

Scoil Cholmcille Mount

Hanover

Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the 2026/2027 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 Mount Hanover Parents Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on **Friday, 2nd October at 9:15 am**, and we would love to see as many of you there as possible!

Whether you have been part of the school community for years or are a brand-new family starting your journey with us, everyone is welcome. At the meeting, we will take a quick look back at everything achieved during the 2025/26 school year and select our new 2026/27 Parents Association Committee.

If you'd like to get more involved in school life, or know someone who would, please consider joining us!

There are so many different ways to help out, and every bit of support makes a huge difference for our school. Best of all, we will be having a Coffee Morning straight after the meeting!

It's a wonderful, relaxed opportunity to have a cuppa, enjoy a chat, and meet some fellow parents from our fantastic school community.

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 garden especially Clodagh Smyth. 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. Clayton or any member of staff if you feel that you can help.

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

Pupil of the Month: Charlie Stafford, Harry Herbert, Katie Morrissey, Cianán Curran, Cooper Crawley Fay, Mollie Corbally, Kaiya Cannon, Conall Cannon, Alex Browne, Isla Connor, Eadie Freyne, Joe Durkan, Gracie Curley, Adam McEnteggart, Peter Crosby & Amelia O'Brien.

Handwriting Awards: Ruán McQuaile, Lucie McArdle, Jessica Taffe, Arthur Keane, Holly McGuinness, Emilee Rose Crosby, Lucy McArdle & Nina Hall.

Gaeilgeoir na Míosa: Charlie McDonnell, Emy Sherin, James Mehegan, Finn McGuinness, Adam Hall, Alice Grogan, Katie McEnteggart & Emma Moore.

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

We will begin accepting applications for the 2027/2028 school year on **Monday October 5th**. The application period will remain open until **November 2nd**. Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by **November 30th**. Applicants then have until **December 14th** to accept the offer of admission. **Please note that this is for applications the 2027/2028 school year only.**

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

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

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 the class teacher know via Class Dojo or email the school office at mounthanoverns@gmail.com

Design-a-Card: Our school is participating in a Christmas Card 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 8th.**

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: Parent/Teacher Meetings for Infants - 4th Class will take place in mid-November **(November 12th & 17th).** Children from **1st-6th class** will go home at **2.15 pm** on these days to facilitate the meetings. 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/iLjrrQTsopKEZ2tq5>

Child Protection Procedures: The Department of Education have published new procedures for Child Protection and Safeguarding. 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. Mary Clayton**. Ms. O'Loughlin and Ms. Clayton have both attending mandatory DLP/DDLP training.

School Photographs: Anyone wishing to place an order should follow the instructions on the envelope enclosed and return it to school by **Wednesday October 7th 2026**.

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, organising matches and everything that goes into coaching. Thank you also to Mrs. Kennedy for her support.

Active School Flag: Our school officially earned its very first Active School Flag last year! Earning the flag was just the beginning. This is a three-year programme, so we are keeping the momentum going with brand-new challenges this year. Our goal is to stay "active every day" and keep making fitness fun.

Incidental Inspection: The school had an incidental inspection from the Department of Education on Thursday September 10th. We are pleased to share that the visit was a highly positive experience, reflecting the daily hard work of our staff and the wonderful engagement of our students.

An incidental inspection is a routine, unannounced one-day visit conducted by the Department of Education Inspectorate. It is designed to observe the school operating under normal, everyday conditions. During the visit, the inspector focused on:

- Classroom Observations: Visiting several classes to evaluate everyday teaching, learning, and assessment.
- Student Engagement: Interacting directly with pupils to hear their feedback and see how they approach their learning tasks.
- School Policies: Reviewing essential administrative and safeguarding records, including child safeguarding and Anti-Bullying documentation.
- Support and Feedback: Providing collaborative, oral feedback to teachers and school leadership to affirm good practices and offer guidance for continuous improvement.

Visits like these are valuable opportunities to showcase our positive school culture. We would like to commend our students for their excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation throughout the day.

Primary Curriculum Framework: As you may be aware the department of Education and Youth are rolling out a new Primary School Curriculum. The new curriculum is shaped by children, parents, teachers, school leaders, education experts and research. The curriculum will be introduced gradually. From September 2026, schools will add one new curriculum area each year until they are all in place. This will take about 6–7 years. Our first area is Wellbeing (formally PE and SPHE). Teachers will be learning new ways of teaching and taking part in courses to support this. Sometimes, schools will need to close to students for a short time while teachers take part. This training will help give your child a better learning experience.

Our school closure days are as follows:

◆ Tuesday October 13th 2026 ◆

◆ Wednesday April 21st 2027 ◆

◆ Thursday June 3rd 2027 ◆

More information can be found here: https://oide.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Leaflet_for_Parents-English.pdf