

Scoil Cholmcille Mount

Hanover

Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the 2025/2026 Newsletter! This newsletter will be issued monthly. Once again, a very warm welcome is extended to the new pupils and their families! I hope that you all will be very happy here in Mount Hanover NS.

Parents Association: The Parents Association (PA) in a school works with the principal, staff and board of management to build effective co-operation and partnership between home and school. Thank you to all who attended the AGM earlier this month. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of our school community. Your involvement adds so much to our children's learning experiences and strengthens our school. The first fundraiser of the year is a clothing drive. Please drop your donation bags to the school hall between **Monday September 15th - Friday October 3rd**. Clothes, handbags, shoes and belts only please. The voluntary contribution is remaining at €20 per family per term. The payment link can be assessed here: <https://www.aladdin.ie/p/6180051006521344>
Many thanks in advance for your contribution.

Garden Helpers: We have such a beautiful school garden that the children enjoy playing in. Thank you to all those who helped last school year with the sensory garden project. It is a beautiful space, so bright and colourful. We do need help with general garden maintenance. We would love anyone interested in gardening to help us periodically with maintaining our lovely school garden. No experience necessary just a willingness to pitch in and help.....many hands make light work! Please get in contact with Ms. Leddy or any member of staff if you feel that you can help or just drop by the garden on any **Wednesday** between **1.45 and 2.30** to give a hand!!

Assembly: Our September assembly took place today. Well done to the following certificate winners:
Pupil of the Month: Alfie Quinn, Cianán Curran, Logan Nugent, Maryam Kallely, Nathan Power, Oisín Pen, James Toner, Aoife Mullen, Cody O'Brien, Emilee Rose Crosby, Isla Freyne, Paddy Curran, Petra Smyth, Jake Lynch, Tom Kelly & Kayleigh Stacey.
Handwriting Awards: Lucie Weldon, Cooper Crawley-Fay, Nicholas O'Reilly, Isla Connor, Hannah Pawlik Stepień, Evelyn Crosby, Emma Moore & Johnny McGuinness.
Gaeilgeoir na Míosa: Bobby Ingamel, Elliot Bracken Ryan, Finn McGuinness, Blayke Murray, Nathan Maguire, Conor McGuinness, TJ McGuinness & Oscar Cudden.

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

We will begin accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year on **Monday October 6th**. The application period will remain open until **November 3rd**. Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by **December 1st**. Applicants then have until **December 15th** to accept the offer of admission. **Please note that this is for applications the 2026/2027 school year only.**

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

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

RSA Street Smart: The RSA recently visited our school with their Street Smart workshop. Street Smart Kids set up a pretend town in our hall. The girls and boys were invited to carry out every day cycling and pedestrian tasks, enabling them to learn from their own experiences and those of their classmates. The girls and boys also learned about travelling safely in a car. At the end of the workshop, all children are awarded a personalised safety license as a record of completing their road safety activities.

Design-a-Card: Our school is participating in a unique fundraiser with www.designacard.ie

Each child will get the opportunity to design their own Christmas card, a sample of which will be sent home giving you the option to purchase packs of cards or any of the optional extra Christmas gifts if you wish. The design is to be completed inside the square on the template. Any artwork outside that area will be lost. When the students are finished their designs please return them to the class teachers. **Templates are to be returned to the class teachers by Thursday October 12th.**

Swimming Lessons: Lessons for **1st/2nd/3rd/4th class** will begin on **Thursday November 6th** for a 6-week block.

Swimming is part of the PE curriculum. The lessons will be at a cost of **€50 per child** regardless of weeks missed/absent. Thank you to the Parents association for subsidising the cost of the lessons. The payment link can be accessed here: <https://www.aladdin.ie/p/6180051006521344>

You may pay the swimming fee in installments if you so wish.

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. 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.

Parent Teacher Meetings: Please note the following dates for these years' parent teacher meetings:

Tuesday November 11th & Tuesday November 18th. Children from 1st-6th class will go home at **2.15 pm** on these days to facilitate the meetings. Infant home time remains unchanged. In order to help us plan for this year's meetings please indicate whether you would prefer a phone call or a face-to-face meeting:

<https://forms.gle/q5Je94bz5C5xtc11A>

Please complete this form by **Tuesday September 30th** at the latest. A timetable will be issued by each class teacher with your allocated slot.

Child Protection Procedures: The Department of Education have published new procedures for Child Protection and Safeguarding. To facilitate training in this area, the school will be **CLOSED** to pupils on **December 2nd**. A copy of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment can be viewed on our school website:

<https://mounthanoverns.ie/school-policies/>

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Ms. Lorraine O'Loughlin** and our Deputy Designated Liaison Person is **Ms. Kate Leddy**. Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Leddy are both attending mandatory DLP training on Thursday October 2nd.

School Photographs: Anyone wishing to place an order should follow the instructions on the envelope enclosed and return it to school by **Friday October 3rd**.

Sport in School: Well done to our boys and girls GAA teams who competed in the Cuman na mBunscol competitions this month. 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.

Active School Flag: This year in school we are working towards achieving our very first "Active School Flag". Thank you to Mr. McGroggan for taking the lead on this initiative. The children will get to take part in lots of active challenges throughout the school year. The first challenge is called "Skip Around the World". More details to follow soon!!

NCSE New Guidelines: The NCSE (National Council for Special Education) issued new guidelines regarding the allocation of SNA's to school. These guidelines will have significant impacts on **all** students.

- Under the new guidelines SNA's will be only be granted for medical/toileting/care needs only. The support of SNAs for behavioural care needs has been removed. This is detrimental to children with additional needs, many of whom need behavioural support. Not only will this affect children with additional needs but **every** child in the classroom. If SNAs are no longer supporting behavioural care needs, it falls on the class teacher which impacts every child in the classroom. It also increases the likelihood of injuries to pupils and staff alike.
- The application window to apply for additional SNA support has been narrowed now to a 6-week window (15th Sept - 24th Oct). If there is a need for additional SNA support outside of this 6-week window, then the school cannot apply for this support.
- Mainstream SNA allocations and Autism class SNA allocations are now unified. This means that if an additional SNA is required in an Autism class, then a mainstream SNA will be redeployed to cover this need. This will lead to support being removed from mainstream pupils.
- Schools must evidence implementation of the new NCSE Relate document for the review. There is a 6-week window for review and as of yet there has been little training or preparation for relate to be engaged with, let alone embedded. It positions a wonderful, supportive document as a stick to beat schools with.

The guidelines appear focused on gatekeeping and rationing, not supporting children. Schools already under strain may face reductions in support.

The impact these new guidelines will have on the experiences of **ALL** children in school is huge. Now is the time to speak up about our objections to these changes, before it is too late. I am asking all parents to please contact your local and national representatives about this for the benefit of your children.