

NEWSLETTER – June 2025



St. John's N.S., Kenmare
Bunscoil Eoin Naofa, An Neidín
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Upcoming School Closings:

Closing for Summer Holidays: Friday, 20st June at 12 noon.

School re-opening: Thursday, 28th August at 9.20 a.m.

The calendar for the School Year 2025/2026 is now available on our website.

Class Groupings 2025/2026

The seventeen class groupings and teachers for 2025/2026 are as follows:

Class 1	Junior Infants	-	Mrs. Cremin
Class 2	Junior Infants	-	Mrs. R. O'Sullivan
Class 3	Senior Infants	-	Ms. Downing (Mrs. Cremin's 24/25)
Class 4	Senior Infants	-	Mrs. O'Leary (Mrs. R. O'Sullivan's 24/25)
Class 5	First Class	-	Ms. Costello (Mrs. O'Leary's 24/25)
Class 6	First Class	-	Mrs. Brosnan (Ms. Downing's 24/25)
Class 7	Second Class	-	Ms. Cashman (Mrs. Brosnan's 24/25)
Class 8	Second Class	-	Ms. F. O'Connor (Ms. Costello's 24/25)
Class 9	Third Class	-	Ms. Healy (Ms. Cashman's 24/25)
Class 10	Third Class	-	Ms. Buckley (Ms. F. O'Connor's 24/25)
Class 11	Fourth Class	-	Ms. O'Dwyer (Ms. O'Neill's 24/25)
Class 12	Fourth Class	-	Ms. Doyle (Ms. Healy's 24/25)
Class 13	Fifth Class	-	Mr. Hussey (Ms. Doyle's 24/25)
Class 14	Fifth Class	-	Ms. S. O'Sullivan (Ms. O'Dwyer's 24/25)
Class 15	Sixth Class	-	Mr. Devane (Mr. Hussey's 24/25)
Class 16	Sixth Class	-	Ms. Murnane (Ms. S. O'Sullivan's 24/25)
Class 17	Class Neidín	-	Ms. O'Shea

Report Cards:

By now you should have received a Report Card giving details of your child's progress during the school year 2024/2025.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Congratulations to the pupils in 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 10th in Holy Cross Church.

Graduation:

Congratulations and best wishes to our 6th Class students who are graduating this June and will begin their Secondary education in September. Thank you to Mr. Devane, Ms. Buckley, Ms. A. O'Connor and Mrs. Fiona O' Mahony for the hard work and guidance they have extended to 6th Class this school year. As our 6th Class pupils prepare to take the leap from primary to post-primary school, we send them off with every good wish. They have grown, learned, and contributed so much during their time with us and we are proud of the young people they have become. We hope they carry many happy memories from their time in primary school and that the years ahead bring them continued growth, friendship, and opportunity. Go n-éirí go geal libh!



Kerry Hospice Foundation:

In May, St. John's N.S. were delighted to present a cheque for €1,200 to Geraldine Topham from Kerry Hospice Foundation Kenmare Branch. The students donated money before Easter correlating with the 1st anniversary of our cherished secretary Nora Finnegan.

Nora Finnegan Memorial Shield:

Our annual School League kicked off this month for the boys and girls in 5th and 6th Class. This competition was eagerly awaited by the pupils and there was great excitement when the teams and fixtures went up on the notice board. We had over 70 players who took part this year on 6 different teams. So far we have the group stages nearly finished with 15 games already played. This week the semi finals and finals will be played. This year is a special year for the competition as the pupils will be playing for the Nora Finnegan Memorial Shield for the first time. This shield was kindly sponsored by the Finnegan family in memory of our wonderful secretary who passed away in April 2024. Nora was such a dear friend and colleague to us all. We are very thankful to the Finnegan family to allow us to remember her in this way.

Active Week:



Active Week was held in June with a variety of activities and sports being organised. The pupils had a great week playing games, partaking in School Walks and completing Sports Day. In our final week at school a number of walks were organised to fundraise for Children's Cancer Support.

Purchase of School Uniforms for the 2025/2026 School Year:

Uniforms can be purchased for the next school year through <https://grantsclothing.ie/> in conjunction with John O'Brien. The Grants Clothing website carries the full St. John's National School uniform. Follow the link and the onscreen instructions to buy using the school name St. John's N.S Kenmare. You will be able to view all items of the uniform, as well as order and pay online. Your uniform(s) will be delivered to your home within a couple of days once you have completed your purchase (there will be a small delivery charge).

ePayments:

An payment request via Aladdin will be sent to the parents/guardians of every pupil during the summer break. This is a fee of **€40** and is for Pupil Personal Compulsory Insurance, IT and Administration Costs. See separate note attached.

Basketball:



St. John's N.S. took part in the Super Sevens Slam Competition in Killarney this term. Boys and girls from 3rd-6th Class took part in this basketball event. They had a lot of games and played brilliantly throughout. Congratulations to the boys who won the Credit Union Schools Super Sevens Slam Junior Boys Basketball Shield Final against Gaelscoil Faithleann. Thanks to the coach Ms. Browne, for all her hard work with the teams.

Cumann na mBunscol:

In May, our fantastic girls football team reached the Cumann na mBunscol final in Austin Stack Park. They were playing against a strong Nagle Rice Milltown team. The girls played superbly but were narrowly beaten in the end. Many thanks to our coaches, Mr. Hussey and Mr. Morley. It was a super achievement to reach the final. The girls are a great credit to themselves, their families and are wonderful representatives for our school.

STEM Award:

St. John's N.S. were very proud to have achieved the Curious Minds Gold Award 2025 in May. The reviewer acknowledged that the pupils had a lot of engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Throughout the year, pupils in each class participated in a range of STEM activities and workshops, helping them develop key skills such as critical thinking, analysis, estimation, measurement, fair testing, and accurate recording.



School Garden:

To mark the opening of our school garden, we cordially invite you to attend a sale of work. The sale of work will take place in Kenmare Community Garden on Thursday, June 19th from 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. The community garden is located behind Taobh Linn. There is a sign at the road, opposite SuperValu. We will be selling flowers and vegetables which the children have grown this year. The proceeds will go towards the running of the school and community gardens. All support is greatly appreciated.

School Lotto:



We are very grateful to all who have supported our School Lotto Fundraiser throughout the year. The funds raised have contributed to enhancing pupils' experiences in Physical Education (Dance Classes with Karolina Spencer), and Science (workshops with Chuck Delpier). The substantial funds raised this school year will now be used to bring about a significant upgrade to the Junior Infant yard space, with plans already well underway. Next year, proceeds from the fundraiser will continue to support additional learning experiences in Dance and Science, as well as further improvements to outdoor play areas. In particular, we aim to develop the green area at the southern gable of our building into a new yard space that children can enjoy all year round. We warmly encourage everyone to continue supporting our School Lotto Fundraiser, as the funds raised make a real difference. Projects like this year's yard upgrade would simply not be possible without it, as no grants or other funding sources are available to cover these costs. You can scan the QR Code or follow the link <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/stjohnskenmare> to sign up.

Before and After School Care

We are delighted to announce that *Sherpa Kids* will be coming on board from the next school year as our before and after school service provider in our school. Sherpa Kids come with an excellent reputation nationally for delivering high-quality, reliable care in school settings, and we look forward to working in partnership with them. If you are interested in availing of the service, further information is available from the main office.

Farewell to Ms. Martina O'Neill:

As the school year draws to a close, we say goodbye to Ms. Martina O'Neill, who is moving on from her teaching role in St. John's after 20 years of dedicated teaching here in Kenmare. Martina has made a lasting contribution to the school community over the years, and her work with pupils and colleagues alike is sincerely appreciated. We thank her for her commitment and wish her every success and happiness as she takes the next step on her path.

Principal's Message:

Dear Pupils, Parents, and Staff,

As we come to the end of another school year, I want to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to school life.

To our pupils — well done on your efforts throughout the year. Whether in the classroom, on the yard, or representing the school elsewhere, you've shown yourselves to be capable, kind, and respectful. We're proud of your progress and the way you've looked out for each other.

To parents and guardians — thank you for your engagement and steady support. Your involvement, whether at school events or through day-to-day encouragement at home, plays an important role in your child's education and in the life of the school.

To staff — thank you for your efforts throughout the year. The care and commitment shown to pupils remains central to the work we do. We look forward to building further on that collective effort next year.

Like every year, there have been ups and downs, busy days and good memories made. We've done a lot together — and we'll continue to build on that next year, with the same shared spirit of community and cooperation.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer. We'll see you in late August, ready to go again.

Barry O'Leary

Barry O'Leary
Principal.

