



Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara Summer Newsletter 2026 Nuachtlitir an tSamhraidh



Dear Parents,

As we reach the final weeks of the 2025/2026 academic year, I cannot but look back on this summer term with immense pride. We have worked hard as a team to ensure that learning extends far beyond the traditional classroom walls, providing every child with opportunities to discover new talents, connect with nature and to develop lifelong skills. The children have honed their teamwork and athletic capabilities through GAA skills sessions and competitive FAI soccer competitions. We hosted Cycling Ireland classes, Water Safety skills modules, Irish Sign Language classes, Music Generation classes, Ceramic Mural classes, Gardening classes, School Tours, Sports Day and a Nutrition and Exercise Workshop. Our Music Generation classes culminated in an unforgettable summer concert under the expert instruction of vocalist Leslie Dowdall. The musical growth and confidence displayed by the children on stage was great to see.

Following on from our gardening classes we celebrated a highly successful School Garden Open Day and a Summer Harvest Day this week, where the fruits (and vegetables!) of the children's hard work throughout the year were proudly displayed and enjoyed. Our environmental studies also took a thrilling turn when our 6th class secured a lucky win of free passes to Bord Bia BLOOM in Phoenix Park, providing them with world-class inspiration in horticulture and biodiversity.

A magnificent milestone was achieved this term with the mounting of our brand-new ceramic mural at the front of the school. Commissioned for our graduating 6th class, the pupils worked collaboratively under the guidance of ceramic artist Christien Van Bussel to create a stunning piece of public art that reflects their journey through our school. This will be added to by more 6th classes to come.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our hard-working staff, whose dedication makes this rich tapestry of learning possible. Thank you also to our Board of Management, the Parents' Association, and you, the parents, for your unwavering partnership and support.

I wish all of our pupils, staff and families a safe, restful and sun-filled summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and growth.

Úna Gallinagh
Principal

Farewell and Thanks

Farewell and thanks to Miss Aoife Byrne. Miss Byrne has been a member of the staff for two years. We wish Miss Byrne well as she pursues further studies. We will miss her and her wonderful talents. We hope she will come back to visit often.

Farewell and thank you also to Fr. Aquinas. We wish him all the best in his new parish in Sandyford. We thank him for all his work and dedication to Wicklow.

Goodbye to our lovely sixth class. We had a memorable 6th class graduation Mass and ceremony and it was so nice to meet all the families. They have been an outstanding cohort of leaders. As they move to secondary, we know they will carry the values of kindness, curiosity and resilience with them. They are Ario, Larry, Eoghan, Kyle, Fannika, Darragh, Eoin, Georgia, Conor, Eibhlin, Isla, Lauren, Jeremiah, Lile, Tom, Chloe, Brian, Annabell, Nathan, Irene, Eric and Katelyn.

News from the Rooms

Room 1 – Junior and Senior Infants (Naíonáin Shóisearacha agus Naíonáin Shinsearacha)

As we reach the end of another school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the final term has passed. It has been a busy and exciting few months for both junior and senior Infants, filled with learning, creativity, fun and plenty of opportunities for play! In SESE, some of the themes that we explored were transport, Italy and water. Some lessons that the children particularly enjoyed were learning about the Salmon of Knowledge, constructing their own lighthouses using recycled materials and discovering all about Italy through play.



The children have made excellent progress with their oral language, reading and writing this term. In maths, we explored the topics of time, money and length through lots of different hands-on activities and games. In Gaeilge, we covered the themes of 'ag siopadóireacht, lá

bréithe agus an trá'. The children consistently made a wonderful effort to use their new vocabulary and phrases throughout the year, maith sibh!



We were fortunate to welcome Margaret Kavanagh, Water Safety Wicklow, who spoke to the children about the importance of water safety. In class, we also discussed farm safety and staying safe in the sun. The children enjoyed learning new skills in GAA with Cian, cycling with Hugh, and in PE, where we focused on hockey. They enjoyed performing their songs with Leslie in the summer music concert and each week, visits to the school garden were eagerly anticipated as they checked on the progress of their potatoes and sunflowers, as well as looking at the various inhabitants of the pond! A highlight of this term was our school tour to Woodfield House in Wexford, where the children had a great day out!



A huge well done to all of the boys and girls for their enthusiasm, effort and hard work throughout the year. It was an absolute pleasure to be your teacher and I hope you have many fond memories from your time in junior or senior infants. Wishing you a lovely summer break, enjoy the well-deserved rest!

Room 2 – Senior Infants and 1st Class (Naíonáin Shinsearacha agus Rang I)

It is hard to believe that the school year is now coming to an end. It has been a very busy final term with lots of excitement and activities.

During this term we also had our school tour to Woodfield House. The children had a great and busy day where they got to play many different games outside and learn life on a farm years ago and older ways to fuel our homes such as turf.

In the midst of all these other events the children were also preparing very hard with Leslie to prepare for their summer performance with Ms. Lancaster's class.

The children have worked very hard across all their different subject areas. We were very fortunate to have had a visit from Margaret Kavanagh who gave the children a hands-on lesson on water safety. The children were very attentive during this visit and learned a lot of important information to keep them safe when near water.

Despite the mixed weather the children have enjoyed many great days in the garden this year organised by Wendy.



In SESE the children have been covering many different themes such as the sea and summer. The children tested different objects to see what sank and what floated. They created their own boats using plasticine and tested their strength. They learned about the life of an Irish fisherman and some of the local catch. They also examined and compared photos both new and old of fishing vessels from Arklow Harbour.

We practiced our reading using 'paired reading' with Ms. Skelly's class weekly and even occasionally play kahoot games focusing on our hearth words.

It has been a pleasure to have taught all the children within room 2 and to see their growth and holistic development this year. I hope that all the children within room 2 have a very enjoyable summer holiday and that I see them all again safe and sound again for the next academic year.

Room 3 – 2nd and 3rd Class (Rang II agus Rang III)

The boys and girls in Room 3 have been busy exploring the natural world this term. As the weather changed, the children studied trees and leaves, learning about the different types they could find and how they grow. They enjoyed taking their learning outdoors, observing trees in real life and practising their sketching skills.

We also visited our school garden pond, where we investigated the rich biodiversity of a freshwater habitat. The children were fascinated by the many living things that make up this ecosystem, including insects and amphibians and learned how these organisms depend on one another.

Another highlight was celebrating the First Holy Communion of the children in Second Class. Congratulations to all who took part in this special occasion. Months of preparation and practice were rewarded with a beautiful ceremony. A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the day so memorable and to those in the choir who contributed to creating such a special atmosphere.



The 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes made the journey to The Stables in Gorey for their school tour. They enjoyed taking part in an exciting outdoor obstacle course, which helped develop teamwork and confidence. There was a fantastic range of activities on the astro turf and playground, keeping everyone active and entertained throughout the day. It was a fun-filled outing and the children returned with lots of happy memories.

Second and Third Class proudly presented their projects to the entire school. With the World Cup approaching, the class developed a great interest in the many countries taking part in the tournament. Each student chose a country to research and created a project exploring its population, capital city, famous landmarks, and, of course, a fun fact related to the World Cup. The presentations were both informative and engaging, showcasing the students' creativity and enthusiasm for learning about different cultures from around the world.

It has been a wonderful year of learning, discovery and celebration in Room 3, and the children should be very proud of all they have achieved. Have a lovely summer.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Room 5 – 4th Class (Rang IV)

As another wonderful school year comes to a close, we would like to share some of our enjoyable and educational experiences from this term.

D'fhorbraíomar ár scileanna sa teanga ó bhéal, scríobhneoireacht, léitheoireacht agus sa ghramadach, agus táimid an-bhródúil as an dul chun cinn atá déanta againn.

We thoroughly enjoyed our novel 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King which explored themes of imagination, friendship and childhood discovery.

In numeracy we expanded our knowledge of equations and chance. We also explored the effects of transformations on shapes through tessellation, translation, rotation and reflection.

We looked at the works of Piet Mondrian and Vincent Van Gogh. We also developed our clay skills by designing and making beautiful clay coil pots, demonstrating great patience, imagination, and craftsmanship.



We participated in a variety of engaging workshops G.A.A. Skills, Bike Skills with Hugh Arthur, Nutrition Workshop with Kiara from Fresh Today, Water Safety Talk **with** Margaret Kavanagh, and Irish Sign Language with Cathal Duffy.

Our School Tour to The Stables was a tremendous success and provided a 'wet' memorable day of adventure, fun and teamwork. During our Gardening Sessions with Wendy we learned about planting, caring for the environment and the satisfaction of watching our efforts grow.

Lessons with Lesley Dowdall from Music Generation developed our musical creativity, rhythm and singing and also helped to prepare us for our annual school concert. Sports day showcased excellent sportsmanship, determination, and team spirit while enjoying a range of fun activities and events. As we reach the end of the school year, we would like to thank our parents for their continued support.

Bíodh laethanta samhraidh deasa agaibh ó rang a ceathrar!

Room 7 – 5th Class (Rang V)

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter! It has been an incredibly busy, fun-filled final term in Fifth Class. From coding and sports tournaments, to planting in the garden and stepping back in time through our novels, we have accomplished so much. Here is a look back at some of our highlights. **English & Drama:** Our Novels: We proceeded to finish our novel about the famine and the journey across America by an Irish emigrant family called *End of the Sky*. It was incredible! After that, we started a new novel about the 1916 Easter Rising called *The Guns of Easter*. In drama, we picked our favourite scenes from *The Guns of Easter* and *End of the Sky* to

act out and pose for freeze-frame photos! **Maths & Coding: Bee-Bots:** In April, we did coding with the Bee-Bots in Maths and it was great fun! "You had to put in coordinates and it would move to where you wanted it to go. We even helped the junior classes by making maps and showing them how to use the Bee-Bots!" We also worked hard to complete assignments using tangrams. We have been using our Irish in lots of creative ways this term: Bhí seó faisin againn as Gaeilge. Bhí an spraoi againn. Scríobhamar scéalta, dánta agus ríomhphoist as Gaeilge freisin.

Geography & Projects: EU: In May, we completed projects about the EU.

Everyone picked a country in the EU, researched it and told the class interesting facts about it.

We played lots of Kahoots to help us with our geography and learnt so much about Europe.

In May, we also celebrated the legendary Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday!

STEM & Creativity: Dream Hotels: We were assigned a STEM project where everyone got to design and build their own dream hotels.



Flood Barriers: Later in the term, we put our engineering skills to the test and tried to make working, small-scale flood barriers. Then we redesigned them to make them more functional.

Frida Kahlo Portraits: We drew beautiful self-portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo out in the garden.

Out in the Garden & Nature: Wendy kindly let us have a look at all of the creatures living in our school pond. She also helped us to get our hands dirty planting carrots, potatoes, pumpkins and some small trees.



Music & Days Out: In June, we went on our school tour to Russborough House. It was an absolute blast! (Even if we were a little wet). Did you know we have our own band? It is called “Réaltaí na Mara”! We have started rehearsing for our music concert and people have been bringing in their own musical instruments from home. **Sports: A Packed Active Season:** We did a lot of fun PE this term, including hockey, basketball, soccer and rounders. We also had some fantastic coaches drop in, GAA & Rugby - We had a GAA coach called Cian every Monday for a month and a rugby coach called Aidan came in to teach us how to play rugby. We went to the FAI Soccer tournament and did very well! We received some great bike safety lessons from a coach named Hugh, who taught us excellent bike skills and safety tips. A wonderful day full of fun and laughter was had for Sports Day. Water Safety - R.N.L.I.: We had a visit from Jimmy who taught us how to throw a ring buoy, save our friend without entering the water and recognise dangerous situations around water. Water safety webinar with PAWS. We had a wonderful outdoor lesson with Margaret Kavanagh and her friend Bear. She taught us all about the dangers of the sea and the riptides. We were shown how to shout and call for help to keep our friend’s calm. Remember **never ever** enter the water to try and save your friend!

Room 8 – 6th Class (Rang V1)

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in Sixth Class, with plenty of learning, creativity, sport and memorable experiences!

Bloom: One of the highlights of the term was our trip to Bloom 2026. The pupils enjoyed exploring the beautiful show gardens, learning about biodiversity, sustainability and food production, and taking part in a variety of interactive activities. It was a fantastic opportunity to see many of the topics we have discussed in class brought to life.



School Tour: We also had a wonderful school tour to Russborough House and the Adventure Centre in Blessington. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed exploring the historic house and grounds before taking part in a range of outdoor adventure activities. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and willingness to challenge themselves made the day a great success.

Batmobile: Back in the classroom, pupils have been busy developing their STEM skills through the construction of a Batmobile using a Circuit Mess kit. They learned about electronics, engineering and coding while assembling and testing their vehicles. It was wonderful to see their problem-solving abilities and perseverance in action.



Healthy Eating and Healthy Lifestyle: We welcomed Kiera from Freshtoday, who delivered an engaging nutrition workshop. The pupils learned about the importance of healthy eating, balanced diets and regular exercise. Kiera shared practical tips on making healthy choices and highlighted how nutrition and physical activity contribute to both physical and mental wellbeing.

Pupils vs Teachers: Sports Day provided plenty of excitement and friendly competition. After a fantastic day of activities, the annual Teachers vs Pupils Rounders Match took centre stage. In a closely contested and entertaining game, the pupils emerged victorious, much to their delight! Their teamwork, determination and sporting spirit were evident throughout.

History: In History, Sixth Class has been undertaking a deep dive into the causes of World War One. Through discussions, research and source analysis, pupils have explored the complex factors that led to the outbreak of the war, including alliances, imperialism, militarism and nationalism. Their curiosity and critical thinking have resulted in thoughtful and engaging classroom conversations.

Finally: As we approach the end of the school year, we are extremely proud of the pupils' hard work, enthusiasm and achievements. We had a wonderful morning at our Graduation Day after a lovely mass with Fr. Gerard and some amazing music by Siobhán and Cole. We performed a song that detailed each pupil's funny and quirky stories, a poem written by pupils to their parents and finished up with a very popular and competitive Kahoot Quiz. We move on to a week of goodbyes as we bid farewell to a truly wonderful group of pupils.

NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS' COMMITTEES

The Wellbeing Committee have been very busy this term planting sunflowers. We have thoroughly enjoyed checking in on them, watering them, and watching them grow each week. It has been wonderful to see how much they have flourished through our care and attention. Some of our sunflowers were sold at our recent Garden Day, which was a fantastic success and greatly enjoyed by the whole school community.



The committee have also been taking part in a variety of wellbeing sessions throughout the term. During these sessions, pupils have practised mindfulness techniques, helping them to develop relaxation skills, focus, and a positive sense of wellbeing. The children including the junior classes did an excellent job this term helping to keep our school environment clean and tidy. Committee members have regularly taken part in litter-picking activities around the school grounds, ensuring that our outdoor areas remain safe and pleasant places for everyone to learn and play. Their hard work and commitment to caring for our environment have made a valuable contribution to our school community.

Parents Association Summer Newsletter 2026

As we approach our summer holidays, it is hard to believe another school year has come to a close. The school staff and children have been working hard and are no doubt looking forward to some well earned downtime.

On May 17th pupils from second class made their first Holy Communion. Congratulations to all those who made their first Communion and their families as they celebrated this happy occasion, and a big thank you to Mr Furlong for preparing the children so well. We must also thank the wonderful children who sang in the choir on the day.

On June 2nd the children's imaginations ran wild when we ran a crazy hair day fundraiser. The children no doubt had fun and we raised €153 on the day.

The school also hosted their annual Garden Day on June 10th, which I sure we can all agree was a big success despite the threat of rain on the day. The children, parents and community were treated to a selection of wonderful plants grown in the school garden grown by the school children under the kind care of Wendy, teas and coffees with fabulous home baked goods, bring-a-brac toys and books, hot-dogs and Wexford strawberries 'n' cream. We would like to thank Wendy Nairn for all her guidance and work in the school garden this year.

The outgoing 6th class students had their Graduation Day on June 16th, followed by tea and coffee and some more delicious home baked treats. Congratulations to all the children in Mr Clune's class and we wish them well as they settle into secondary school next September.

On June 17th we were treated to some wonderful singing from all the children at their summer music concert. It was clear to see how much time and practice went into creating such an entertaining afternoon and we would like to thank Ms. Leslie Dowdall for showing the kids the joy of music.

On June 18th the children were given a taste of summer with a surprise ice cream cone from Le Crème ice-cream van despite the cloudy skies.

The Parents Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the families of the school for all their generous support throughout the year, including home baking, donations, gifts and volunteering their time with the garden, at school events and fundraising efforts.

We would also like to thank the Board of Management and all the staff at the school for their hard work and dedication to the children.

We hope all the staff, children, volunteers, and all the families of Brittas Bay NS have a wonderful summer and come back in September rested and ready to start the new term. The PA AGM will be held in September so please do come along and join as a new committee will be formed and plans for the school year discussed.