

Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover October 2025

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 3rd 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 and Colin Crosby for their support. A special word of congratulations to the Boys team on reaching the final for the 3rd year in a row! They did the job this year and came home with the shield. Well done to the team – we are all very proud of you!!

GAA Skills in School: Thank you to Duleek/Bellewstown GAA club for organising a coaching block in our school. We were delighted to have Paul in with us every Monday for the past few weeks. Paul will be continuing on after the mid-term break so every class should wear their tracksuits on Mondays.

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

We began 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>

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

Pupil of the Month: Lucie Weldon, Lily McGuinness, Aoibhinn McAuley, Archie King, Bobby Condon, Mollie Toner, Adam Hall, Holly McGuinness, Aoibha O'Brien, Alice Grogan, Gracie Curley, Neala Pen, Peter Crosby, Emily Keane, Cian Deasy & Saoirse Curran.

Handwriting Awards: Katie Morrissey, Síne Kirwan, Arthur Keane, Lucas Corluka, Devyn Butler, Fíadh Cannon Jordan, Caoimhe Butler & Amber Devine

Gaeilgeoir na Míosa: Rowan Nealis, Jessica Cudden, Anna McGuinness, Kevin Mokl, Jack McGuinness, Adam McEntegart, Siobhán Briscoe & Alex McEntegart.

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. Arriving on time helps your child settle into the day smoothly and ensures they benefit fully from the learning experiences planned.

Swimming Lessons: Lessons for **1st/2nd/3rd/4th class** will begin on **Thursday November 6th** 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 **€50 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.

Child Safeguarding Statement: The Child safeguarding Statement and Risk assessment have both been updated for this school year. They can be found on our school website:

<https://mounthanoverns.ie/policies/child-safeguarding-statement-risk-assessment/>

Our **Designated Liaison Person** is Lorraine O'Loughlin and our **Designated Deputy Liaison Person** is Kate Leddy.

School Closure: The school will be closed to pupils on **Tuesday December 2nd** to facilitate staff training in the area of Child protection.

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. Crisps and chocolate should not be sent to school for lunch. 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.

Children's Choir: Duleek Parish Children's Choir will take place in St Cianán's Church, Duleek on Saturday 1st November 2025 at 6.15pm, in preparation for 7.00pm Mass. New members are always welcome to come along. The masses this weekend are designated masses for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation children. They will receive their first sticker for their sacramental passport at these masses.

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.

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 2025/26 school year. As a school, we are asked to highlight the importance of school attendance. Thank you in advance for your continued co-operation.

Book Fair: The Scholastic Book Fair will be available in the school between the **24th November – 1st December.** You are welcome to come along and browse/buy. More details on Class Dojo closer to the time.

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. 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 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.

This year PA funds are being used for the violin lessons (3rd-6th Class), buses to sporting events and subsidised swimming trips, fun workshops for the children, 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 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:

Infants: Archie King

1st/2nd: Hugo Harvey

3rd/4th: Joe Durkin

5th/6th: Petra Smyth