

CLONMONEY N.S.

OCTOBER

Newsletter '26



ADDRESS: BUNRATTY, NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS,

CO. CLARE V95 AH94

WWW.CLONMONEYNS.COM

Email: principal@clonmoneyns.com

secretary@clonmoneyns.com

SCHOOL ROLL NO: 18032M **Phone:** (061) 362672

Latest News and General Update

Remembering Mrs Benedicta McEvoy



It was with great sadness that our school community learned of the passing of our former teacher and Principal, Mrs Benedicta McEvoy. Benedicta gave 36 years of dedicated service to Clonmoney National School, first as a teacher and later as Principal. During those years, she made a lasting contribution to our school and to the lives of generations of pupils and families in our community. She will be remembered with great affection and gratitude by all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with her. We were very proud of our 5th and 6th Class pupils who represented Clonmoney NS at Benedicta's Funeral Mass, where they sang beautifully before forming a guard of honour in her memory. We extend our sincere sympathies to her husband Fintan, her son Fintan, and to all her family and friends.

Welcome to our New Pupils & Infant Class:

Having completed their first month in Clonmoney NS, a special word of welcome & well done to all our newest pupils in Junior Infants. Starting school is such a big milestone in these boys and girls lives and they have been absolutely excellent in getting accustomed and familiar with our routines and working hard every day. It is lovely to see their enthusiasm every day and how much they are learning. We also extend a warm welcome to Cora in 1st class & Sienna in 2nd class, who also joined us this year.

JUNIOR INFANTS CLASS 2026-27



 **REMINDER – CASH FOR CLOBBER:** Monday, 5th October. Please leave securely sealed bags inside the wall beside the staff car park. Thanks so much for your support!

Pupil & Extra Curricular News

Admissions & Enrolments 27/28

Applications for admission to Junior Infants for the 2027/28 school year will officially open on **Monday, 5th October**. Full details of our Admissions Policy, application process and key dates will be available on the school website and from the school office. Siblings of pupils currently attending Clonmoney NS will receive priority for places, in accordance with our Admissions Policy. An email with application details and deadlines will also be sent to families who have asked to be included on our 2027 intake list. If you have a child due to start Junior Infants next year and have not already contacted us, please send their name and date of birth to the school office.

Building Project & Fundraising Update:

As previously advised, the final report and costings for our major school extension were submitted to the Department of Education during the summer. We are hopeful that the project will soon receive approval to proceed to the tender stage and appointment of a building contractor. A huge thank you to all the families and local businesses who so generously sponsored, supported and participated in our inaugural Golf Classic in Shannon on 24th August. The event was a fantastic success, raising just over **€12,000** towards our school building project. Combined with our fundraising run in May, we have now raised over **€40,000** towards the cost of our new school hall and enhanced facilities. On behalf of the Board of Management, thank you once again for the incredible generosity and support shown by our entire school community. With the project moving closer to the construction phase, we will also be announcing details of our final fundraising drive in the coming months – one last big push to help us reach our target and bring this exciting project to fruition. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

Smart Watches, Smartphones & Digital Safety:

A reminder that smart watches with **calling, messaging, GPS, internet or camera functions are not permitted in school**, including when set to “school/class mode”. If brought to school, the device will be kept safely and must be collected by a parent/guardian.

We are also asking families to renew our Smartphone-Free Agreement this year, supporting our shared commitment to delaying access to smartphones, social media and group chats during primary school. Please discuss the agreement with your child and return the signed form sent home.

New this year: our Parents Association will include a **Digital Noticeboard** in each monthly newsletter, with simple, practical tips to help families support safe and positive online experiences at home. This month’s noticeboard focuses on checking your child’s devices, setting family boundaries and talking together about their digital world. Many thanks to our Parents Association for leading this very worthwhile initiative.

Assembly Awards – September

This year, we have made a small change to our weekly **Daltaí na Seachtaine** awards by introducing a new **Class Spotlight**. Each pupil’s name is placed on a celebration stick and, each week, one child from each class is randomly selected to be in the spotlight. Their classmates are then invited to recognise the **kindness, effort, helpfulness and positive contributions** that pupil brings to their class. These lovely comments are recorded on a special certificate which is presented at our school assembly. Congratulations to our September Class Spotlight pupils: Cadyn McGrath, Anna O'Donoghue, Tadhg McCormack, Ciaran O'Callaghan, Noah Collins, Etáin McCarthy, Taashi Gaajar, Alex Byrnes, Fia McCarthy, Harry Collins, Michael McInerney, Corey Ryan, Darragh O'Grady, Joe Heelan, Ailbhe Meehan, Amy Kelliher, Luke Marshall, Conor Kenny, Peter Conway and Tom McHugh.

Well done to you all – we hope you enjoyed hearing all the positive things your classmates had to say about you!

Pupil & Extra Curricular News



Handwriting Awareness Month

This month, we are celebrating the importance of handwriting, presentation and pride in our work! Throughout the month, we will be encouraging every class to focus on making an extra effort with their handwriting, neatness and overall presentation.

Each week, two children from each class will be recognised and receive a prize for showing excellent effort and improvement. Remember, it's not about having perfect handwriting – it's about taking your time, trying your best and being proud of your work!

Bottles for Board Games is back for October! Following the huge success of our last collection, we're delighted to give it another go. Some of our classes have already received fantastic new games, including Monopoly, Scrabble, LEGO boards, marble runs, chess, draughts and magnetic blocks, and we're looking forward to raising enough funds to provide even more games and activities for our children. Check out instagram to see some photos.

A little LEGO request! If any families have LEGO at home that is no longer being used and would be happy to donate it, we would be delighted to receive it. LEGO is one of those magical toys that every class loves and can be enjoyed in so many different ways!

Student Council 26/27:

Congratulations to the 10 pupils from 2nd to 6th Class who have been democratically elected by their classmates to represent them on our Student Council for 2026/27. Our Student Council plays an important role in ensuring that pupil voice is heard and valued in Clonmoney NS. The Council meets regularly with Mrs Cullinan and Mr McCormack to share ideas, discuss pupil wellbeing and consider ways in which we can continue to improve the learning experience and school environment for everyone. We want our Student Council to have a genuine voice in school life, with opportunities to contribute to decisions, initiatives and policies that affect our pupils. We look forward to hearing their ideas and working with them throughout the year!



Our Student Council: Cian Earley, Clive Slattery, Olivia McGahon, Molly O'Connor, Gemma Moran, Charlie O'Shea, Michael McInerney, Andy O'Leary, Taashi Gajjar, Natasha Chokshi

Dates for Your Diary/ Upcoming Events 26–27

- **Cash for Clobber – Clothing/Textiles collection:** Mon. 5th of October.
- **Nasal Flu Vaccines**
Tuesday, 20th of October
- **Halloween Dress Up & Trunk or Treat:**
Fri. 23rd of October
- **Halloween Mid Term Break**
Monday 26th – Friday 30th of October '26
- **School Closure – Staff Training**
Mon. 16th of Nov. (Curriculum enactment)
- **Christmas Holidays**
Tues 22nd Dec. at 12:00. School reopens
Wednesday **6th of Jan. 2027**
- **Parent Teacher Meetings 26–27**
27th & 28th of Jan. '27
- **February Public Holiday**
Mon, 1st of Feb. 2027
- **February Mid-Term:**
Thur. 18th & Fri. 19th Feb. 2027
- **First Reconciliation (2nd Class)**
Thur. 11th March @ 7pm in Wells
- **St Patrick's Public Holiday**
Wed. 17th March '27
- **Easter Holidays:**
Mon 22nd March – Fri 2nd April '27
- **Confirmation Day (6th Class)**
Sat. 17th April @ 11 am in NOF
- **May Public Holiday Weekend & Staff Training**
– Mon 3rd, Tues 4th & Wed. 5th May
- **First Holy Communion Day (2nd Class)**
Sat. 22nd of May @ 11 am in Wells Church
- **School Closure – Staff Training:** Fri 4th June '27
- **June Public Holiday Weekend:** Mon/Tue 7th & 8th June
- **Summer Holidays** – Fri. 25th June @ 12:00

Sports Update, Lunchtime Leagues & Cumann na mBunscol

Well done to Fiadh O'Neill (2nd Class) who qualified for the **Cross Country County Finals** following the recent East Clare Big Schools qualifiers in Ennis. Fiadh will compete in the finals on 17th November. Congratulations also to all 36 pupils who represented our school so well on the day. Our **Cumann na mBunscol Football** competitions begin this month. The girls will play Clonlara and Kilkishen, while the boys will face Ballyea, Quin, Cratloe and Knockanear. Best of luck to all involved!

Our **lunchtime Gaelic Football leagues** also continue, with great participation in both the Junior (1st–3rd) and Senior (4th–6th) leagues, representing Kerry, Mayo, Armagh and Donegal.

Finally, as part of our continued promotion of hurling and camogie, Mr Guilfoyle has introduced a **Spotlight Player of the Month**. Congratulations to our September winners, Diarmuid Kirby, Jack Kirby and Lacey Malone for work on jab lifting!





Supporting safe, happy and positive online experiences

Small steps make a big difference.
Start with the device your child
uses most.



CHECK ONE DEVICE TODAY



- 1 Set up a child account.
- 2 Check browser access, downloads, purchases and chat.
- 3 Agree family rules: ask before downloading or opening chat; tell an adult if something feels wrong.

TWO FAMILY BOUNDARIES



No screens
before school.



Devices charge
outside bedrooms
overnight.

KNOW THEIR DIGITAL WORLD



Explore their games, apps, YouTube, tablet, console and smart TV together. Some allow browsing, messages and purchases.



TALK ABOUT IT

'Show me your favourite game or video. What do you like about it?'

If something worries your child, listen calmly and thank them for telling you.



PEGI IS A STARTING POINT

Age ratings describe game content; they do not tell you whether strangers can make contact, whether voice chat is enabled, or whether children can spend money.



GOOD PICKS THIS MONTH

App Pick



Khan Academy Kids
Colourful learning app with stories, reading, maths and activities for younger children.

Watch/Make Pick



YouTube Kids
A safer YouTube experience with parental controls.



Our school supports **delaying smart phones during primary school.**

Even without a smart phone, children may still access the online world through tablets, consoles, smart TVs and other devices so digital awareness still matters.