

Welcome

We were thrilled to welcome **6 new Junior Infants** this September- Oceane, Cara, Sophie, Luella, Anas and Nichola - who have brought great energy and positivity to our school community. We look forward to seeing them become a big part of school life here in Leenane.

We also warmly welcome **Edel**, our new SNA. While Edel is primarily supporting the Junior Room, she has already made a fantastic impact across the whole school. The Senior Room is especially enjoying her guidance and creative support during Art lessons!

Classroom & School Updates

Changes in the Classrooms

We were very busy over the summer updating our classrooms and creating a new SET Room:

- Martin John kindly gave his time over the summer to partition the end room, creating a much more functional learning support room as well as a dedicated staff area.
- Ciara organised furniture and noticeboard upgrades, with a few extra finishing touches arriving in the coming weeks.
- Tim coded a new digital signage display for the hallway monitor. It welcomes the children each morning, displays important messages, and most importantly counts down to the next birthday!

UFLI Literacy Programme: Maria has introduced **UFLI Foundations** in the Junior Room to replace Jolly Phonics. She is working with Ciara and Shauna to implement this new phonics program across the school, and we are very excited about the positive impact it will have on children's reading and overall learning. The Junior Infants will begin after midterm break.

Teacher Professional Development

We have been busy with further training to support our pupils and school policies:

- **Child Protection Training**: Both Maria and James recently attended professional development training on *Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools*. They are currently updating our school's Child Protection Policy, which is available to view on our school website on the following link: Leenane NS Policies
- **Creative Cluster Initiative:** Training was also completed for the *Creative Cluster Initiative*. We look forward to sharing more details next week as we plan exciting new projects and investments across the Arts-including Drama, Music, and Visual Art!

Student Council

Congratulations to **Finn, Lily, Henry, and Leo** on being elected to the Student Council for the first term of this school year! We look forward to seeing all their hard work and ideas in action.

Sports & Activities

Chess Club Launch

In September, we launched our new **Leenane NS Chess Club** in the Senior Room. With online lessons every Friday and head-to-head challenges during the week, the class has taken to the game with huge enthusiasm and progress. So much so that we have decided to enter an Inter-Schools competition at the Royal TF in Castlebar next January!

New School Jerseys

The time has come for our school jerseys to get an upgrade! The children were central to the design process and voted on their favorite design. The new jerseys have gone into production this week and we look forward to wearing them in competitions later this year.

A huge thank you to **The Leenane Hotel** and **The Purple Door Café** for generously sponsoring our new jerseys. We are extremely grateful for your continued support!

+Garden & Community News

Polytunnel Success

In early September, our 6th Class harvested our summer crop of potatoes and collected kale grown over the summer months. Under Edel's instructions, 5th and 6th Class got busy in the kitchen making delicious, healthy smoothies following their own recipes, as well as homemade chips from our school-grown potatoes! Everyone was pleasantly surprised by how tasty they turned out.

Condolences

September also brought the sad news of the passing of our former Principal, **Maureen Joyce**, who served the school from 1974 to 2005. To give 31 years of dedication is an incredible service to our school and wider community. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family and friends, and we keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Upcoming Events

- **Tag Rugby Blitz:** Senior Room hoping to take part in Clifden on **8th October** *(details to follow)*.
- **Tin Whistle Lessons:** Resuming with Mary Finn on **Wednesday, 7th October**.
- **Modern Foreign Language Programme:** French is the chosen language and will be starting very soon *(details to be confirmed shortly)*.

Website Consent Forms will be sent to parents next week and we aim to have much more regular updates on our school website during this year.