CLONMONEY N.S. NOVEMBER '26 Newsletter

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GENERAL UPDATE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we return following the Halloween midterm break, I hope all our pupils and families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable few days. It has been a busy and productive first half term, with lots of wonderful activities and achievements to celebrate across our school.This month's newsletter includes important updates on school policies, upcoming closures and events, along with news of the many positive initiatives taking place in Clonmoney. As always, I wish to thank our pupils, parents, staff and wider school community for their continued cooperation, encouragement and support.

School Policy Updates – Child Safeguarding & Admissions

Following consultation with staff, pupils and parents, our Board of Management has recently reviewed and ratified the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. These documents are available on our school website and are displayed at the main school entrance, together with the names of our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP. Child-friendly safeguarding posters are also displayed prominently at pupil eye level near all school exits. These help children understand their right to feel safe and remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to if they have any worries or concerns. The Board has also reviewed and ratified our updated Admissions Policy, which is available on our school website. As communicated last month, applications for Junior Infants for the 2027/28 school year are now being accepted. Full details of the admissions process and application forms are available at https://clonmoneyns.com/admissions-enrolments/

Ongoing Industrial Action – INTO & Fórsa

Parents and guardians are reminded that, although the recent strike action has been suspended, other forms of industrial action by the INTO and Fórsa unions remain in place. These include non-cooperation with meetings outside normal school hours and the withdrawal of supervision duties before the school day begins.

As staff meetings cannot currently take place after school, **Clonmoney NS will close at 1:30pm for all pupils on Monday, 9th November,** to facilitate a staff meeting.There also remains the possibility of further strike action during November, which could result in an additional school closure. The Board of Management will continue to monitor developments closely and keep families informed of any changes affecting school arrangements. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this period.

Primary School Survey 2026 – Patronage Decision

Following consultation with parents, staff and other school stakeholders, our Board of Management has formally agreed not to explore a change in school patronage or configuration at this time. This decision reflects the preference expressed by the majority of survey respondents, the outcome of the subsequent consultation process and the Board's view that maintaining continuity within our existing patronage arrangement is appropriate for our school community at present. In accordance with Department of Education and Youth guidance, this decision is being communicated to our school patron, the Diocese of Killaloe, along with parents, staff, the Parents' Association, Student Council and wider school community. We sincerely thank everyone who participated in the consultation process.

📚 **School Closures – Primary Curriculum Training**

Our school will close on Monday, 16th November to facilitate staff training with Oide on the new Primary School Curriculum. This year's focus is Wellbeing (SPHE and PE). Further closures are scheduled for Wednesday 17th February, Wednesday 5th May and Friday 4th June 2027. An updated 2026/27 school calendar accompanies this newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation.

🚶 **Community Winter Walk – Sunday, 8th November**

We look forward to welcoming families to our Community Winter Walk on **Sunday, 8th November at 12 noon.** The short walk to Drumline Cross will be followed by refreshments and a family gathering at the school. This event aims to bring our school community together while raising much-needed funds to support day-to-day school costs, including improvements to inclusive playground equipment and classroom resources. Families have received sponsorship cards, with a suggested contribution of €10 per family. All families returning a sponsorship card will be entered into a draw for a €50 Smyths voucher. We encourage everyone to come along and enjoy this special community occasion!

🎃 **Parents' Association – Halloween Trunk or Treat**

A huge thank you to our Parents' Association for organising another fantastic Trunk or Treat on Friday, 23rd October. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed dressing up, visiting the brilliantly decorated cars and collecting some lovely treats. Sincere thanks to all the families and volunteers whose creativity and generosity made the event such a memorable occasion! Don't forget to read the monthly PA Digital Noticeboard overleaf too. Thanks also to all who supported our Cash for Clobber fundraiser in October, raising **€518.25** for our school.

🗣️ **Student Council – Pupil Voice**

Our Student Council has been exploring ways to make our school yard safer, happier and more inclusive, including looking out for pupils who may be alone, introducing outdoor board games and creating a quiet area. Members also discussed our child-friendly safeguarding poster and trusted adults in school. Next, they will review our Anti-Bullying Survey, explore Bí Cineálta and introduce a suggestion box to encourage pupil voice.

✍️ **Handwriting Awareness Month**

Throughout October, we celebrated Handwriting Awareness Month, recognising pupils' effort, perseverance and improvement in handwriting. Each class selected eight award winners over the month, celebrating not just neat presentation but also hard work and progress. Well done to all our pupils for taking such pride in their written work!

🌟 **Class Spotlight Awards – October**

Congratulations to our October Class Spotlight Award winners, recognised by their classmates for kindness, talents and positive contributions to school life: Eabha Glennon, Grace Sullivan, Isla Kelly, Darragh Killeen, Oscar Keane, Emma Brazil, Aoise Liston, Ruby Ryan, Aoife Corry, Luke Barrett, Grace Nash, Olivia Slattery, Isabella Niesmaczny, Chloe Dorgan, Leonard O'Keeffe, Jaxon O'Brien, Maisie Devitt, Andrew Coyle, Ava McCarthy, Eoin Murphy, Clara Dennis and Farrah Linnane. Well done to everyone!

⚽🏃 **Sports News – Football, Hurling & Cross-Country**

Well done to both panels of girls and boys football teams in their Cumann na mBunscol competitions last month. The girls team reached a semi final but lost out to Clarecastle NS. The boys team recorded good wins over Quin & Knockanean but were defeated by Ballyea & Cratloe. We had over 30 players on both panels and it is brilliant to have a high level of participation in our senior classes. After school training will resume this week, with a focus on camogie & hurling. Well done also to the Kerry team (1st-3rd classes) and the Galway team (4th-6th) on winning their respective lunch time leagues. Finally, best wishes to Fiadh O'Neill who will compete in the County Cross Country finals this month in Lees Road, Ennis.

Dates for Your Diary/Calendar 26/27

- **Winter Walk** - Sun. 8th of Nov @ 12:00
- **School Closure - Staff Training**
  Mon. 16th of Nov. (Curriculum enactment)
- **Christmas Hoildays**
  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
- **Staff Curriculum Training**
  Wed. 17th of Feb.(school closed)
- **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

Halloween fun in Clonmoney NS

















CLONMONEY NATIONAL SCHOOL

THE DIGITAL NOTICEBOARD

NOVEMBER

Kind, respectful and safe online interactions

Just like in school, we treat others online with kindness and respect.

A positive online world starts with positive choices.



CHECK ONE DEVICE TODAY

1. Check privacy settings.
2. Review who they can chat with and who can see their content.
3. Look at recent activity, **downloads** and in-app purchases.

BE A KIND DIGITAL CITIZEN

Be kind, no bullying.

Respect others and their privacy online.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

Chat with your child about how to be respectful online – kind comments, including others, and what to do if they see something unkind.

Remind them they can always talk to you if something online upsets them.

KNOW THE SIGNS

- Changes in mood after being online.
- Spending more time on certain apps or games.
- Hiding their screen or quickly closing apps.
- Being upset by messages or comments.

IDEAS TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

- Create a family agreement for kind and respectful online behaviour.
- Talk about what to do if they see bullying or mean comments.
- Explore the positive side of the internet – creative games, learning and connecting with family and friends.

GOOD APPS THIS MONTH

App Pick	Watch/Make Pick
	
Toca Boca World	**Cosmic Kids Yoga**
A creative, open-ended play with lots of imagination and no public in-game chat.	Movement stories and yoga videos children genuinely enjoy.

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.

Brought to you by the Parents Association.