



Welcome Maria

We were delighted to warmly welcome Maria to our school community. Since joining us, Maria has brought great enthusiasm and energy. The children have adapted so well to a new face in the school!

Learning Through Play

Thank you for your response to our request for supplies and resources for developing our learning through play approaches. As we prepare for the implementation of the new Primary Curriculum, there will be an increased emphasis on *playful learning* and *learning through play* across all class levels. In classrooms, this will involve more opportunities for exploration, imaginative activities and child-led learning. We appreciate your continued support and all the toys, props etc that you kindly donated.

Forest School Initiative

A special word of thanks to Ciara for introducing our new and exciting *Forest School* initiative. This programme encourages children to engage directly with nature, promoting curiosity,

independence and environmental awareness.



During the first two sessions, the children explored the local surroundings, collecting leaves, plants, and herbs while learning about biodiversity and the natural world. A highlight for them was preparing and enjoying fresh mint tea made from herbs gathered in the forest area. We look forward to seeing this initiative grow and develop over the coming weeks.





Science Fair Success

Congratulations to the pupils in the Senior Room for their outstanding participation in the recent Science Fair. Their project, *Mission to Mars*, focused on coding and technology and was the result of many weeks of dedication, teamwork, and problem-solving. With the support of their science tutor, Declan Holmes, the class developed an engaging and interactive project that captured the interest of visitors. The positive feedback and high level of engagement from pupils and teachers from other schools was a testament to their effort and creativity. This was a fantastic learning experience. The video link here will give you an insight into the day. <https://vimeo.com/1188822302>
Password 123



Polytunnel Progress

It is wonderful to see such positive progress in our school polytunnel, which has become a vibrant hub of activity. Pupils have been busy planting and caring for a wide variety of vegetables including radishes, lettuce, onions, berries, potatoes, and herbs. Excitement is building around our *Sunflower Growing Competition*, where pupils are eagerly watching their sunflowers and tracking their growth. We look forward to seeing which sunflowers reach the greatest height in the weeks ahead!



Summer in School

With the arrival of the warmer weather, it has been wonderful to see both our school and the village of Leenane come to life. The longer, brighter days have allowed us to extend learning beyond the classroom making the most of our outdoor spaces. Art lessons have increasingly taken place outside where pupils can draw inspiration from their unique surroundings. We hope to

continue using outdoor classrooms wherever possible in the coming weeks.

Important Dates to Remember

- **May 13th** – School Closure
(Primary Curriculum Training)
Staff will be participating in professional development to support the rollout of the new curriculum.
- **May 17th** – First Communion
We wish all pupils receiving their First Communion a very special and memorable day.
- **May 22nd** – School Closure
(Election)
The school will be closed as it will be used as a polling station.
- **May 29th** – School Closure
school holiday.