



The Shountrade Scéal

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

Welcome to the September edition of 'The Shountrade Scéal'. We are so pleased that everyone is back in Shountrade N.S safe and healthy after what we hope was a fantastic Summer holidays. As always September has been a very busy month for all the boys and girls in Shountrade. Some highlights this month include opening our autism class, a visit from Geoff Hunt, music classes with James Anglim and the commencement of swimming lessons for 3rd and 4th class.

We would like to extend a special welcome to our new junior infants class in Shountrade N.S Alvey, Leah, Nicholas, Emma, Hannah, Jody, Lucie, Aaron, Coen, Bríd, Ava, Charlotte, Liam, Oisín and Chorlotte. We are also delighted to welcome our new pupils Anaya, Harry and Bobby who have joined us this year.

Junior & Senior Infants

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in Junior and Senior Infants. The senior infants have been settling back in to school life and have been very welcoming to the junior infants who have been getting to know each other through lots of games and playful learning. We were very fortunate to have a visit from a nature teacher, Geoff Hunt, in our first weeks in school. The children learned all about the wildflowers growing around the school. Our theme for September has been The Home. The role play area was set up as a kitchen and living room and the children were busy getting into role as parents and children. We even had new born babies that needed a warm sudsy bath, and who had lots of visitors to meet them. The hot wheels cars are a firm favourite during child led play as well as the polydrons and wooden blocks in the construction area. Maths time is a very busy time of the day in the classroom. We are very lucky to have Ms Walsh in class every day to support the children with maths learning. The children have been sorting and matching a vast array of items. They have also been recognising all sorts of patterns – colour, shape, number etc. and have also been developing their own patterns.

Well done Junior and Senior infants on a fantastic September!



1st & 2nd Class

The boys and girls have had a wonderful start to First & Second class! There has been lots of fun and learning happening, and you would be so proud of them all. There was great excitement in the classroom as we took on the Cup Building Challenge. The children worked brilliantly as a team, showing creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration as they designed and constructed tall towers together. It was fantastic to see teamwork in action! We also had the pleasure of a visit from Geoff Hunt, which led to an adventurous insect hunt around the school grounds. The children were thrilled to discover worms, millipedes, woodlice, caterpillars, and spiders. Using a microscope, they had the chance to see their tiny finds up close—what an exciting hands-on experience in nature! In Gaeilge, the students are having great fun reading Irish books like Robó Ró and engaging with interactive computer games to enhance their Irish language skills. In maths we are working on strategies for addition to deepen our understanding of number and to help us improve our counting skills. We had great fun in our outdoor maths classroom making doubles and near doubles. We are all enjoying the Over the Moon stories, including Funny Bodies and Visiting an Art Exhibition, in English. Alongside this, we are working hard on mastering the writing genre of explanations. Stay tuned for more exciting updates on our academic journey as we continue to learn, grow, and flourish together!





3rd & 4th Class

We have had a very busy and exciting start to Third and Fourth Class! We have been learning how to work together and use our teamwork skills in lots of different activities. One of our favourite moments so far was the STEAM challenge “Mission Rescue”.



It was so much fun and really made us think and cooperate with each other. We also enjoyed showing off our artistic talents by making our “All About Me” backpacks and balls, our colourful self-portraits, and our *one-point name perspective* art. When we made identity bracelets, we had to think about our strengths and personalities. It wasn’t always easy, but we showed resilience and kept going until we finished them – we were very proud of ourselves!

In Writer’s Workshop, we have started “writing to socialise” in both English and Gaeilge. We are also getting more confident at speaking *as Gaeilge* and having conversations about ourselves. In Maths, we have been busy with number, place value, and data. In SESE, we loved learning about *The Children of Lir*. We even acted out the story in groups, and everyone did an amazing job. We are really excited to have started swimming lessons in PE. It has been such a great start to the year, and if September is anything to go by, the rest of the year will be full of fun and learning!

5th Class

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais. Rinne rang a cúig staidéar ar “An Trá”, “Dialann Scoile”, agus “Sceilig Mhíchíl”. We have been revising Maths operations and problem solving. In English we studied “Inventions”, “A Beach Clean Up”, “Bella and the Bear” and two poems. We studied the Story of Grainne and Diarmuid “in History and Counties of Ireland, France and Buildings and Settlements in Geography. We learned some songs, and revised football skills. We studied the Bible books and we investigated trees and their fruit. We entered the Ryder Cup Art Competition and sang “Dreams”, “Zombie” and “Too Sweet”. We have investigated Empowering Beliefs and we linked our beliefs with our thoughts, feelings, actions and results.



6th

We have had a wonderful start to the academic year in sixth class. We are enjoying having so much space to ourselves and taking on the new responsibilities that come with being in sixth class. The class have already done tremendous work on the school garden. We began by researching and planning. We then discovered that it is the time to plant bulbs for spring so we planted plenty of daffodils and we also have some tulips. We look forward to seeing the burst of colour in spring. We also planted a variety of beautiful plants. The class felt that it would be great to have a sensory element to our garden so we chose some strong scented plants such as rosemary and also some long grasses. We cleared and weeded the garden before planting our bulbs and shrubs. Many thanks to the families who donated wood chippings and seeds. We are also getting the opportunity to enhance our wellbeing by doing yoga movement breaks and love that we have brand new yoga mats for everyone. The class are working hard on learning new strategies for adding and subtraction of very large numbers. We are also enjoying reading our class novel 'Under the Hawthorn Tree'. Each of the children are getting an opportunity to express themselves and we made a sixth class playlist where everyone has an opportunity to add some favourite songs. We enjoy listening to this during art and golden time. We are all feeling very optimistic and enthusiastic about making the most of our final year in Shountrade.

Autism Class

This academic year marked a significant milestone in the history of Shountrade NS as we opened our new autism class! A special thank you to those who made setting up the classroom and sensory room possible through their kind donations last June. We are so proud of the fantastic start our pupils have made this year, settling in with such enthusiasm and positivity. Already, the children are bringing so much joy and energy to our school community. We look forward to an amazing year ahead, full of learning, fun, and exciting adventures together!



GAA

Reminder after school training for 4th —6th continues every Wednesday 3:00 - 3:45. Please bring a gumshield.