

October Newsletter



Principal's Message

Welcome to our October Newsletter.

It's been an action-packed month (aren't they all!), with so many activities, events and celebrations taking place. Alongside it all, it's also been a strong month of learning and development within the classrooms.

Once again, the children have settled strongly and are now firmly embedded in the 26-27 school year.

Thank you for taking the time to view this Newsletter- we hope it helps you keep abreast of at least some of the goings on around Sacred Heart Primary School, Tattyreagh!

Thanks for your continued support,

Mr Mark McKernan



In this Edition:

- Beginning of year school mass
- Book Week
- National Poetry Day
- 'Spooktacular' Celebrations
- and more!



Snapshot- Outdoor Learning!



"The best classroom and the
richest cupboard are roofed
only by the sky."

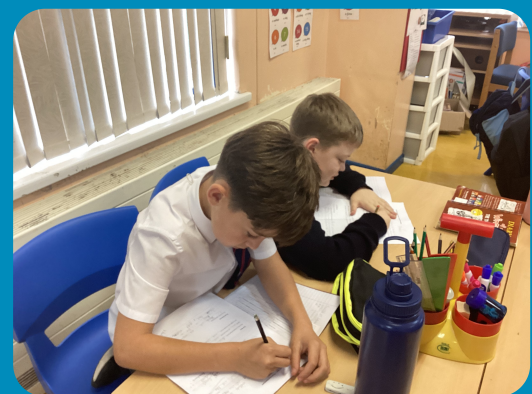
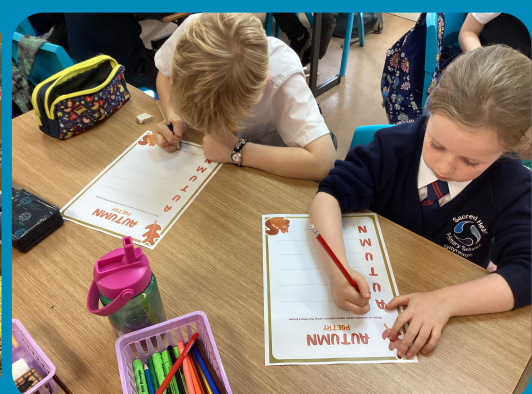
- Margaret McMillan

National Poetry Day 2026

On Thursday 1st October, our pupils enjoyed celebrating the power of poetry across the school! Our P1-P3 children explored a range of autumn-themed poems, identifying rhyming words and developing their understanding of rhythm and rhyme through fun, creative activities. Meanwhile, pupils in P4 and P5 school took part in their own poetry activities, exploring language and creativity in a variety of engaging ways and creating their own Autumn acrostic poetry. In upper KS2, our P6 and P7 pupils were inspired by Kit Wright's famous poem The Magic Box. Using this as a model, they created their own imaginative "Sacred Heart Box" poems, filled with memories, dreams, sounds, sights and special things that make our school unique.

It was wonderful to see pupils of all ages expressing themselves through poetry and developing their confidence as readers, writers and performers.

✨ A great day of creativity, imagination and learning! ✨



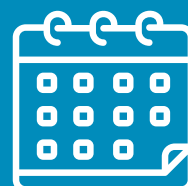
Upcoming Dates for your diary

- **Tuesdays:** Music and football with Tyrone GAA.
- **Wednesdays:** Irish with MF Learning and PE with RM Coaching.
- **Thursday 5th November:** School Council workshop with Órfhlaith Begley MP.
- **Thursday 12th November:** Photographs for school promotion (Children to wear full school uniform).
- **Monday 9th- Friday 13th November:** Science Week Ireland.
- **Monday 16th- Friday 20th November:** Anti-Bullying Week.
- **Monday 16th November:** Odd-Socks Day.
- **Monday 16th November:** P6/7 Trip to Ulster Orchestra (Arts Centre).
- **Friday 20th November:** World Children's Day celebrations.
- **Monday 23rd November:** Penitential Service (in school).
- **Thursday 3rd December:** Open morning for prospective families.
- **Wednesday 9th December:** P1-3 Christmas Performance @ 1.30pm.
- **Tuesday 15th December:** P4-7 Christmas performances @ 7.00pm.
- **Friday 18th December:** Last day of school before Christmas Holidays.

Our School Calendar and the latest dates are available anytime at the touch of a button!

Please visit:

www.sacredheartprimary.com/our-school/calendar/



'AI at Home' workshop for Parents

Thank you to the parents, carers and prospective parents who attended our recent AI at Home workshop. Led by Mr McKernan, the session explored what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is, how it is increasingly becoming part of everyday life, and the ways in which children may encounter AI both at school and at home.

The workshop focused on helping families understand the opportunities and challenges presented by AI, with particular attention given to online safety, privacy and responsible use. Parents were also shown practical examples of how AI can be used positively to support learning, creativity and homework activities at home.

We hope those who attended found the session informative and reassuring, and we look forward to continuing to support our families in navigating the ever-evolving digital world. For those who were unable to attend, a copy of the presentation has been shared via the My Child At School App.





Book Week NI

Books have certainly been at the heart of life in Sacred Heart this October!

From exploring our Book Fair and finding time to read for pleasure, to creative lessons and activities across the school, our children have really embraced Book Week NI.

P6/7 put their creativity to work designing covers for 'The Story of My Life', while P4/5 headed outdoors with their books and also partnered with our P1-3 pupils for shared reading and some fun book-themed activities.

A fantastic week celebrating the joy, imagination and power of books!



Our 'Spooktacular' Fun Day

What a fantastic day of Halloween fun we had in school on Tuesday! Our boys and girls arrived in their fabulous fancy dress costumes and enjoyed a jam-packed day of activities.

- 🏐 PE games with Ryan from Tyrone GAA
- 🎵 A Halloween-themed music lesson with Ms Sweeney
- 👻 Our brilliant costume parade
- 🌟 And, of course, a Halloween disco to finish the day!

A great day of fun, laughter and plenty of spooky excitement to ring in the mid-term break! 🎃🍂



Our 'Spooktacular' Fun Day



School Development Plan 2026-2029

Thank you to all those who took the time to contribute to our School Development Plan parent survey.

The results of these surveys, alongside the views of our pupils and staff, will help shape the next three-year cycle of our School Development Plan.

The School Development Plan is currently being developed, and we look forward to sharing its key priorities and actions with you in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support with this!



School Council 2026-2027

Congratulations to our recently elected School Council representatives! Following elections across P4-P7, these pupils have been chosen by their peers to represent the views, ideas and interests of the children throughout our school.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year with pupil voice at the forefront of all that we do. Our School Council members are already enthusiastic about making a positive difference within our school community and were excellent in their first meeting with Mr McKernan, Principal, and Ms Mimmagh, our School Council Coordinator, which took place in early October.

We are proud of each representative and look forward to working together to ensure that every child's voice is heard. Here's to a successful year ahead for our School Council! 🌟



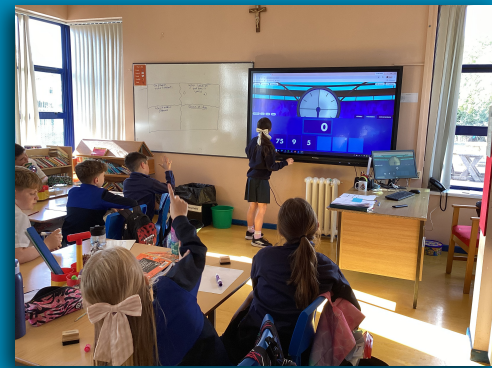
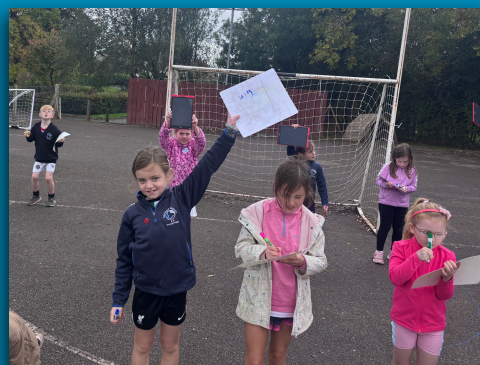
Maths Week Ireland 2026

We've had a fantastic week recently, celebrating Maths Week Ireland 2026! Throughout the week, our classes enjoyed a range of practical activities, class games and online workshops, exploring how maths is all around us and plays a part in our everyday lives.

Our P6 and P7 pupils brought the week to a brilliant close, by leading Friday's assembly and showing everyone the power of maths! We also revealed the winner of our whole-school estimation challenge... Congratulations to Joseph in Primary 3, who made the closest estimate of the number of pasta spirals in the box- an impressive 517! 🎉

And the pupils weren't the only ones putting their maths skills to the test! A big congratulations to Ms. Meehan, winner of our Staff Maths Challenge which took place throughout the week! 🏆

A brilliant week of problem-solving, thinking, calculating and, most importantly, enjoying maths!



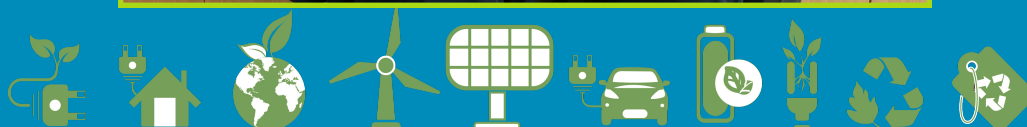
Eco Council 2026-2027

A huge well done to our newly elected Eco Council representatives from P3-P7. After volunteering for the role and sharing why they would make effective environmental ambassadors, these pupils were chosen by their classmates to represent each year group on the Council.

The role of an Eco Council member is to promote environmental awareness throughout the school, encourage sustainable habits and help lead initiatives that make a positive difference to our school and wider community.

Representatives will gather ideas from their classmates, promote recycling and energy-saving measures, and help us work towards becoming an even greener school.

We look forward to seeing their enthusiasm, leadership and creativity in action as they help inspire all of us to take care of our environment and make Sacred Heart a more sustainable place to learn. 🌱♻️🌍



October's 'Wise Owls' and 'Merit' Winners

Well done to all our 'Wise Owl', 'Merit Award' and prize winners
for the month of October!



Back to School Mass



On Thursday 8th October, our P3-P7 pupils gathered together for our Back to School Mass, celebrated by Fr Canning.

The Mass focused on the themes of new beginnings and friendship, reminding us of the importance of supporting one another as we journey through a new school year together. It was a lovely celebration filled with reflection, prayer and song.

A special well done to our P7 pupils, who led the liturgy so confidently through their readings and instrumental performances. Their contributions helped make the celebration both meaningful and memorable.

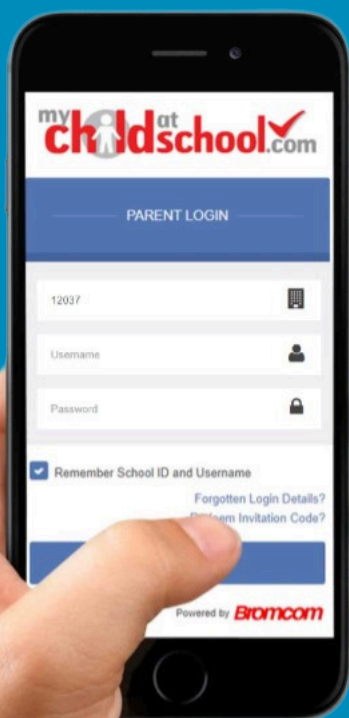
We thank Fr Canning for joining us and leading such a beautiful Mass, and we pray for God's blessing on all our pupils, staff and families throughout the year ahead. ❤️ 🙏



'My Child At School' (MCAS) School App

By now, we hope that all families have gotten to grips with our school app.

If there are any niggles or issues, or if you need any guidance on this throughout the year, please don't hesitate to get in touch and a member of staff will be on hand to assist!



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Sacrament Dates

*Sacred Heart Primary School
Tattyreagh*

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

Saturday 15th May
12 Noon

St. Mary's Church, Drumragh



The Sacrament of Confirmation

Saturday 10th April
2.00pm

Sacred Heart Church



📷 **Spotlight on Success** 📷

A huge well done to Nancy (P6) and Katie May (P5), who proudly represented Sacred Heart Primary School at the Omagh High School Horse Show earlier this month.

The girls performed brilliantly, achieving clear rounds in their classes and showcasing great skill, determination and sporting endeavour throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the wonderful way they represented our school. Congratulations, Nancy and Katie May!



A huge well done to J.R. and Ava in P7, who represented our school fantastically at the Tyrone Cumann na mBunscol Skills Day at Tyrone GAA during October! 🏈👏

Both performed brilliantly throughout the day, showcasing their excellent Gaelic skills. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school, proudly representing the strong tradition and enthusiasm for Gaelic games within our school and local community.

Maith sibh!



Do I need to keep my child off school?



Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox

At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over

Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Diarrhea & /or Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

Respiratory Illness

(e.g colds & flu)
Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough

Glandular Fever

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed



Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed

Impetigo

Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Head Lice

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Measles

4 days from onset of rash

Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

German Measles (Rubella)

5 days from onset of rash

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after commencing antibiotics

Scabies

Until after first treatment

Slapped Cheek

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Threadworms

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

Tonsillitis

Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed

Whooping Cough

48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.