

Scoil Cholmcille, Mount
Hanover
December 2025



Staffing Changes: From January 2026, Mr. Padraig McGroggan will be teaching 3rd & 4th Class. Ms. Mia Farrell will be our Shared Special Education/Principal Release Teacher. Best wishes to Ms. Maher and her husband as they await the birth of their baby in the New Year.

Christmas Holidays:

Scoil Cholmcille, Mount Hanover School will close on **Friday 19th December** at 12 noon.

School will re-open in New Year on **Monday 5th January at 8.50 am.**

Christmas Wishes: On behalf of the BOM and all our school staff I would like to wish everyone in our school community a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to thank everyone for their support and cooperation during the year. In particular, I would like to say well done to our pupils and our school staff who have worked very hard throughout the year. At this time of year, we say a special thank you to all our school staff who work so hard throughout the year to make sure the school runs efficiently and keep the school looking so well. Thank you to our school secretary Jennifer in the office for her work. Thank you also to our cleaners for their work during the year. I would also like to thank our parents who have supported the school every step of the way.

Enjoy the Christmas Holidays everyone!!

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise daoibh go léir.

Assembly: Congratulations to our certificate winners for this month. The winners were as follows:

Pupil of the Month: Malek Mousa, Emy Joyce Sherin, Elliot Bracken Ryan, Cooper Crawley Fay, Nicholas O'Reilly, Finn McGuinness, Pola Wodzinska, Alex Browne, Zach Mullen, Hannah Pawlik Stepien, Evelyn Cassely, Katie McEntegart, Nina Hall, Rian O'Brien, Amber Devine & Oscar Cudden.

Handwriting Awards: Xander Spinenco, Logan Nugent, Nathan Power, Sadie Mehegan, Louis Mullen, Conor McGuinness, Emily Keane & Aoife Cannon.

Gaeilgeoir Na Míosa: Leo Brodigan, Maryam Kallely, Kaiya Cannon, Cillian Narcisse, Cody O'Brien, Fíadh Cannon Jordan, Petra Smyth & Shane Woods.

Christmas Raffle:

Many thanks for your support of our Christmas raffle. Thank you for all the prizes and vouchers donated and for all the ticket selling. It is very much appreciated. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes.

A reminder of the 2025/2026 School Calendar:

Christmas Break: Closing on **Friday December 19th** at 12 noon. School re-opens on **Monday January 5th 2026.**

February Bank Holiday: Closed on Monday February 2nd 2026.

February Mid –Term: Closed Thursday & Friday February 19th & 20th 2026.

St. Patrick's Day: Closed Tuesday March 17th 2026.

Easter Break 2026: Closing Friday March 27th 2026 at 12 noon. Re-opening on Monday April 13th April 2026.

May Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 4th May 2026.

June Bank Holiday: Closed Monday 1st June 2026.

Summer Holidays 2026: Closing on Friday June 19th 2026 at 12 noon.

Staff Training Dates: Closed on Wednesday March 18th 2026 & Monday June 8th 2026

A copy of the calendar may be downloaded here: <https://mounthanovers.ie/school-updates/school-calendar>

Sacrament Classes: Please note the following dates:

First Confessions: **Saturday 14th March 2026** in St. Cianán's Church, Duleek. Time TBC.

First Holy Communion: **Saturday May 16th 2026** in St. Cianán's Church, Duleek. Time TBC.

Confirmation Ceremony: **Wednesday February 11th 2026 at 12 noon** in St. Cianán's Church, Duleek.

Healthy Eating: We have a healthy eating policy in place. Please do not send treats to school with your child for their break. Chewing gum, glass bottles & fizzy drinks are also not permitted. Please continue to adhere to our nut-free zone as we have a number of children with nut allergies. If your child avails of the free hot lunch, please remember to switch off their calendar on the app for any planned absences e.g. appointments. This helps to cut down on food wastage.

Free Parent Talk - Setting Family Digital Rules: Setting family digital rules is important because it helps children develop healthy, balanced relationships with technology. Clear boundaries teach them how to use devices responsibly, protect their privacy, and stay safe from online risks like cyberbullying or inappropriate content. Digital rules also encourage face-to-face communication, family time, and good sleep habits by limiting screen use. When parents model and enforce these rules consistently, children learn self-control, respect for others' boundaries, and digital citizenship. Ultimately, family digital rules foster a safer, more mindful online environment that supports children's emotional well-being, learning, and healthy development in a technology-driven world.

Kids Coder Club are running 2 parent talks - Cyber-Safety, Digital Health and Coding Talk

Wednesday 21st of January 2026 at 06:00 pm & Saturday 24th of January 2026 at 11:00 am

Parents can sign up at <https://kidscoderclub.ie/events/>

I strongly urge parents to carefully monitor their child's digital health and their social media/gaming usage. Parents need to be involved in their child's digital world!

Say Yes to Languages: The children in 5th & 6th class have been participating in the 'Say Yes to Languages' initiative this term. They had a Spanish lesson every Friday for 10 weeks. Many thanks to Elena for delivering the lessons. The initiative is in support of Languages Connect and PPLI (Post-Primary Languages Ireland), a unit of the Department of Education.

SVP Collection Thank You: Many thanks to everyone for their support of our Christmas Jumper Day for SVP. The total amount raised was €275. Well done everyone!!

Book Fair: A huge thank you to everyone for your fantastic support of the Scholastic Book Fair. The school has earned €1,146 in rewards which we will be using to buy books for the classrooms. Thank you also to the parents who helped out at the fair. Without your help, the book fair would not have been possible.

Sherpa Kids – After School Care: Our after school care/club is now up and running and open for bookings. Sherpa Kids is Ireland's leading school age childcare provider, proudly supporting families for over 10 years across more than 120 locations nationwide. They offer an enriching experience that goes beyond the traditional school day — providing a safe, nurturing, and fun environment where children can thrive. Sherpa Kids programmes combine **engaging, play-based activities** with **practical support for families** — offering affordability, convenient hours, and assistance with school pick-up and drop-off through our **Junior Hours**.

- ✓ Enriching activities for school aged children 4-12 years
- ✓ Market-leading term time and holiday programmes
- ✓ Build social skills and make new friends
- ✓ Weekly or Adhoc booking options
- ✓ NCS Subsidy Accepted
- ✓ Homework Supervision
- ✓ Tusla Registered Services
- ✓ Extended Hours (Up to 6pm Mon-Fri)
- ✓ Trained and Garda Vetted Staffs
- ✓ Snack Provided

Check out further details of Sherpa Kids' services below:

❖ **After School Programmes (Stay and Play)**

Sherpa Kids offers after-school programmes starting when Junior and Senior infants finish their classes and extending beyond school hours. During their time at Sherpa Kids in the afternoon, they'll have homework support, time to play freely and dive into engaging and fun games and activities fostering friendship, teamwork, and well-being.

- **Stay and Play / Junior Hour After School** starts at **1:30 pm** until older siblings are picked up.
- **Stay and Play / After School** starts at **1:30 pm** and runs until **6:00 pm**.

- **Book now at:** <https://enrolmy.com/sherpa-kids?emyatb=4w7ygdi834#/name/%25STAY%20AND%20PLAY%25!>
- **Find out more at:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/before-and-after-school/stay-and-play-after-school/>

National Childcare Scheme

🏠 **National Childcare Scheme**

Sherpa Kids is a Tusla registered service which means they support and accept the National Childcare Scheme across all their services and programmes, including Holiday Programmes. As a parent/guardian, you are entitled to claim a discount of €2.14 up to €3.75 per hour off your bill.

🔗 **Find out more:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/parent-support/national-childcare-scheme-ncs/>

To learn more about Sherpa Kids:

- **Sherpa Kids Website:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/>
- **Sherpa Kids Story:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/about-us/>
- **Support:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/parent-support/>
- **FAQs:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/parent-support/frequently-asked-questions/>
- **Sherpa Kids Locations:** <https://www.sherpakids.ie/find-us/>

Please, if you require any further information contact Sherpa Kids directly and they'll be happy to assist you.