

# St Mary's Convent Primary School

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire  
Trim, Co. Meath. C15WF98

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Príomh Oide: Fergal Kelly M.Ed. Leadership & Management

Leas Phríomh Oide: Siobhán Nally M.Ed.

Uimhir Rolla: 16646 O

**Imlitir 1**

**24th September 2025**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is our first newsletter of the new school year so I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome back to all our pupils and our school community in general. The school is well up and running at this stage and the children are used to their new routines, teachers and classes. A special welcome is reserved for those families who are new to the school.

**Junior Infants:** A tremendous welcome to our new Junior Infants who by all appearances have settled in extremely well already. We wish them well during their time in the school and we encourage their parents to take an active role in the life of the school.

**Car Park:** The car park and environs are always very busy in the mornings and afternoons. Please ensure that you remind your children about road safety as they negotiate their way to school by car, bike or by foot. Please ensure the children use the footpath at the Summerhill gate end to access the school yard.

**Punctuality:** The bell goes each morning at 9.10am. It is extremely important that the children are ready to line up at this time each day. The school gates will be open from 8.50am to receive pupils but we would discourage the practice of children being in the school at a very early time as there is no supervision available.

**School yard independence** It is great to see children being independent and going to their lines freely. Thank you to the parents of junior infants who have been allowing their children to go to the school yard independently. From October, please try to let your child off down the sides of the school so that they will find their line independently. Many children are doing this at this stage. There should be no parents in the school yard from October 1st. This also applies to parents who are coming down to the school yard at and before 2.50pm.

It has come to our attention that many parents are now congregating in this area near the astroturf. It can be unsettling for the children to see parents in the school yard while at lessons. It can also be a safeguarding issue for the school as children may be in this area engaged in an activity or PE lesson. Please wait for your child at the front area of the school near the main gates.

**School Improvements:** As usual, we had a busy Summer with maintenance and changes, Our ASD classroom was reconfigured and a new playground area installed in the schoolyard. New lighting was installed in the corridors and to brighten our walking areas while our entrance on the St Michael's side was decorated and a new mural painted that depicts our school in the local community. The stue of the Virgin Mary at the front of the school was also cleaned and repainted.

**School meals:** Following some representations to Glanmore LTD, The company has given a response by letter that can be read on page 5 of this Imlitir. We hope that by now parents have got used to the new app and that everyone is receiving their chosen lunch. One of the new features is the recurring order box. Please bear in mind that if this is not ticked that the order may not continue. We have concerns about food waste and we are in consultation with the company about this issue.

**Nut allergies:** We have some children with nut allergies in classes throughout the school. We would ask parents even from other classes to avoid giving their children lunches or foods with nut products in them. Even touching another child who has ingested nut products and who has traces on their hands or skin could cause a reaction. I ask parents to be vigilant on this for the coming year.

**Bí Cineálta:** Friendship Week will be held on the week of October 6--10th We like to start the Friendship programmes Zippy in Senior Infants/ First Class and Friends for Life in Fifth Class. Our new anti-bullying policy is now in place from September 1st and is available on our website. We will post also child friendly versions of the policy around the school so that the children are aware of what to do in any given situation.

**Presidential Election:** The school will be closed on Friday 24th October as it is used as a polling station for the general election.

Parents Association: Please see Page 8 for information on our Parents Association. Thanks to Natsche who has stepped down this year but will remain active on the committee and thank you to her for her dedication and commitment to the role over the past year. . Congrats to Vicky and he colleagues on their new roles. I look forward to working with you all over the course of the year.

**Wet Mornings:** On wet mornings children will be admitted into the school buildings from 8.50 am provided that at least two members of staff are present. For health, safety and insurance reasons it is not permissible for children to enter the school before this time. We open the entrance to the school on the St. Michael's end to ensure that children can enter the school quickly and staff are on hand for any child not sure of the way to their room.

**Mobile Phones:** Use of mobile phones is not permitted in the school. There are concerns that smartphone use among primary school children increases the risk of cyberbullying and exposure to undesirable content and also reduces the number of hours they sleep at night. Should your child wish to make a call home, this can be facilitated through the office.

**The National Council for Special Education, (NCSE)** have asked us to inform parents about the supports that they provide to the school and we include information from NCSE on this topic on page 10 of this publication.

**School Calendar.** Every family got a school calendar, if you need another one, please contact the office. Many thanks to our sponsors Trim Hardware & DIY.

**Kind regards,**

Fergal Kelly  
Principal

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Lego/Dress-up/Role play toy Donations

Junior Infants are building on their Aistear resources for learning through play. There are three specific areas where we would appreciate donations of good quality/in good condition.

1. Lego (pieces, figures, etc.) Or other construction toys (magnetic tiles, k'nex, mobilo etc)
2. Dress-up costumes (e.g. fire fighter, nurse, doctor, etc.)
3. Role play toys (e.g. home area-small buggy/high chair/dolls clothes etc, farm, hospital, post office, dolls house/furniture, construction etc)

Please do not send in any other toys at this time, as we are quite restricted with storage space.

Thank you in advance,

Junior Infant Teachers

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## MERCY DAY

Today is **Mercy Day**. As a Mercy school, it is always a very special day for us. A few of our classes went to Mass today to honour the occasion. We had a very special visit from Sisters Claudia and Paula, both former Principals of St. Mary's. We always welcome their visits.

The Mercy Sisters have contributed so much over the years to the education, healthcare, and welfare of the community here in Trim. May God continue to bless them in their work.

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## JUNIOR INFANTS VACCINATION

HSE Junior Infants Immunisation Program will take place on **Monday and Tuesday, 29th - 30th September 2025**. For those who still haven't forwarded the parental consent form please send to office this week.

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**NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY  
24th OCTOBER 2025  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Healthy Schools Notice

As we are a Health Promoting School, we encourage our pupils to bring a healthy lunch to school. Our Healthy Eating Policy can be viewed on our school website - [www.stmarystrim.ie](http://www.stmarystrim.ie)

The following “discouraged” foods **do not support** a healthy eating policy and should be excluded from your child’s lunch box:

**crisps, chewing gum, sweets, bars including cereal bars, cakes, biscuits, lollipops, chocolate, chocolate spread, winders, rice crispie buns and especially peanuts.**

See Safe food Ireland for healthy lunch ideas. [Click here.](#) HSE advice on healthy lunches [click here.](#) Bord Bia ideas [-primary-school-children.](#)

Due to the incidence of severe allergy to peanuts and mixed nuts amongst some pupils in our school, we ask parents/ guardians to be vigilant in the following:

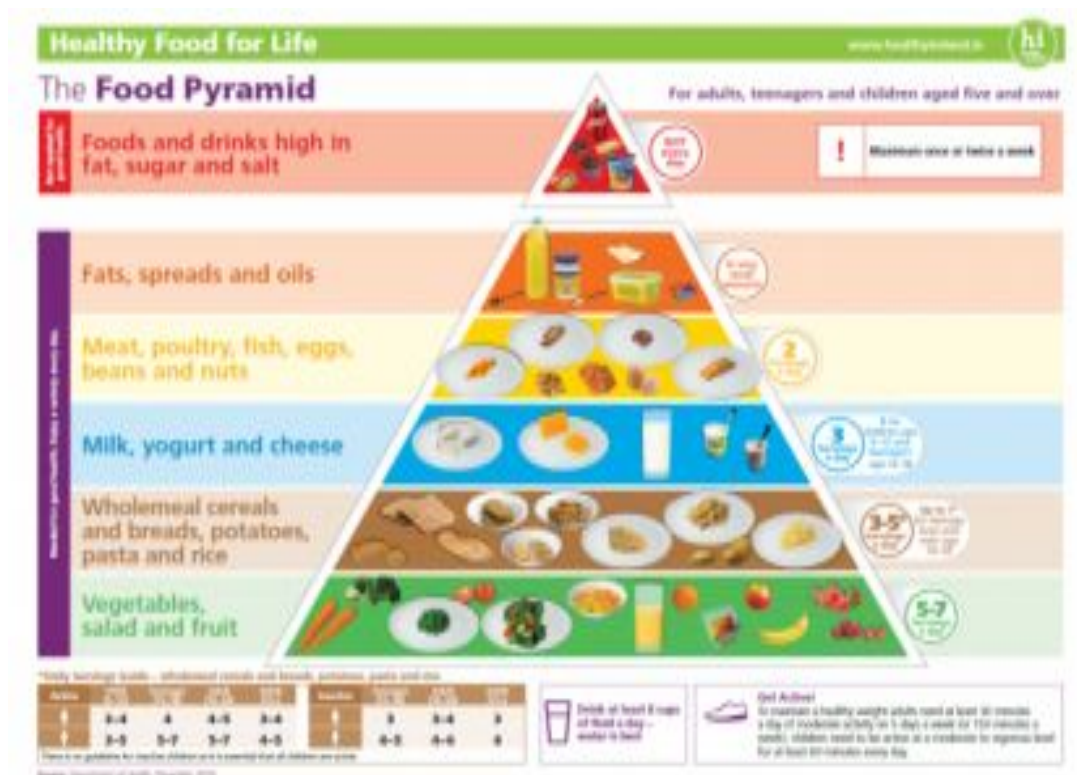
- Avoid peanuts or any other type of nut in school lunches
- Avoid giving peanut butter sandwiches, chocolate spreads containing nuts such as Nutella, and nut based breads and cereal/health bars containing nuts
- Ask children not to share their lunches.

**A strict” Nut Free Zone” policy will be in place in classes with specific pupils with nut allergies.** These rooms include Room 1, 3, 18, 31.

If your child has a nut or food allergy please inform your child’s teacher.

Ms. Minogue

Healthy Schools Committee



# SCHOOL NEWS

## **GLANMORE FOOD UPDATE**

Dear Parents / Guardians

We understand that recent changes to our chicken goujons and potato cubes have drawn some attention, and we'd like to take this opportunity to explain the reasons behind these updates. In line with the directive set out by the Healthy Ireland Nutrition Standards for Hot School Meals—and our ongoing commitment to improving the quality of our meals—we have adjusted these two popular items to ensure they provide more nutritious alternatives for students. Below are the key points we'd like to share:

### **New Chicken Goujons**

- Sourced from one of our longstanding Irish suppliers, Glenhaven.
- 100% Chicken breast.
- Baked rather than fried—this explains the lighter, less crispy texture.
- Lower in fat and salt, ensuring they are not classified as HFSS foods. *(HFSS – High in Fat, Sugar, and Salt – guidelines used by the Irish Heart Foundation. Foods that fall into this category are deemed less nutritious).*

### **New Potato Cubes**

- Steamed.
- Lower in fat and salt.
- Free from all additives and preservatives.

We've also listened carefully to feedback regarding the potato cubes. Some schools noted they appeared oily, and we are already working with our supplier to address this. From September 22nd, an improved version with less oil will be available in schools. While the overall oil content is low, the cooking method made them appear oilier than intended.

Looking ahead, we will make sure to communicate any menu changes with you earlier so that you and your school community are aware in advance. An update will also be shared with parents via our app, along with [this link](#) providing further details about these changes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

*Anne Brady (Quality Manager) and Ríona Phelan (Nutritionist)*  
*Glanmore Foods*



# ATTENDANCE NOTICE

Dear parents/guardians

At St Mary's, we are committed to developing the holistic educational experience and wellbeing of every pupil. Regular school attendance and punctuality is essential to making positive progress in these areas. Please take a few moments to read the following information about regular school attendance. Remember, *every day counts!*

## Why is regular attendance at school so important?

- Schools provide a space for children to develop their social skills and friendships, as well as improving their self-confidence. The longer a child is absent from school, the more likely it is for him/her to feel lonely and to be anxious about going to school.
- Children who have a good attendance record can make very positive gains in their academic learning and have a greater chance of performing well in tests.
- A wide range of non-curricular activities are available in schools, from sport to music to art, and much, much more. Children who attend school regularly are more likely to avail of these activities and bond with like-minded peers. These types of activities tend to take place during lunchtime or after school.
- Regular school attendance fosters the development of a variety of life skills, including positive behavioural patterns, empathy, confidence and resilience, as well as a sense of commitment and responsibility.

## What can parents/guardians do to encourage school attendance?

- Speak to children about the value of learning, and about how future goals and aspirations are achievable by attending school on a regular basis.
- Encourage children to come to school regularly and to arrive on time. This will help establish a good habit that will hopefully continue throughout their lives.
- Establish an open line of communication with the school and the class teacher when children are displaying a reluctance to attend school.
- Take an interest in the school work of the children. This will help them to value school more.
- Try to arrange medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
- Avoid family holidays during school time to ensure continuity of learning.

Staying calm and being organised in the morning will help you and your child feel positive about the day ahead. It will also help you to reduce any stress or anxiety, which is good for everyone's wellbeing. One of the best ways to stay calm is to have a ***'Get Ready for School Routine'***. A routine will help your child to know what's happening and to remember what they need to do.

We completely understand that every household is different and that individual circumstances vary. We are also very mindful of the fact that situations can occur in homes that are totally beyond the control of parents/guardians and that attendance can be affected accordingly. The ***'Get Ready for School Routine'*** that we have outlined below is merely a general guide that you may wish to consult in preparing your child(ren) for the school day.

## **"Get Ready for School Routine"**

### **After school every day:**

- Make sure that the homework is done as early as possible
- Keep the school uniform/tracksuit for school wear only

### **The night before school:**

- Try and have ready the...
  - \* school bag
  - \* lunch
  - \* uniform
- Get your child to bed at a reasonable hour
- Set the morning alarm on your mobile phone or the alarm clock

### **Before school every day:**

- Aim to get up on time in the morning so that you will not be rushing
- Don't allow your child to watch television in the morning
- Get your child to eat some breakfast every morning
- Talk positively about school
- If possible, don't allow your child to go to the shop in the morning as this could delay them and they could be late for school
- Make sure that your child clearly understands the after-school arrangements
- You know your child best - only keep your child at home if he/she is really sick

In conclusion, the staff at St Mary's look forward to seeing and working with your child(ren) over the coming days, weeks and months during the 2025/26 academic year.



# GREEN NEWS

## Food and Biodiversity with an emphasis on Global Citizenship

Welcome back to a new year of tackling Climate change. The national news isn't good unfortunately. Ireland experienced the hottest summer on record. We have also witnessed more extreme weather conditions in Ireland than ever before. While we cannot assume all the responsibility, we can make little changes in our own lives which will help the situation. The use of Fossil fuels has long been associated with and has a direct effect on global warming. This is one area we can work on. Our local Climate Activists have erected signs to remind people not to let their cars 'idle' outside the school. Please try to observe this. The air quality is drastically affected at our school gates when vehicles are 'idling'. Thank you.

Our theme this year is Food and Biodiversity with an emphasis on Global Citizenship. We will have lots of exciting activities during the year to encourage the children to make a difference as Global citizens. We look forward to sharing surveys and green news with you. Please feel free to share any ideas or talents you may have in the area of Food and Biodiversity.



**Children enjoyed  
playing in the sandbox  
just outside the  
Junior Infant classroom.**

Nath na Seachtaine: Tá fáilte romhat

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Tús maith, leath na hoibre



# Parents Association

## **AGM:**

On behalf of the Parents' Association Committee, I would like to thank everyone who attended our AGM on Friday. As we commence the new school year, it was so nice to have both familiar and new parents attend.

At the AGM, we elected our new PA committee for the 2025-26 school year. This year's Officers are:

Chairperson: Vicky Clarke

Vice Chairperson: Natache Sadler

Secretary: Ella du Plooy

Treasurer: Declan Carolan

Vice Treasurer: Fiona Ryan

The new committee would like to thank Natache, our outgoing Chairperson, for her commitment and hard work over the last school year, and we very much look forward to working together with the school in 2025-26.

If you would like to get in contact with the Parents' Association at any time with any suggestions, questions, etc that you may have, please feel free to email us at: [pa@stmarystrim.ie](mailto:pa@stmarystrim.ie)

Our next PA meeting will be Friday 3rd October at 9.15am in the school boardroom.

Warmest regards,

Vicky Clarke  
Chairperson

## **Upcoming PA events:**

- 'Design your own Christmas card' fundraiser
- Halloween Bake Sale - Thursday 23rd October 2025

More information to follow soon on both of these events.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is committed to supporting schools in creating inclusive, supportive, and empowering learning environments for all students, including autistic students. NCSE Autism Advisor has been assigned to **St. Mary's, Trim** to provide tailored guidance and expertise in fostering student well-being, engagement, and success.

NCSE Autism Advisor will be working with school staff as part of their professional learning. The role of the Autism Advisor is to build teacher capacity in the areas of teaching, learning, planning and assessment through best practice and the use of Autism Good Practice Guidance ([AGPG](#)). An advisor offers teacher professional learning (TPL) through seminars, communities of practice and school support.

NCSE Autism Advisor work is guided by Department of Education and Youth's **Autism AGPG** and **NCSE Relate**, frameworks that underpins all aspects of our support.

It is important to note that the role of the Autism Advisor is focused on teacher professional learning and does not involve direct work with individual students.

Yours sincerely,



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta  
um Oideachas Speisialta  
National Council  
for Special Education

## IRISH CONVERSATION GROUP (CIORCAL CAINTE)

Whether you have a cúpla focal or are fluent in Irish, you are invited to join this Irish Conversation group. The group will meet for a chat so come along and join in the conversation. Join us on Wednesday 24th September @ 8pm in Trim GAA clubhouse.

Má tá tú líofa nó muna bhfuil ach cúpla focal agat, tá fáilte mór romhat teacht chuig an Ciorcal Cainte seo.

Beidh tae, caife agus comhrá againn - mar sin - bígí linn ar an gCéadaoin 24ú Meán Fómhair 8PM i gClubtheach Áth Troim.

**CLG ÁTHA TROIM**

**CIORCAL COMHRÁ  
(CONVERSATION CIRCLE)**

**FOGHLAIM  
GAELIGE!  
LEARN IRISH!**

**GRÁ FOR GAELIGE  
& CUPLÁ FOCAIL**

**DIA  
DHUIT**

**De Céadaoin  
24ú Meán Fómhair  
8pm i gClubtheach Áth  
Troim**

**FAILTE**

**BAIN TRIAIL AS DO  
CÚPLA FOCAIL!**

**FAILTE**

**CONAS ATÁ TÚ**

**C.L.G. ÁTHA TROIM**



# Anne Maher School of Ballet

Anne Maher AIDTA  
Director of Ballet Ireland  
Ireland's National Ballet Company

## Does your child love to dance?

Join us at Anne Maher School of Ballet where Anne and her highly trained, dedicated and passionate team will share their love of ballet with your aspiring dancer.



Classes in Naas,  
Newbridge and Trim

For registration and more  
information see  
[annemaherschoolofballet.ie](http://annemaherschoolofballet.ie)

## New Term Beginning

Ballet classes for beginners  
to advanced students for  
children of all ages from  
aged 4+

**Diocesan Hall  
Trim**

Monday afternoons

For registration and more  
information see  
[annemaherschoolofballet.ie](http://annemaherschoolofballet.ie)







# SPEECH AND DRAMA

*Speech and Drama encourages your child to develop skills in  
Creativity, Confidence and Effective Communication.*

**BOYNESIDE  
SPEECH & DRAMA**



*Opportunity to take graded  
exams with The Leinster  
School of Music And Drama*

**contact : 085 171 1545  
Ellen**

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

***Locations: Trim & Summerhill  
Afterschool***

## Singing Lessons

- One on one singing Lessons available.
- 30 minute lessons.
- suitable for ages 5+.
- €25 per class.
- Classes will be held in the Gaelscoil in Trim (Saturday evening and another day TBC).

### My Experience

- Studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- Toured worldwide with Grammy nominated group Celtic Woman for 5 years as a lead vocalist
- Over 10 years of training by leading vocal coaches.
- Voice teacher and vocal coach at the Irish Institute of Music.

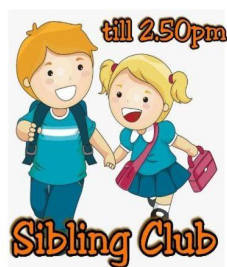
Limited spots available

Email  
[meganwalshvocalcoach@gmail.com](mailto:meganwalshvocalcoach@gmail.com)  
for more information

**Classes will cover everything from vocal technique,  
breathing technique, vocal health maintenance,  
performance through song and overall confidence  
building.**



We have some spaces in Jiggle 'n' Jump After School Sibling Club. It runs from 1.50pm St. Mary's pick up, until 2.50pm when the older kids finish in St. Mary's & St. Michael's. It's a great help to parents with kids finishing at both pick up times, it's conveniently located, as well as being great for the kids who get to have fun in a specially designed space, being looked after by a team of childcare professionals who prioritise the kid's safety, wellbeing and happiness.



- Only one collection
- Conveniently located beside the school
- Kids make new friends
- Kids learn new games
- Kids get to socialize through play
- Play board games, cards, lego, Arts & Craft etc.

Contact Julie @ 0868505310, or through the Facebook page

Jiggle 'n' Jump

\*€38 weekly, NCS accepted (€27.30 weekly with universal subsidy)



### **After School Part-time & Relief staff members required**

*If you meet the requirements and are suitable for the relief role, you will be added to a contact list for when the After School needs an additional staff member to cover. You may be given advance notice, or it may be at short notice. It could be to cover several mornings/afternoons during the week, or just one here and there as needed. Although a certain amount of flexibility is required, as you will be part of a pool of relief staff, you can advise of your availability at the time, and possibly work around other commitments you may have. If you are interested and enjoy working with the kids and the team, a part time position will be opening where we will need someone 1-2 days a week for 2-4 hours a day.*

€14.00 - €16.00 p/h

*It would be desirable for a candidate to have:*

- Minimum of 1 years' experience working with children 4yrs-12yrs
- Experience coming up with ideas to entertain kids, and willing to be silly and have fun playing games
- Friendly and patient demeanor
- Ability to work off own initiative and work well with others
- Excellent communication skills
- Flexibility as you could be called in at short notice to cover anytime Monday to Friday between the hours of 8-9am (€17.50 per morning) or between 1.30pm – 5.30pm, or between 9.30am-5.30pm during school holidays (Minimum working hours 2 hours cover per day term time, and 4 hours cover per day non-term time).
- Living locally or with own transport, as may be needed at short notice to be in to cover

### **Main Duties and responsibilities for Afterschool :**

- Supervising and supporting the Afterschool Children to complete homework in a timely manner
- Supporting afterschool team to ensure effective communication and planning of Art, games, sports, snacks and other activities
- Observing, monitoring and recording where necessary the wellbeing of the children.
- Maintaining accurate attendance records on the children, keeping within ratio and adhering to other regulatory requirements.
- Meeting and greeting parents in a positive and friendly manner each day.

\*A successful candidate will only be able to start after Garda Vetting and receipt of 2 verified references.