to Plunketts with Ciarán and played a mini football blitz with the other 4th Class. We had a great time playing with and against each other! We finished our novel 'The Butterfly Lion' and we all enjoyed reading it. The girls had great predictions about what would happen next! We loved our sports day down in Plunketts and we all had a great day. We had a great time preparing our 'My Family and Me Project' and welcoming our families to the class and performing for them on Family Friday. We wish everyone a fantastic summer from Prefab 7 😊

This term Mr. Beakey's 4th class have been very busy.
We had a lot of fun on our school tour to Clara Lara Fun Park, where we went on kayaks, slides and swinging ropes.

We have done projects on different countries in Africa. At the start of May we had Family Day, where we preformed 'History' by One Direction with our own lyrics. We all made projects on our family, some of us did family trees and some of us did pictures.

We went on an exciting trip to Cabra Library where we got the chance to pick a book to bring back to school.

This year we learned a lot of interesting subjects, we had a lot of fun in 4th Class and we are very excited for the summer and 5th Class.
Written by Macy Sheridan

Rang 5
Fifth class have had a very fun-filled Term 3! We have been up to lots of interesting things. In English, we have been learning about poetry writing and have written our own haikus, shape poems and sensory poems. We recently wrote letters to a fifth class in a rural school in Co. Mayo and we screamed for joy when we received our response letters from them! We learned a lot about our penpals and we hope to stay in contact with them.

In Gaeilge, we performed a 'Seó faisin' as part of the theme of Éadaí. We strutted our style on the catwalk and learned the names of our favourite outfits in Irish. We also designed our own streets, including the names of shops in Irish, for the theme of Siopadóireacht.

In history, we have been focusing on the Vikings and we even made our own Viking dwellings and longships from Lego. We learned about famous Renaissance painters and even tried our hand at painting on our backs, just like Michaelangelo! As you can imagine, it was a very funny art lesson!

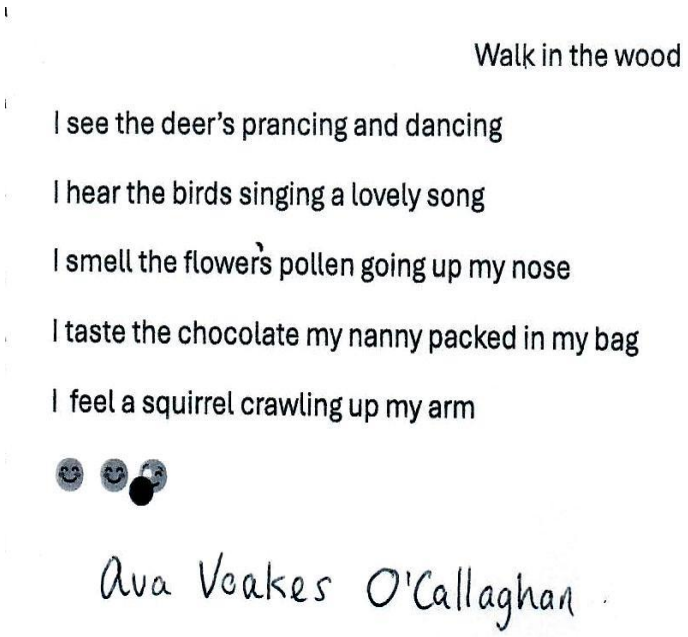
In geography, the girls used the iPads to research information about Italy and even went on DuoLingo to learn some Italian. Ciao = hello and arrivederci = goodbye!

5th class in Prefab 1 had a visit from meteorologists from Met Éireann who made weather stations with the girls. Prefab 2 came out to study the weather using the instruments the girls made.

In Prefab 2, the girls were busy using recycled materials to create 'Junk Kouture' fashion pieces. They invited parents in to watch their fashion show. Both classes created their 3D dream bedrooms using recycled materials.

The girls in Prefab 1 have been busy over the last few months practising for their Annie performance. Lots of singing, dancing and acting could be heard from the halla!

We wish everybody a lovely summer and the best of luck for the next academic year.



Walk in the wood

I see the deer's prancing and dancing

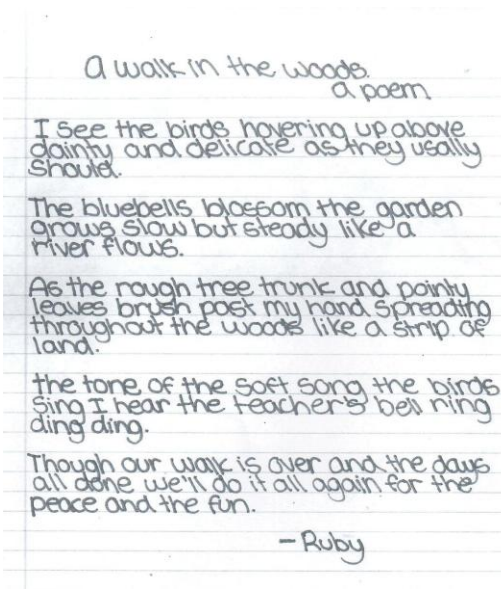
I hear the birds singing a lovely song

I smell the flowers pollen going up my nose

I taste the chocolate my nanny packed in my bag

I feel a squirrel crawling up my arm

Ava Veakes O'Callaghan



A walk in the woods.
a poem

I see the birds hovering up above dainty and delicate as they usally should.

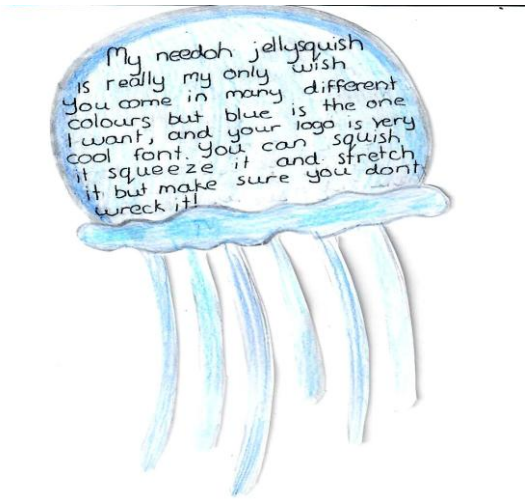
The bluebells blossom the garden grows slow but steady like a river flows.

As the rough tree trunk and pointy leaves brush past my hand spreading throughout the woods like a strip of land.

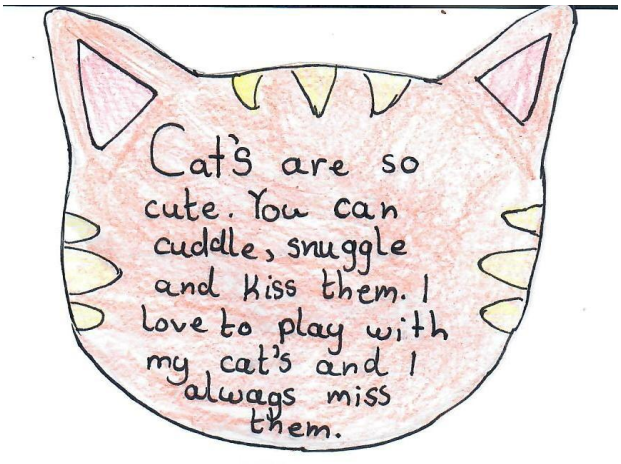
The tone of the soft song the birds sing I hear the teachers bell ring ding ding.

Though our walk is over and the days all done we'll do it all again for the peace and the fun.

-Ruby



Robyn Healy



Eilidh Lane

Rang 6

Dia Daoibh, Conas atá sibh?

We have had a memorable final term here in Rang 6! We are all really looking forward to the summer holidays and to starting secondary school.

6th Class held a bake sale on the 4th of June in aid of St. Francis Hospice. We raised an incredible **€2,440**! Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause. We are very proud of what we achieved.

We made our Confirmation on the 24th of April. We had a lovely ceremony and would like to thank the following people: Ms Lynch, Ms Moran, Ms Tyrrell, Ms Quinn, Ms Brennan, Ms McShane and Rang 5 for the beautiful music; Fr Liam, Fr Paddy and Deacon Eamonn for helping us prepare so well and for all their class visits.

Well done to all the girls in Seomra 6 and Seomra 10 who participated in the Santry Athletics and brought home wonderful medals. Congratulations also to the school camogie team, who made it to the quarter final.

We enjoyed helping out at the Junior Infant Open Day and hope the new pupils have a wonderful time at Mary, Help of Christians. We certainly did! We also loved running Junior Sports Day and know the girls had lots of fun.

We really enjoyed having the soccer coaches come in and teach us new skills while helping us to improve our teamwork and confidence We also had a brilliant day at our Senior Sports Day, especially enjoying the tug of war and the water games.

We are really looking forward to our Graduation Mass on the 26th of June and our school tour to Hidden Valley on the 29th of June.

As our final year of primary school comes to an end, we are feeling a little sad, but we are also incredibly grateful for all the memories we have made. We will always treasure our time at Mary, Help of Christians and wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Some highlights from MHOC:

1. We loved playing in the soccer blitz for the school - Nina and Cara
2. We loved competing in the Santry athletics tournament and singing on news2day - Louise and Ellen
3. Our school tour to Clara Lara was great - Isla Mai and Mai
4. We loved being a part of the GAA teams - Ellie and Aoibhe
5. We will always remember the rugby blitz in the lashings of rain - Ashley and Sofia

Student Council

Thank you to our Student Council for all their work this year. They have been very helpful with so many tasks over the course of the year and we are very grateful to them. They are a wonderful group to work with. Watch out as we develop the seating area in the school yard.

6th Class	Saoirse Clarke	Cara Maguire
5th Class	Leah Byrne	Charlie Malone
4th Class	Maia Eaton	Evie Benson
3rd Class	Kate Ward	Hanna Edebäck O'Sullivan

Parents' Association
Thank you to our Parents' Association for all of their work during the year. We are really lucky to have such a cooperative group to depend upon when it comes to the celebratory days in our school. It is also very encouraging to have a group who are interested in fundraising for the school and providing resources that all the children benefit from. We also appreciate their feedback from parents regarding policies such as Bí Cineálta and our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. All parents/guardians are members of the Parents' Association. If you would like to help out in the future, please email mhocpa@gmail.com

School Trips – Thank you!
Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who accompanied the classes on trips from the school this year – swimming lessons, Sports Day, the various trips during the year and end of year school tours. We needed your support and we appreciate your generosity to the school.

Educational Wellbeing Programme
Mary, Help of Christians has been included in a pilot programme of in-school support through the provision of Education Wellbeing / Mental Health Teams in schools located across Dublin 7 for the past two years. The focus of the support is on strengthening whole school preventative approaches, including the provision of psycho-education support for parents and teachers, and of early intervention to groups of children or individual children with mild/emerging need, using low-level therapeutically-informed approaches.

Amie O'Brien is our Education Wellbeing Practitioner. Many parents attended information sessions organised by her. She has worked with lots of classes in our school at this stage and she will be available to us again next year. She will hold parent information mornings in Term 1 (October and November) addressing emotion coaching and building resilience in children. More details on these sessions will follow in September but everyone is encouraged to come along.

Attendance in Mary, Help of Christians GNS
This year, we re-introduced our monthly class attendance award and lots of classes enjoyed having the attendance trophy in their rooms.

We also acknowledged classes for their attendance over the course of a term. Well done to Ms Hannelly's 3rd Class for their attendance in Term 1, to Ms O'Connor's 2nd Class in Term 2 and to Ms Forde's 4th Class in Term 3. These classes enjoyed celebrating their achievement with a party in the staffroom.

Congratulations to Ms O'Connor's 2nd Class and to Mr Scully's 3rd Class who tied for best overall attendance over the course of the year!

There are also 8 children who had 100% attendance this year. This is a brilliant achievement and well done to them!

Absences from School
We acknowledge that children get sick and cannot come to school. That is completely understood. There was a particularly bad virus in November and December and a lot of our girls were sick for a significant period due to that. We also acknowledge that there are family occasions happening during the year, sometimes abroad, and it's important to be there.

However, the reality is that frequent absences have an impact on children. Research points to the long-term consequences of absenteeism from school. Children who miss more than ten days of school at age 9 are significantly less likely to progress to higher education, even when early academic performance and background factors are taken into account (Carroll et al., 2022). Please do not plan holidays during term time.

We will be working hard with you again next year to ensure that to improve our attendance levels in MHOC. Our goal is not just to track attendance. We want children to attend, participate and feel a strong sense of belonging here in our school. Evidence highlights the central role of student wellbeing (Dempsey and McCoy, 2026). Wellbeing in schools cannot simply be taught as a lesson. It must be experienced through the everyday interactions and school practices. This is where our school and your home need to work together in order to achieve this.

Music for the Junior Classes
Junior and Senior Infants had the lovely treat of a concert in the hall, especially for them. Ceol Connected visited our school and provided a morning of musical entertainment and story-telling for the girls. It was great fun and everyone loved the dancing at the end.

First and Second Class enjoyed song-singing workshops in June also from Mobile Music School. The girls got really involved in the workshops and made the most of the opportunity.

Sports Days
We had two great days of sport for all in June. Thank you to 6th Class who organised the Junior Sports Day for us. They did an excellent job and the children from Junior Infants – 2nd Class really enjoyed the activities. The senior girls went to Martin Savage Park for their day and it was great fun. Thank you to Ms Ryan for coordinating both days on our behalf.

Cumann na mBunscol – Camogie and Athletics
Our camogie team made it to the quarter finals this year where we met a very strong side from St Oliver Plunkett's NS in Malahide. We had some very good matches and it was great to see girls from different clubs and age-groups coming together for the school team. Thank you to Ms Tyrrell, Ms Forde and Mr Scully for coaching the team.

Our athletics team had a great day out at Morton Stadium, Santry. We brought back medals and won the U14 Relay! We are very proud of the lovely cup we have on display in the school.

Summer Stars – Cabra Library
Be a Summer Star with Dublin City Libraries and earn prizes for reading! Summer Stars is the free national public libraries reading initiative for children that runs from

June until the end of August. All children are encouraged to continue to enjoy reading books throughout the summer months and earn Summer Stars prizes as they go. Summer Stars Programme is also FREE and is available for all Dublin City Libraries members. If you would like to register for the Summer Stars reading challenge, please visit Cabra Library.

Cabra Library is extremely supportive to our school during the year, inviting us to many art workshops and providing class novels that allow us to tailor the novel to the needs and interests of the class. Shane from Cabra Library visited lots of classes in our school this week and all children are encouraged to join the library. It is free and a very welcoming environment for children to spend time in over the holidays.

If you want to encourage your child to read and are unsure of where to start, the librarians in Cabra Library would be delighted to help.

Screen Time in Summertime
If you allow your child screen time, it can be challenging over the summer to limit it. It is difficult if the weather is wet and parents are busy with work or caring for family members.

Cyber Safe Kids have worked with classes in our school and is an excellent resource if you are trying to put boundaries in place, whilst still allowing some screen time.

www.cybersafekids.ie

Worried about how to limit device screen time this summer? Here are 6 tips from Cyber Safe Kids:
🚫 **No smart devices in bedrooms**, especially overnight!
🍽 Screen-free family meals
📲 Be mindful of your own tech habits and screen time
🏆 Make screen time a reward, not a right
🏂 One or more outdoor activity a day
📴 Have a screen free family evening during the week or one day of the weekend

Meeting up with friends in person over the holidays is preferable to screen time and much healthier for your child.

Slán le Rang a Sé
School days in Mary, Help of Christians are drawing to a close for all of the girls in Seomra 6 and Seomra 10. We are fortunate in our school to work with fantastic children and these 6th Classes have been wonderful throughout their time here. They have had a great year as our senior girls and have shown their maturity as well as their great sense of fun throughout! We wish them well as they progress to second level. Go raibh maith agaibh, a chailíní agus go n'éirí an t'ádh libh.

Summer Holidays 2026

School closes on Tuesday, June 30th at 12 noon

On behalf of all of the staff of Mary, Help of Christians GNS, I hope that everyone enjoys their holidays and has a well-earned break. We will see you all again on **Tuesday, September 1st 2026**

School Calendar 2026 - 2027

First Term

Child Protection and Safeguarding Training

- School closed **Wednesday 9 September**

Midterm Break

- School closed **Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October (inclusive)**
- Re-opens **Monday 2 November**

Christmas Holidays

- School closes at **12 noon on Tuesday 22 December**
- Closed **22 December – 5 January (inclusive)**
- Re-opens **Wednesday 6 January 2027**

Second Term

Primary Curriculum Day - Language

- School closed **Tuesday 19 January**

February Bank Holiday

- School closed **Monday 1 February**

Midterm Break

- School closed **Thursday 18 February**
- School closed **Friday 19 February**
- Re-opens **Monday 22 February**

St. Patrick's Day

- School closed **Wednesday 17 March**

Easter Holidays

- School closes at **12 noon on Friday 19 March**
- Closed **19 March – 2 April (inclusive)**
- Re-opens **Monday 5 April**

Third Term

May Bank Holiday

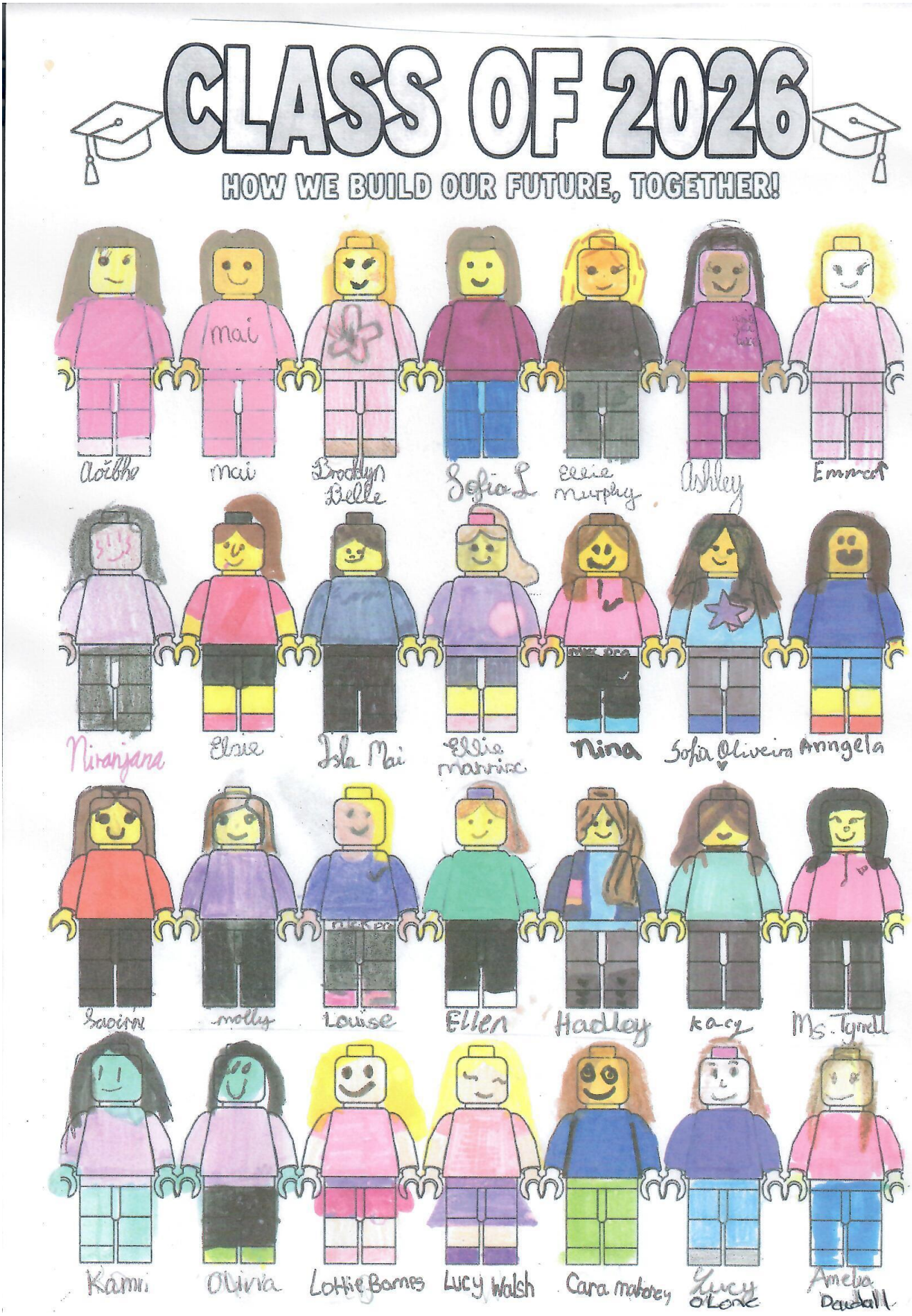
- School closed **Monday 3 May - Friday 7 May (inclusive)**
- Re-opens **Monday 10 May**

June Bank Holiday

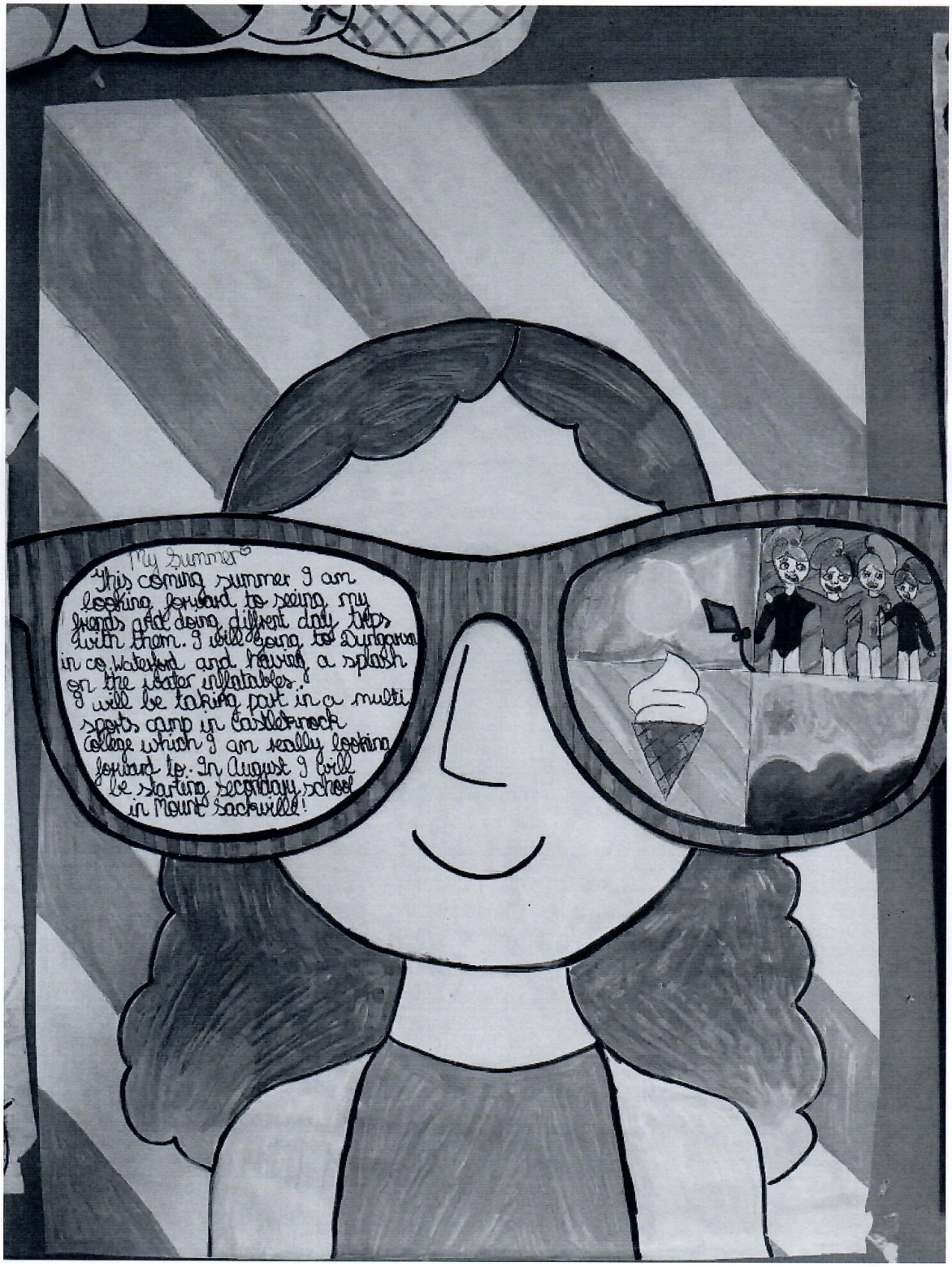
- School closed **Monday 7 June**

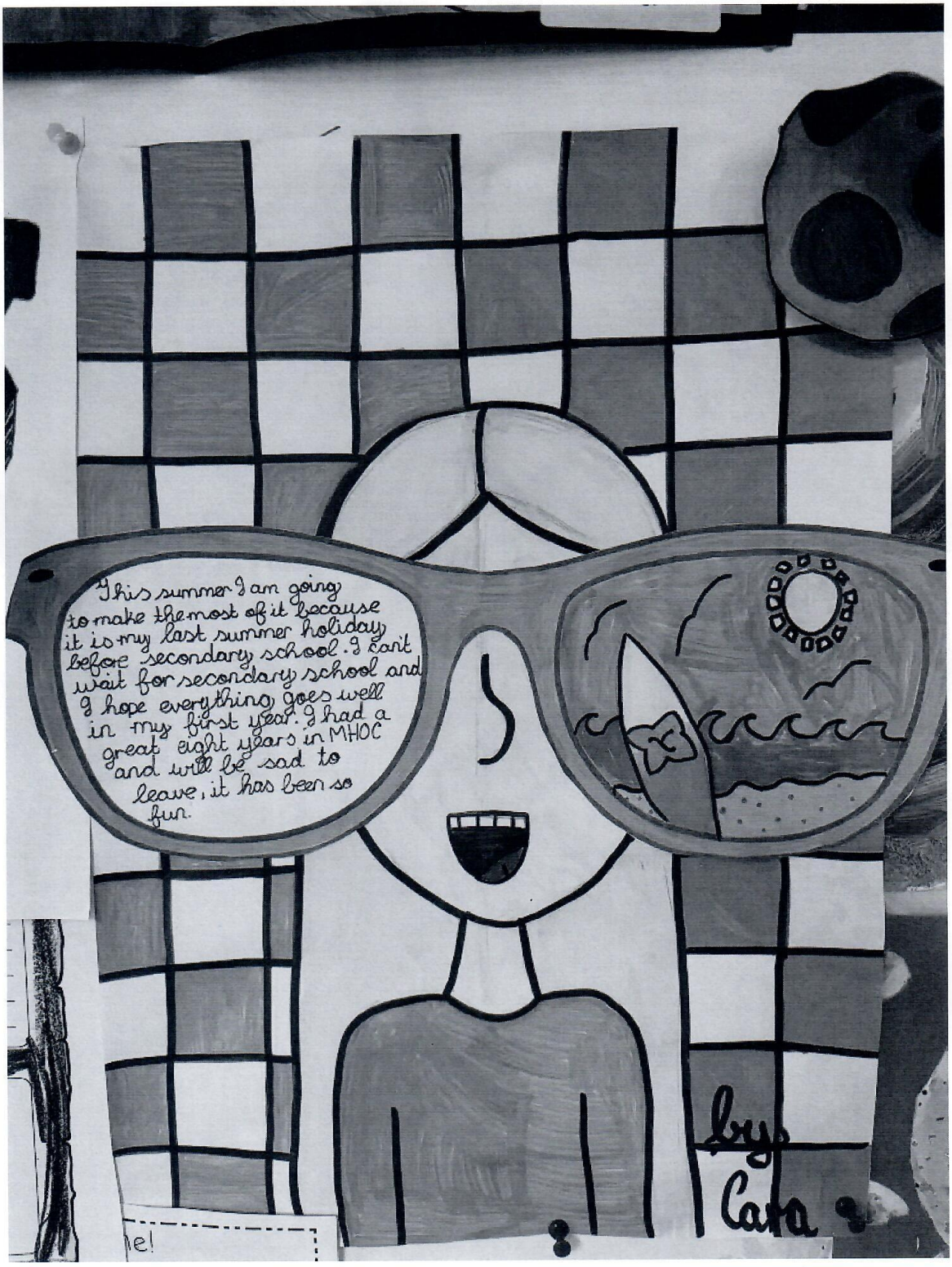
Summer Holidays

- Last day of term: **Wednesday 30 June**
- School closes at **12 noon**



MS. TYRRELL SIXTH CLASS


My Summer
This coming summer I am looking forward to seeing my friends and doing different day trips with them. I will be going to Dungarvan to go waterpark and having a splash on the water inflatables.
I will be taking part in a multi sports camp in Castleknock College which I am really looking forward to. In August I will be starting secondary school in Mount Sackville!


This summer I am going to make the most of it because it is my last summer holiday before secondary school. I can't wait for secondary school and I hope everything goes well in my first year. I had a great eight years in MHOC and will be sad to leave, it has been so fun.
bye
Cara

Ms Tyrrell's 6th Class

When I grow up I want to be....

Lottie Barnes- I would like to do brows/lashes and hairdressing and travel the world.

Molly Burdock- I want to be a lawyer.

Mai Cadden- I want to be work with animals.

Louise Caughey- I want to play GAA for Dublin and run for Ireland.

Saoirse Clarke- I want to be a detective or a doctor.

Kamri Delaney- I want to be top level in Murder Mystery 2.

Isla Mai Dodrill- I want to be an interior designer or hairdresser.

Amelia Dowdall- I would like to be a detective.

Aoibhe Greene- I would like to be a GAA player and a doctor or paramedic.

Hadley Guinane- I want to be an author, artist or footballer.

Olivia Hayes- I would like to be a game developer.

Emma Joyce- I would like to work in a beauty salon.

Brooklyn-Belle Keenan-I'd like to teach dance and be a stage-school teacher.

Sofia Lawless- I'd like to be a journalist.

Sofia De Oliveira- I want to be a dog trainer.

Nina Lynch Pejoska- I want to be a teacher in MHOC and minted and a football/GAA player.

Cara Mahoney- I would like to be an ASD teacher.

Ellie Mannix- I want to be a children's doctor and play GAA for my county.

Ashley Mpofu- I want to be a singer, dancer, accountant or GAA player.

Ellie Murphy- I want to be a musician or a lyricist.

Niranjana Nair- I would like to be a doctor.

Lucy O'Lone- I want to be a photographer, nail technician, an SNA and a Montessori teacher.

Ellen Prunty- I would like to be a paramedic and be in River Dance.

Elsie Rooney- I would like to be an interior designer or architect.

Anngela Varghese- I want to be a surgeon or an actor.

Lucy Walsh- I want to do beauty/travel the world.

Kacy Yim- I want to be a Garda or an actor.

Ms Quinn's 6th Class

When I Grow Up, I Would Like to be...

Jenna Freeney: An exotic vet

Lucy Byrne: A primary school teacher

Cara Maguire: A vet

Isabelle Maramotti Williams: A primary school teacher

Ruby O'Neill Doyle: A beautician

Lucy Fennessy: A primary school teacher/psychiatrist

Sian De Vega: Occupational therapist

Sadie Brosnan: Veterinarian/own a mini business

Tamara Haj Mohammad: A pharmacist

Amelia Dunne: A lawyer / apothecary

Ellie May Ryan : A primary school teacher/fashion designer

Alice Jeyes: An entrepreneur/fashion designer

Chloe Perkins : A teacher/dog minder

Íde Casey: A physiotherapist for Athletic Ireland

Hannah Reynolds: An actress/a singer/a traveller

Aoife Lyons: A veterinary nurse

Eve Meehan: A paediatric nurse

Aoibheann Colclough: A primary school teacher

Stevi Alcock: A hairdresser

Ríona Hanlon: A career with animals

Rachel Raftery: An architect

Ava McLoughlin O'Keeffe: A hair stylist/An Irish dancing teacher

Molly O'Sullivan: A primary school teacher

Madison Mahon: A hairdresser

Alannah Santos Dalton: A nutritionist

Raneem Nassor: A teacher

Pippa O'Sullivan: A marine biologist