

HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER

2023 | Oct

www.mounthanoverns.ie



Welcome to the October edition of our school newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing Mid-Term Break. School reopens on **Monday November 6th at 8.50 am.**

Happy Halloween Everyone!

School Sports: Well done to our boys and girls GAA teams who competed in the Cuman na mBunscol competitions this term. We are very proud of both teams and how they represented the school. Thank you to Ms O'Donnell for all her hard work in preparing the team, organizing matches and everything that goes into coaching. Thank you also to Mrs. Kennedy for her support and to our parent helpers, especially Catherine, Colin & Joanne, for all their help and input. The boys have reached the final!! The match will take place in **Páirc Tailteann, Navan** on **Saturday November 11th at 11.10 am.** I hope you can come out to support the team!

School Admissions: Please note the following dates for school admissions:

We will begin accepting applications for the 2024/2025 school year on **Monday October 9th**. The application period will remain open until **November 6th**. Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by **December 4th**. Applicants then have until **December 18th** to accept the offer of admission. **Please note that this is for applications the 2024/2025 school year only.**

Please see our school website for further information and for application forms:

<https://mounthanoverns.ie/school-enrolment/?swcfpc=1>

Assembly: Our October assembly took place today. Well done to the following certificate winners:

Pupil of the Month: Arthur Keane, Oliver Crawley Fay, Holly McGuinness, Kevin Mokl, Alice Grogan, Cody O'Brien, Evelyn Cassely, Neala-San Pen, Caleb Collins, Jake Lynch, Amber Devine, Kayleigh Stacey, Leigh Doyle, Mia Cassely, Jamie Breach & Madisyn Crosby.

Handwriting Awards: Anna McGuinness, Isla Connor, Hannah Pawlik Stepien, Ellie Weldon, Nina Hall, Cian Deasy, Cora Dowd & Dylan Ryan.

Gaeilgeoir na Míosa: Aifric Curran, James Toner, Joe Durkan, Fiadh Cannon Jordan, Emily Keane, Oscar Cudden, Holly Carroll & Evie Lynch.

School Attendance: Your child's attendance at school is very important for their progress. Please remember to message the teacher if your child is absent for whatever reason. Absences over 20 days must be reported to TUSLA. Reminder texts regarding absences are sent when a child reaches 15 days. We kindly ask that parents do not send their child to school if they are at all unwell or off form and to be mindful of absences when taking discretionary days e.g. holidays. A campaign designed to promote the importance of attendance at class/school level has been rolled out by Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) and the Department of Education and will run throughout the 2023/24 school year. As a school, we are asked to highlight the importance of school attendance. Thank you in advance for your continued co-operation.

School Drop Off/Collection: **School Drop Off/Collection:** Many thanks for your continued co-operation with our drop off and collection procedures. The school day is from **8.50 am – 2.30 pm** (Infant home time is **1.30 pm**). Please ensure that your child is on time for school. The school gates and doors will be closed at 9.10 am and anyone arriving after that time is missing valuable instruction time.

Swimming Lessons: Lessons for **1st/2nd/3rd/4th class** will begin on **Thursday November 9th** for a 6 week block. Our time slot is **11.45 am**. Lessons are 40 minutes in duration and will take place in Aura Leisure, Drogheda. On swimming days, the children in 1st-4th may wear their school tracksuits. They will need their swimming costume and a hat for the lessons. They will also need to bring a towel with them to dry themselves. If you feel that your child may need help getting changed, you are welcome to go to the pool and assist them. The lessons will be at a cost of **€56 per child** regardless of weeks missed/absent. Payments to be made via this online link: <https://www.aladdin.ie/p/6180051006521344>. You may pay in instalments if you so wish.

Primary Maths Curriculum: The Department of Education has published a new maths curriculum for children in primary and special schools. The curriculum sets out what children will learn in maths in every school. The aim of the new curriculum is that children see maths as important and useful to their everyday lives. If you want to read more about this change, and find supports for parents, see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/027ad-primary-curriculum-framework/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/primarycurriculum/>

School Closure: The school will be closed to pupils on **Monday November 13th 2023** to facilitate staff training in the Primary Maths Curriculum.

Healthy Eating: Please continue to pack a healthy lunch for your child. Fizzy drinks are not allowed in school. A copy of our "Healthy Eating Policy" can be found under the policies tab on the school website. **Nut Free Zone:** Scoil Cholmcille is a "Nut Free Zone" as we have a student with a nut allergy. **We cannot allow children to bring any nut based products into school or in their packed lunches.** We ask that parents avoid giving children peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled "may contain nut traces" in school lunches. We also ask children **not** to share their lunches.

We have been informed that our expression of interest in the free hot school meals programme has been accepted. This will see the roll out of free school meals for every child in the 2024/2025 school year. More details on the practicalities of this to follow.

Design-a-Card: The Design-a-Card Christmas Card templates have been distributed. Orders may be placed online using the following link: <https://login.designacard.ie/ordernow>. To avoid missing postal dates please have your order completed by **Monday the 13th of November**. **Please note that all orders must be placed online. We will not be accepting any cash orders in school.**

Birthday Invitations/Treats: The school encourages parents to be mindful of other children and their feelings if you are inviting a select few to a birthday party. If this is the case we ask that you distribute birthday invitations in private and outside of school. This is to avoid unnecessary upset to children. We also ask that you do not send treats/cakes into school to mark your child's birthday as we cannot distribute them.

Book Fair: The scholastic.ie book fair will be available in the school between the 27th November – 1st December. You are welcome to come along and browse/buy. More details on Class Dojo closer to the time.

Parents Association News

Parents Association: Many thanks to those who attended the AGM of the Parents Association earlier this month. It was lovely to see you there. I posted a pdf document on 'School Story' which was circulated at the meeting. If you haven't already done so please take the time to read through it.

The main point of conversation at the AGM was the expenses. There was an overspend of €2,875.85 last year. It was decided at the meeting that a contribution link be set up via our online payment portal, Aladdin. A suggested donation of €20 per family per term would make a huge difference and would allow us to run more fun events and workshops for the children. The payment link allows you to pay in installments if you wish to do this.

If you have any contacts or know of anyone that would like to sponsor different events or buses to venues, please do get in contact.

This year PA funds are being used for the violin lessons (3rd-6th Class), buses to sporting events and library visits, fun workshops for the children (Skip/Hop in April), and events to mark milestones in the children's lives (e.g. Communion, Graduation).

We really do need your support and any donations via the online link are greatly welcomed:

<https://www.aladdin.ie/p/6180051006521344>

Halloween Disco: The Halloween Disco takes place this evening from 6 – 8pm in the GP Room. There is a cover charge of €5 per child or €10 thereafter. Adults are free of charge. There are prizes on offer for the best dressed child (and adult!!). Prizes include a voucher for Tribe, tickets for the circus and the Púca festival. The winner of the 'Guess the Sweets in the Jar' competition will also be revealed.

Have a great time everyone!!

Halloween Raffle: Many thanks to the Parents Association for the fantastic Halloween Hampers. Thank you to everyone for supporting the raffle. The winners are as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Hamper</u>
Infants	James
1 st /2 nd Class	Fiadh
3 rd /4 th Class	Michael
5 th /6 th Class	Gabi