



Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome back to another school year. We were delighted to re-open our doors and we are looking forward to a great year ahead. Thank you very much for your co-operation in regards to the drop off and collection routines. It is very much appreciated by us all.

Welcome to our Junior Infants students joining our school community for the first time. We hope you will have many happy years in Mount Hanover. We wish all our students health and happiness in the year ahead.

The staffing allocation for this year is as follows:

Junior Infants: Ms. Mary Clayton

Senior Infants: Ms. Brigid O'Donnell

1st/2nd: Mr. Caolain O'Reilly

3rd/4th: Mr. Pádraig McGroggan

5th/6th: Ms. Lorraine O'Loughlin

Special Education Teacher: Ms. Jessica Donagh

Special Education Teacher/Principal Release: Ms. Mia Farrell

Special Needs Assistant: Mrs. Mary Kennedy

Secretary: Mrs. Jennifer Donoughue

School Day: 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.

Aladdin Connect: Please ensure that you have downloaded the Aladdin Connect app and that your mobile number is fully validated within the system. We use this platform as our primary method for sharing school news, emergency alerts, and updates. Validating your number ensures you will never miss crucial communication from us. If you need assistance setting up your account, please contact the school office at mounthanoverns@gmail.com

Class Dojo: The teachers are using "Class Dojo" as a classroom management and communication tool. We ask that parents respect the app and do not contact the teachers outside of school time and especially not at weekends or during school holidays. If this is not adhered to we may have to discontinue the use of the messaging feature on Class Dojo.

School Photographs: The school photographer will be here on **Friday September 18th**. They will arrive at 9.10 am and begin taking the photographs from 9.30 am. A group shot will be taken of the Junior Infants and the 6th Class. Individual shots will be taken of the Junior Infants and family shots of all other children. Proofs will then be sent home and you will have the option to purchase them if you so wish. Full school uniforms to be worn on the day. **No tracksuits please.**

Parent Teacher Meetings: Parent/Teacher Meetings for Infants - 4th Class will take place in mid November (November 12th & 17th). Parent teacher meetings for 5th & 6th Class will take place in October. 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.

Parent Teacher Meetings are allocated in ten minute time slots. Once we have an idea of your preference, we will be able to plan the days/times accordingly.

Please complete this form by **Wednesday September 30th** at the latest.

<https://forms.gle/ZcXEQMC8yPM2VSKv9>

Uniforms: Children are to wear their school tracksuits on PE days only. If you are unsure of your child's PE day please contact the class teacher. Full school uniforms must be worn on all other days.

Music Generation: We are delighted to announce that 'Music Generation' have partnered up with us again this school year! Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme which helps children and young people access vocal and instrumental tuition locally. What this means is that we will have a musician coming to school to teach the children how to play the violin. It is a 28 week programme. The lessons are for children from 3rd – 6th class. They are 40 minutes in duration and take place during the school day. The violins are provided on loan from Music Generation and the lessons will restart on **Thursday September 10th.**

Healthy Lunches: Please continue to pack a healthy lunch for your child. Fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not allowed in school. Glass bottles/cans are also not allowed. A copy of our "Healthy Eating Policy" can be found under the policies tab on our school website.

Hot School Meals: Please remember to place your order on the app, 48 hours in advance. Please switch off the meals for any planned absences to avoid unnecessary food waste.

Hot school meals are completely optional - if you do not wish to avail of them please let me know via Class Dojo or email the school office at mounthanoverns@gmail.com

Nut Free Zone: Scoil Cholmcille is a "Nut Free Zone". 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.

Art & Craft Fees: The Art and Craft fees are now due. The cost is €40 for all classes. There is also an option to purchase student insurance (€9) via this link. Many thanks to all those who have already paid the Art and Craft contribution and a small reminder to those who have not, to do so at their earliest convenience via the online payment portal or through the Aladdin Connect app: <https://www.aladdin.ie/p/6180051006521344>

School Attendance: Please remember to send a message to the teacher via Class Dojo if your child is absent. **All school absences must be explained.** Schools are required to report absences of 20 days or over to TUSLA.

Mobile Phones: Mobile phones/personal electronic devices/smartwatches with messaging/games facilities are not allowed in school. Any child found to have a mobile phone/device in school will have it confiscated.

Child Protection: The Child Protection Procedures for Schools 2025 procedures build on the previous Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (updated 2023) and take account of the statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015 and the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017. The school is obliged to act in accordance with these guidelines. Consequently, if there is a matter of concern in relation to child abuse, we are obliged to report this to TUSLA/HSE. They will assess the case and provide support for the child. Further details may be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/child-protection-procedures-in-schools/>

Birthday Invitations/Treats: Please note that the school does not provide phone numbers of children in classes for the purposes of birthday invitations. Neither does it take any responsibility for distributing birthday invitations. Many thanks for your understanding. We also ask that you do not send in treats/birthday cake with your child on their birthday as we cannot share them with the class due to food allergies and intolerances.

Policy Updates: We will be conducting our yearly review of the following policies during the month of September: Bí Cinealta (Anti-Bullying), Discipline and Child Safeguarding Statement. All policies can be viewed under the policy tab on the school website. We ask that parents make themselves familiar with these policies and direct any suggestions/edits to the school email address: mounthanoverns@gmail.com

Contact Details: It is very important that the school has up to date contact details for all families. If your mobile number or email address has changed, please let the school secretary know as soon as possible at mounthanoverns@gmail.com

Sherpa After School Care: We are pleased to remind you that our after-school care program is available daily to support busy schedules.

The service is fully managed and run by Sherpa, providing a safe, engaging, and fun environment for your children right here on school grounds.

- **Start time:** 1:30 pm
- **End time:** 6:00 pm
- **Provider:** Sherpa

Registration is open now. Please visit the Sherpa website to book your child's spot or to find more details about daily activities and pricing.

https://enrolmy.com/sherpa-kids/activity/439-MHOSM_After_School_SAP_Holiday_HQ_Aug_26_Jun_27?emyatb=4w7ygdi444

Many thanks,

Lorraine O'Loughlin

Principal